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## Public Comment Hearing Set for SMECO Rate Increase Request

**For Immediate Release:** February 16, 2023

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(BALTIMORE, MD) – The Maryland Public Service Commission will hold an in-person public comment hearing on the request by the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) to increase its electric distribution rates by \$15.75 million. The utility's customers and other interested parties are welcome to take part in the hearing scheduled for **Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** at SMECO's headquarters, 15035 Burnt Store Road in Hughesville, Maryland. Public Utility Law Judge Christine L. Burke will preside. The hearing will begin with a presentation by SMECO.

SMECO serves 170,000 customer-members in Charles County, St. Mary's County, southern Prince George's County, and most of Calvert County. The rate increase SMECO has requested represents an approximately eight percent overall increase in distribution revenues for the average customer-member.

In addition to the hearings, written comments can be submitted electronically through the Commission's online portal at <https://www.psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/>. Comments can also be sent by mail and should be addressed to: Andrew Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. So that they are noted in the proper case file, all comments should reference Case No. [9688](#) and should be sent by **May 1, 2023**.

**The Commission must make a decision on the company's request by June 30, 2023.**

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***About the Public Service Commission:***

*The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities and suppliers, telephone companies (land lines), certain water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire*

*(sedans, limousines, buses, Uber, Lyft), taxicab companies (in Baltimore City and County, Charles County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.*

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