

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 56-576, 56-585.1, and 56-596 of the Code of Virginia, relating to rate
2 structure and energy efficiency and conservation.

3 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

4 **1. That §§ 56-576, 56-585.1, and 56-596 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as**
5 **follows:**

6 § 56-576. Definitions.

7 As used in this chapter:

8 "Affiliate" means any person that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with an
9 electric utility.

10 "Aggregator" means a person that, as an agent or intermediary, (i) offers to purchase, or
11 purchases, electric energy or (ii) offers to arrange for, or arranges for, the purchase of electric energy,
12 for sale to, or on behalf of, two or more retail customers not controlled by or under common control with
13 such person. The following activities shall not, in and of themselves, make a person an aggregator under
14 this chapter: (i) furnishing legal services to two or more retail customers, suppliers or aggregators; (ii)
15 furnishing educational, informational, or analytical services to two or more retail customers, unless
16 direct or indirect compensation for such services is paid by an aggregator or supplier of electric energy;
17 (iii) furnishing educational, informational, or analytical services to two or more suppliers or aggregators;
18 (iv) providing default service under § 56-585; (v) engaging in activities of a retail electric energy
19 supplier, licensed pursuant to § 56-587, which are authorized by such supplier's license; and (vi)
20 engaging in actions of a retail customer, in common with one or more other such retail customers, to
21 issue a request for proposal or to negotiate a purchase of electric energy for consumption by such retail
22 customers.

23 "Combined heat and power" means a method of using waste heat from electrical generation to
24 offset traditional processes, space heating, air conditioning, or refrigeration.

25 "Commission" means the State Corporation Commission.

26 "Cooperative" means a utility formed under or subject to Chapter 9.1 (§ 56-231.15 et seq.) of this
27 title.

28 "Covered entity" means a provider in the Commonwealth of an electric service not subject to
29 competition but shall not include default service providers.

30 "Covered transaction" means an acquisition, merger, or consolidation of, or other transaction
31 involving stock, securities, voting interests or assets by which one or more persons obtains control of a
32 covered entity.

33 "Curtailment" means inducing retail customers to reduce load during times of peak demand so as
34 to ease the burden on the electrical grid.

35 "Customer choice" means the opportunity for a retail customer in the Commonwealth to
36 purchase electric energy from any supplier licensed and seeking to sell electric energy to that customer.

37 "Demand response" means measures aimed at shifting time of use of electricity from peak-use
38 periods to times of lower demand by inducing retail customers to curtail electricity usage during periods
39 of congestion and higher prices in the electrical grid.

40 "Distribute," "distributing," or "distribution of" electric energy means the transfer of electric
41 energy through a retail distribution system to a retail customer.

42 "Distributor" means a person owning, controlling, or operating a retail distribution system to
43 provide electric energy directly to retail customers.

44 "Electric utility" means any person that generates, transmits, or distributes electric energy for use
45 by retail customers in the Commonwealth, including any investor-owned electric utility, cooperative
46 electric utility, or electric utility owned or operated by a municipality.

47 "Energy efficiency program" means a program that reduces the total amount of electricity that is
48 required for the same process or activity implemented after the expiration of capped rates. Energy
49 efficiency programs include equipment, physical, or program change designed to produce measured and
50 verified reductions in the amount of electricity required to perform the same function and produce the
51 same or a similar outcome. Energy efficiency programs may include, but are not limited to, (i) programs
52 that result in improvements in lighting design, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems,

53 | appliances, building envelopes, and industrial and commercial processes; ~~and~~ (ii) measures, such as but
54 | not limited to the installation of advanced meters, implemented or installed by utilities, that reduce fuel
55 | use or losses of electricity and otherwise improve internal operating efficiency in generation,
56 | transmission, and distribution systems; and (iii) innovative rate structures that incentivize conservation
57 | and energy efficiency, including, but not limited to, inclining block rate structures and dynamic rate
58 | structures. Energy efficiency programs include demand response, combined heat and power and waste
59 | heat recovery, curtailment, or other programs that are designed to reduce electricity consumption so long
60 | as they reduce the total amount of electricity that is required for the same process or activity. Utilities
61 | shall be authorized to install and operate such advanced metering technology and equipment on a
62 | customer's premises; however, nothing in this chapter establishes a requirement that an energy efficiency
63 | program be implemented on a customer's premises and be connected to a customer's wiring on the
64 | customer's side of the inter-connection without the customer's expressed consent.

