

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF DELMARVA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,)
D/B/A CONECTIV POWER DELIVERY, FOR) PSC DOCKET NO. 04-301F
APPROVAL OF MODIFICATIONS TO ITS GAS)
COST RATES (OPENED AUGUST 31, 2004))

ORDER NO. 6459

This 31st day of August, 2004, the Commission determines and Orders the following:

1. Under the Gas Cost Rate Clause of its Gas Tariff, Delmarva Power & Light Company, d/b/a Conectiv Power Delivery ("DP&L"), must file in August of each year its estimated gas costs for the next "application period" running from November until the following October. P.S.C. Del. No. 5 - Gas, Section XX at A., Leaf No. 32 (3d rev.). Traditionally, once filed, the Commission allows DP&L's proposed Gas Cost Rates ("GCR") to go into effect, on a temporary basis, while the Commission conducts its investigation of those GCR rates. DP&L's Annual Gas Supply Report is also generally filed in August.

2. On this date, the Commission will deliberate on its final order related to the appropriate GCR rates applicable for the November 2003 through October 2004 application period. PSC Dckt. No. 03-378F. Because the Commission's determinations in resolving that proceeding might impact the content of DP&L's filing for the November 2004 through October 2005 GCR application period, DP&L has filed a motion to delay the deadline for submitting the filing until after the Commission has concluded its deliberations in the previous year's filing. The Commission believes that DP&L's request is reasonable and will, therefore, defer the

filing date for the 2004-05 GCR filing. In doing so, the Commission also finds that, for good cause shown, the period between the filing and effective date should be shortened to thirty (30) days. With such deferral, DP&L will have the benefit of the Commission's determinations in PSC Dckt. No. 03-378F in constructing the 2004-05 GCR Clause filing.

Now, therefore, **IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That, pursuant to 26 Del. C. § 304(a), the provisions of Section XX A. of the Gas Tariff No. 5 of Delmarva Power & Light Company (d/b/a Conectiv Power Delivery), which require the utility to file its estimated gas costs for the succeeding application year during the month of August, are hereby waived as they relate to the filing for the November 2004 through October 2005 application period. Instead, Delmarva Power & Light Company (d/b/a Conectiv Power Delivery), shall make its Gas Cost Rate Clause filing for such 2004-05 application period on or before October 1, 2004.

2. That, in addition, Delmarva Power & Light Company (d/b/a Conectiv Power Delivery) shall file its 2004 Gas Supply Report on or before October 1, 2004.

3. That the Commission reserves the jurisdiction and authority to enter such further Orders in this matter as may be deemed necessary or proper.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

/s/ Arnetta McRae
Chair

/s/ Joshua M. Twilley
Vice Chair

PSC Docket No. 04-301F, Order No. 6459 Cont'd.

/s/ Joann T. Conaway
Commissioner

/s/ Jaymes B. Lester
Commissioner

/s/ Donald J. Puglisi
Commissioner

ATTEST:

/s/ Karen J. Nickerson
Secretary