

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2012 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 11

RESOLUTION NO. 134 - 2012

Introduced by: Courtney Watson

Cosponsored by Calvin Ball and Jennifer Terrasa

A RESOLUTION requesting the Public Service Commission of Maryland investigate the reliability of the electric power supply for certain areas in Howard County and require electrical utility providers doing business in Howard County to disclose outage information to Howard County after 24 hours; and directing certain other actions by certain County officials.

Introduced and read first time on _____, 2012

By order _____
Stephen LeGendre, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on _____, 2012

By order _____
Stephen LeGendre, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ____, Adopted with amendments ____, Failed ____, Withdrawn ____ by the County Council on _____, 2012.

Certified by _____
Stephen LeGendre, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) is a public service company
2 licensed by the Public Service Commission (PSC) to conduct business in Howard County; and
3

4 **WHEREAS**, Section 3-102 of the Public Utility Companies Article of the Maryland
5 Code requires the PSC to conduct an investigation into the reliability of the electric power supply
6 on complaint filed by the legislative body of a county in which an electric company is authorized
7 to operate; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Section 3-102 of the Public Utilities Article also requires the PSC to
10 conduct an investigation into the reliability of the electric power supply on complaint filed by not
11 less than 100 customers of the electric company; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, *Reliability4HOCO* filed a complaint dated February 22, 2012 with the PSC
14 against BGE about the reliability of electric service in the neighborhoods of Font Hill, Little
15 Patuxent Ridge, Dunmore Woods, Gwyn Acres, Dunloggin, Beaverbrook, Valley Mede,
16 Sebring, Dalton, Green Henge, Clarksville Ridge, Turf Valley Road, Normandy Heights, The
17 Oaks, Forest Hill Drive, Bethgate, and Worthington; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, On April 12, 2012, the PSC docketed the complaint filed by
20 *Reliability4HOCO* against BGE as Case No. 9291;
21

22 **WHEREAS**, The complaint filed by *Reliability4HOCO* also asserted that other
23 neighborhoods in Howard County experience problems with reliability of electric service
24 provided by BGE; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, The County Council, as the legislative body for Howard County, finds that
27 the neighborhoods of Braeburn, Burleigh Manor, Columbia, Columbia Hills, Dunloggin,
28 Hammond Village, Historic Ellicott City, Hollifield, Laurel, Pleasant Chase, Ridgley's Run, The
29 Oaks, Turf Valley Legends, Turf Valley Vistas and Worthington as specified in Exhibit A to this
30 Resolution experience reliability problems with electric service provided by BGE; and

1
2 **WHEREAS**, The County Council intends that this Resolution constitutes a new
3 complaint for purposes of Section 3-102 of the Public Utility Companies Article to require the
4 PSC to conduct an investigation of the reliability of electric power supply at the behest of the
5 legislative body of Howard County; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, Howard County is charged with important public health, safety and welfare
8 responsibilities for its citizens; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, Sustained power outages of more than 24 hours duration are a threat to
11 public health, safety and welfare, and especially a threat to the well-being of the senior
12 population and persons with disabilities; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, During sustained power outages of more than 24 hours, the ability of
15 Howard County to meet the emergency needs of its citizens, and especially the needs of the
16 senior population and persons with disabilities, is compromised absent timely information of the
17 affected locations; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, electrical utility providers doing business in Howard County are able to
20 identify the locations of sustained power outages of more than 24 hours in duration;

21
22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
23 Maryland this _____ day of _____, 2012, that the Howard County Council
24 requests that the PSC investigate the reliability of the electric power supply provided by BGE in
25 the neighborhoods of Braeburn, Burleigh Manor, Columbia, Columbia Hills, Dunloggin,
26 Hammond Village, Historic Ellicott City, Hollifield, Laurel, Pleasant Chase, Ridgeley's Run,
27 The Oaks, Turf Valley Legends, Turf Valley Vistas and Worthington.

28
29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland
30 that the Howard County Council requests that the PSC direct its staff or an independent

1 consultant selected by PSC staff and paid for by BGE to conduct an investigation of the
2 reliability of the feeder systems that serve the neighborhoods of Braeburn, Burleigh Manor,
3 Columbia, Columbia Hills, Dunloggin, Hammond Village, Historic Ellicott City, Hollifield,
4 Laurel, Pleasant Chase, Ridgeley's Run, The Oaks, Turf Valley Legends, Turf Valley Vistas and
5 Worthington.

6
7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland,
8 that the Howard County Council requests that the PSC consolidate the complaint of the County
9 Council with Case No. 9291 to the extent that consolidation would not unreasonably delay Case
10 No. 9291.

11
12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland,
13 that the Administrator of the Howard County Council shall send a copy of this Resolution to the
14 Executive Director of the PSC in order to have an investigation begin promptly.

15
16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland,
17 that the County Solicitor is directed to take all actions necessary to pursue the complaint of the
18 County Council with the PSC.

19
20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland
21 that the County Council requests that the PSC require utility providers in Howard County to
22 provide to the County Executive and to the County Council detailed information of power
23 outages after 24 hours, to include a complete list of addresses reporting outages that have not had
24 power restored.

25
26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland,
27 that the Administrator of the Howard County Council shall send a copy of this Resolution to the
28 President and Chief Executive Officer of BGE and to the Senior Vice President and Chief
29 Operating Officer of BGE.