65 | "Generate," "generating," or "generation of" electric energy means the production of electric
66 | energy.

67 | "Generator" means a person owning, controlling, or operating a facility that produces electric
68 | energy for sale.

69 | "Incumbent electric utility" means each electric utility in the Commonwealth that, prior to July 1,
70 | 1999, supplied electric energy to retail customers located in an exclusive service territory established by
71 | the Commission.

72 | "Independent system operator" means a person that may receive or has received, by transfer
73 | pursuant to this chapter, any ownership or control of, or any responsibility to operate, all or part of the
74 | transmission systems in the Commonwealth.

75 | "Measured and verified" means a process determined pursuant to methods accepted for use by
76 | utilities and industries to measure, verify, and validate energy savings and peak demand savings. This
77 | may include the protocol established by the United States Department of Energy, Office of Federal
78 | Energy Management Programs, Measurement and Verification Guidance for Federal Energy Projects,
79 | measurement and verification standards developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration

and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), or engineering-based estimates of energy and demand savings associated with specific energy efficiency measures, as determined by the Commission.

"Municipality" means a city, county, town, authority, or other political subdivision of the Commonwealth.

"Peak-shaving" means measures aimed solely at shifting time of use of electricity from peak-use periods to times of lower demand by inducing retail customers to curtail electricity usage during periods of congestion and higher prices in the electrical grid.

"Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, company, business, trust, joint venture, or other private legal entity, and the Commonwealth or any municipality.

"Renewable energy" means energy derived from sunlight, wind, falling water, biomass, sustainable or otherwise, (the definitions of which shall be liberally construed), energy from waste, municipal solid waste, wave motion, tides, and geothermal power, and does not include energy derived from coal, oil, natural gas or nuclear power. Renewable energy shall also include the proportion of the thermal or electric energy from a facility that results from the co-firing of biomass.

"Retail customer" means any person that purchases retail electric energy for its own consumption at one or more metering points or nonmetered points of delivery located in the Commonwealth.

"Retail electric energy" means electric energy sold for ultimate consumption to a retail customer.

"Revenue reductions related to energy efficiency programs" means reductions in the collection of total non-fuel revenues, previously authorized by the Commission to be recovered from customers by a utility, that occur due to measured and verified decreased consumption of electricity caused by energy efficiency programs approved by the Commission and implemented by the utility, less the amount by which such non-fuel reductions in total revenues have been mitigated through other program-related factors, including reductions in variable operating expenses.

"Supplier" means any generator, distributor, aggregator, broker, marketer, or other person who offers to sell or sells electric energy to retail customers and is licensed by the Commission to do so, but it does not mean a generator that produces electric energy exclusively for its own consumption or the consumption of an affiliate.

107 "Supply" or "supplying" electric energy means the sale of or the offer to sell electric energy to a
108 retail customer.

109 "Transmission of," "transmit," or "transmitting" electric energy means the transfer of electric
110 energy through the Commonwealth's interconnected transmission grid from a generator to either a
111 distributor or a retail customer.

112 "Transmission system" means those facilities and equipment that are required to provide for the
113 transmission of electric energy.

114 § 56-585.1. Generation, distribution, and transmission rates after capped rates terminate or
115 expire.

