

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORPORATION FOR)
APPROVAL OF A CHANGE IN ITS GAS SALES) PSC DOCKET NO. 12-450F
SERVICE RATES ("GSR") TO BE EFFECTIVE)
NOVEMBER 1, 2012)
(FILED SEPTEMBER 21, 2012))

ORDER NO. 8296

AND NOW, this 21st day of February, 2013:

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2012, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation ("Chesapeake") filed with the Delaware Public Service Commission (the "Commission") the above-captioned application (the "Application") seeking approval to change its Gas Sales Service Rates ("GSR") effective on November 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 26 Del. C. §§303(b), 304, and 306, the Commission ordered that following proposed changes to the Gas Sales Service rates, firm balancing rates, and interruptible balancing rate of Chesapeake and the accompanying proposed tariff revisions set forth in the application filed by Chesapeake ("Application") were permitted to become effective for natural gas usage on or after November 1, 2012, subject to refund and pending the Commission's final decision;¹ and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 26 Del. C. §502 and 29 Del. C. ch. 101, the Commission also designated Robert J. Howatt to act as the Hearing Examiner for this docket, ordered that Hearing Examiner Howatt schedule and conduct such public evidentiary hearings as may be

¹ See Order No. 8227 (October 9, 2012).

necessary or appropriate to develop a full and complete record concerning this matter, and ordered that Hearing Examiner Howatt report thereafter to the Commission his proposed findings and recommendations based on the evidence presented;² and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 26 *Del. Admin. C.* §1001-2.9 and Order No. 8217, the Commission further delegated to Hearing Examiner Howatt the authority to grant or deny petitions to intervene in this matter and the authority, under 26 *Del. C.* §102A, to determine the content, form, and manner of any further notice in this matter; and

WHEREAS, Hearing Examiner Howatt has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Commission and is no longer able to act as a Hearing Examiner for this matter;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED BY THE
AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF NOT FEWER THAN THREE COMMISSIONERS:**

1. That Connie McDowell is designated as the Hearing Examiner for this docket pursuant to 26 *Del. C.* §502 and 29 *Del. C. ch.* 101. Hearing Examiner McDowell shall schedule and conduct such public evidentiary hearings as may be necessary or appropriate to develop a full and complete record concerning this matter. Pursuant to 29 *Del. C.* §10126(a), Hearing Examiner Howatt shall thereafter report to the Commission her recommended findings of fact based upon the evidence, recommended conclusions of law, and recommended decision. Pursuant to 26 *Del. Admin. C.* §1001-2.9, Hearing Examiner McDowell is delegated the authority to grant or deny petitions to intervene. In addition, Hearing Examiner McDowell is delegated the authority, under 26 *Del. C.*

² See Order No. 8227, ¶3 (October 9, 2012).

§102A, to determine the content, form, and manner of any further notice in this matter.

2. 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/ Dallas Winslow
Chair

/s/ Jaymes B. Lester
Commissioner

/s/ Jeffrey J. Clark
Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

/s/ Alisa Carrow Bentley
Secretary