116 A. During the first six months of 2009, the Commission shall, after notice and opportunity for
117 hearing, initiate proceedings to review the rates, terms and conditions for the provision of generation,
118 distribution and transmission services of each investor-owned incumbent electric utility. Such
119 proceedings shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter 10 (§ 56-232 et seq.) of this title, except as
120 modified herein. In such proceedings the Commission shall determine fair rates of return on common
121 equity applicable to the generation and distribution services of the utility. In so doing, the Commission
122 may use any methodology to determine such return it finds consistent with the public interest, but such
123 return shall not be set lower than the average of the returns on common equity reported to the Securities
124 and Exchange Commission for the three most recent annual periods for which such data are available by
125 not less than a majority, selected by the Commission as specified in subdivision 2 b, of other investor-
126 owned electric utilities in the peer group of the utility, nor shall the Commission set such return more
127 than 300 basis points higher than such average. The peer group of the utility shall be determined in the
128 manner prescribed in subdivision 2 b. The Commission may increase or decrease such combined rate of
129 return by up to 100 basis points based on the generating plant performance, customer service, and
130 operating efficiency of a utility, as compared to nationally recognized standards determined by the
131 Commission to be appropriate for such purposes. In such a proceeding, the Commission shall determine
132 the rates that the utility may charge until such rates are adjusted. If the Commission finds that the
133 utility's combined rate of return on common equity is more than 50 basis points below the combined rate

of return as so determined, it shall be authorized to order increases to the utility's rates necessary to provide the opportunity to fully recover the costs of providing the utility's services and to earn not less than such combined rate of return. If the Commission finds that the utility's combined rate of return on common equity is more than 50 basis points above the combined rate of return as so determined, it shall be authorized either (i) to order reductions to the utility's rates it finds appropriate, provided that the Commission may not order such rate reduction unless it finds that the resulting rates will provide the utility with the opportunity to fully recover its costs of providing its services and to earn not less than the fair rates of return on common equity applicable to the generation and distribution services; or (ii) direct that 60 percent of the amount of the utility's earnings that were more than 50 basis points above the fair combined rate of return for calendar year 2008 be credited to customers' bills, in which event such credits shall be amortized over a period of six to 12 months, as determined at the discretion of the Commission, following the effective date of the Commission's order and be allocated among customer classes such that the relationship between the specific customer class rates of return to the overall target rate of return will have the same relationship as the last approved allocation of revenues used to design base rates. Commencing in 2011, the Commission, after notice and opportunity for hearing, shall conduct biennial reviews of the rates, rate structure, terms and conditions for the provision of generation, distribution and transmission services by each investor-owned incumbent electric utility, subject to the following provisions:

1. Rates, rate structure, terms and conditions for each service shall be reviewed separately on an unbundled basis, and such reviews shall be conducted in a single, combined proceeding. The first such review shall utilize the two successive 12-month test periods ending December 31, 2010. However, the Commission may, in its discretion, elect to stagger its biennial reviews of utilities by utilizing the two successive 12-month test periods ending December 31, 2010, for a Phase I Utility, and utilizing the two successive 12-month test periods ending December 31, 2011, for a Phase II Utility, with subsequent proceedings utilizing the two successive 12-month test periods ending December 31 immediately preceding the year in which such proceeding is conducted. For purposes of this section, a Phase I Utility is an investor-owned incumbent electric utility that was, as of July 1, 1999, not bound by a rate case

161 settlement adopted by the Commission that extended in its application beyond January 1, 2002, and a
162 Phase II Utility is an investor-owned incumbent electric utility that was bound by such a settlement.

163 2. Subject to the provisions of subdivision 6, fair rates of return on common equity applicable
164 separately to the generation and distribution services of such utility, and for the two such services
165 combined, shall be determined by the Commission during each such biennial review, as follows:

166 a. The Commission may use any methodology to determine such return it finds consistent with
167 the public interest, but such return shall not be set lower than the average of the returns on common
168 equity reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission for the three most recent annual periods for
169 which such data are available by not less than a majority, selected by the Commission as specified in
170 subdivision 2 b, of other investor-owned electric utilities in the peer group of the utility subject to such
171 biennial review, nor shall the Commission set such return more than 300 basis points higher than such
172 average.

173 b. In selecting such majority of peer group investor-owned electric utilities, the Commission
174 shall first remove from such group the two utilities within such group that have the lowest reported
175 returns of the group, as well as the two utilities within such group that have the highest reported returns
176 of the group, and the Commission shall then select a majority of the utilities remaining in such peer
177 group. In its final order regarding such biennial review, the Commission shall identify the utilities in
178 such peer group it selected for the calculation of such limitation. For purposes of this subdivision, an
179 investor-owned electric utility shall be deemed part of such peer group if (i) its principal operations are
180 conducted in the southeastern United States east of the Mississippi River in either the states of West
181 Virginia or Kentucky or in those states south of Virginia, excluding the state of Tennessee, (ii) it is a
182 vertically-integrated electric utility providing generation, transmission and distribution services whose
183 facilities and operations are subject to state public utility regulation in the state where its principal
184 operations are conducted, (iii) it had a long-term bond rating assigned by Moody's Investors Service of
185 at least Baa at the end of the most recent test period subject to such biennial review, and (iv) it is not an
186 affiliate of the utility subject to such biennial review.

187 c. The Commission may increase or decrease such combined rate of return by up to 100 basis
188 points based on the generating plant performance, customer service, and operating efficiency of a utility,
189 as compared to nationally recognized standards determined by the Commission to be appropriate for
190 such purposes, such action being referred to in this section as a Performance Incentive. If the
191 Commission adopts such Performance Incentive, it shall remain in effect without change until the next
192 biennial review for such utility is concluded and shall not be modified pursuant to any provision of the
193 remainder of this subsection.

194 d. In any Current Proceeding, the Commission shall determine whether the Current Return has
195 increased, on a percentage basis, above the Initial Return by more than the increase, expressed as a
196 percentage, in the United States Average Consumer Price Index for all items, all urban consumers (CPI-
197 U), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, since the
198 date on which the Commission determined the Initial Return. If so, the Commission may conduct an
199 additional analysis of whether it is in the public interest to utilize such Current Return for the Current
200 Proceeding then pending. A finding of whether the Current Return justifies such additional analysis shall
201 be made without regard to any Performance Incentive adopted by the Commission, or any enhanced rate
202 of return on common equity awarded pursuant to the provisions of subdivision 6. Such additional
203 analysis shall include, but not be limited to, a consideration of overall economic conditions, the level of
204 interest rates and cost of capital with respect to business and industry, in general, as well as electric
205 utilities, the current level of inflation and the utility's cost of goods and services, the effect on the
206 utility's ability to provide adequate service and to attract capital if less than the Current Return were
207 utilized for the Current Proceeding then pending, and such other factors as the Commission may deem
208 relevant. If, as a result of such analysis, the Commission finds that use of the Current Return for the
209 Current Proceeding then pending would not be in the public interest, then the lower limit imposed by
210 subdivision 2 a on the return to be determined by the Commission for such utility shall be calculated, for
211 that Current Proceeding only, by increasing the Initial Return by a percentage at least equal to the
212 increase, expressed as a percentage, in the United States Average Consumer Price Index for all items, all
213 urban consumers (CPI-U), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States

214 Department of Labor, since the date on which the Commission determined the Initial Return. For
215 purposes of this subdivision:

216 "Current Proceeding" means any proceeding conducted under any provisions of this subsection
217 that require or authorize the Commission to determine a fair combined rate of return on common equity
218 for a utility and that will be concluded after the date on which the Commission determined the Initial
219 Return for such utility.

220 "Current Return" means the minimum fair combined rate of return on common equity required
221 for any Current Proceeding by the limitation regarding a utility's peer group specified in subdivision 2 a.

222 "Initial Return" means the fair combined rate of return on common equity determined for such
223 utility by the Commission on the first occasion after July 1, 2009, under any provision of this subsection
224 pursuant to the provisions of subdivision 2 a.

225 e. In addition to other considerations, in setting the return on equity within the range allowed by
226 this section, the Commission shall strive to maintain costs of retail electric energy that are cost
227 competitive with costs of retail electric energy provided by the other peer group investor-owned electric
228 utilities.

229 f. The determination of such returns, including the determination of whether to adopt a
230 Performance Incentive and the amount thereof, shall be made by the Commission on a stand-alone basis,
231 and specifically without regard to any return on common equity or other matters determined with regard
232 to facilities described in subdivision 6.

233 g. If the combined rate of return on common equity earned by both the generation and
234 distribution services is no more than 50 basis points above or below the return as so determined, such
235 combined return shall not be considered either excessive or insufficient, respectively.

236 h. Any amount of a utility's earnings directed by the Commission to be credited to customers'
237 bills pursuant to this section shall not be considered for the purpose of determining the utility's earnings
238 in any subsequent biennial review.

239 3. Each such utility shall make a biennial filing by March 31 of every other year, beginning in
240 2011, consisting of the schedules contained in the Commission's rules governing utility rate increase

241 applications (20 VAC 5-200-30); however, if the Commission elects to stagger the dates of the biennial
242 reviews of utilities as provided in subdivision 1, then Phase I utilities shall commence biennial filings in
243 2011 and Phase II utilities shall commence biennial filings in 2012. Such filing shall encompass the two
244 successive 12-month test periods ending December 31 immediately preceding the year in which such
245 proceeding is conducted, and in every such case the filing for each year shall be identified separately and
246 shall be segregated from any other year encompassed by the filing. If the Commission determines that
247 rates should be revised or credits be applied to customers' bills pursuant to subdivision 8 or 9, any rate
248 adjustment clauses previously implemented pursuant to subdivision 4 or 5 or those related to facilities
249 utilizing simple-cycle combustion turbines described in subdivision 6, shall be combined with the
250 utility's costs, revenues and investments until the amounts that are the subject of such rate adjustment
251 clauses are fully recovered. The Commission shall combine such clauses with the utility's costs,
252 revenues and investments only after it makes its initial determination with regard to necessary rate
253 revisions or credits to customers' bills, and the amounts thereof, but after such clauses are combined as
254 herein specified, they shall thereafter be considered part of the utility's costs, revenues, and investments
255 for the purposes of future biennial review proceedings.

256 4. The following costs incurred by the utility shall be deemed reasonable and prudent: (i) costs
257 for transmission services provided to the utility by the regional transmission entity of which the utility is
258 a member, as determined under applicable rates, terms and conditions approved by the Federal Energy
259 Regulatory Commission and (ii) costs charged to the utility that are associated with demand response
260 programs approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and administered by the regional
261 transmission entity of which the utility is a member. Upon petition of a utility at any time after the
262 expiration or termination of capped rates, but not more than once in any 12-month period, the
263 Commission shall approve a rate adjustment clause under which such costs, including, without
264 limitation, costs for transmission service, charges for new and existing transmission facilities,
265 administrative charges, and ancillary service charges designed to recover transmission costs, shall be
266 recovered on a timely and current basis from customers. Retail rates to recover these costs shall be
267 designed using the appropriate billing determinants in the retail rate schedules.

268 5. A utility may at any time, after the expiration or termination of capped rates, but not more than
269 once in any 12-month period, petition the Commission for approval of one or more rate adjustment
270 clauses for the timely and current recovery from customers of the following costs:

271 a. Incremental costs described in clause (vi) of subsection B of § 56-582 incurred between July 1,
272 2004, and the expiration or termination of capped rates, if such utility is, as of July 1, 2007, deferring
273 such costs consistent with an order of the Commission entered under clause (vi) of subsection B of § 56-
274 582. The Commission shall approve such a petition allowing the recovery of such costs that comply with
275 the requirements of clause (vi) of subsection B of § 56-582;

276 b. Projected and actual costs for the utility to design and operate fair and effective peak-shaving
277 programs. The Commission shall approve such a petition if it finds that the program is in the public
278 interest; provided that the Commission shall allow the recovery of such costs as it finds are reasonable;

279 c. Projected and actual costs for the utility to design, implement, and operate energy efficiency
280 programs, including a margin to be recovered on operating expenses, which margin for the purposes of
281 this section shall be equal to the general rate of return on common equity determined as described in
282 subdivision A 2 of this section. The Commission shall only approve such a petition if it finds that the
283 program is in the public interest. As part of such cost recovery, the Commission, if requested by the
284 utility, shall allow for the recovery of revenue reductions related to energy efficiency programs. The
285 Commission shall only allow such recovery to the extent that the Commission determines such revenue
286 has not been recovered through margins from incremental off-system sales as defined in § 56-249.6 that
287 are directly attributable to energy efficiency programs.

288 None of the costs of new energy efficiency programs of an electric utility, including recovery of
289 revenue reductions, shall be assigned to any customer that has a verifiable history of having used more
290 than 10 megawatts of demand from a single meter of delivery. Nor shall any of the costs of new energy
291 efficiency programs of an electric utility, including recovery of revenue reductions, be incurred by any
292 large general service customer as defined herein that has notified the utility of non-participation in such
293 energy efficiency program or programs. A large general service customer is a customer that has a
294 verifiable history of having used more than 500 kilowatts of demand from a single meter of delivery.

295 Non-participation in energy efficiency programs shall be allowed by the Commission if the large general
296 service customer has, at the customer's own expense, implemented energy efficiency programs that have
297 produced or will produce measured and verified results consistent with industry standards and other
298 regulatory criteria stated in this section. The Commission shall, no later than November 15, 2009,
299 promulgate rules and regulations to accommodate the process under which such large general service
300 customers shall file notice for such an exemption and (i) establish the administrative procedures by
301 which eligible customers will notify the utility and (ii) define the standard criteria that must be satisfied
302 by an applicant in order to notify the utility. In promulgating such rules and regulations, the Commission
303 may also specify the timing as to when a utility shall accept and act on such notice, taking into
304 consideration the utility's integrated resource planning process as well as its administration of energy
305 efficiency programs that are approved for cost recovery by the Commission. The notice of non-
306 participation by a large general service customer, to be given by March 1 of a given year, shall be for the
307 duration of the service life of the customer's energy efficiency program. The Commission on its own
308 motion may initiate steps necessary to verify such non-participants' achievement of energy efficiency if
309 the Commission has a body of evidence that the non-participant has knowingly misrepresented its
310 energy efficiency achievement. A utility shall not charge such large general service customer, as defined
311 by the Commission, for the costs of installing energy efficiency equipment beyond what is required to
312 provide electric service and meter such service on the customer's premises if the customer provides, at
313 the customer's expense, equivalent energy efficiency equipment. In all relevant proceedings pursuant to
314 this section, the Commission shall take into consideration the goals of economic development, energy
315 efficiency and environmental protection in the Commonwealth;

316 d. Projected and actual costs of participation in a renewable energy portfolio standard program
317 pursuant to § 56-585.2 that are not recoverable under subdivision 6. The Commission shall approve such
318 a petition allowing the recovery of such costs as are provided for in a program approved pursuant to §
319 56-585.2; and

320 e. Projected and actual costs of projects that the Commission finds to be necessary to comply
321 with state or federal environmental laws or regulations applicable to generation facilities used to serve

the utility's native load obligations. The Commission shall approve such a petition if it finds that such costs are necessary to comply with such environmental laws or regulations. If the Commission determines it would be just, reasonable, and in the public interest, the Commission may include the enhanced rate of return on common equity prescribed in subdivision 6 in a rate adjustment clause approved hereunder for a project whose purpose is to reduce the need for construction of new generation facilities by enabling the continued operation of existing generation facilities. In the event the Commission includes such enhanced return in such rate adjustment clause, the project that is the subject of such clause shall be treated as a facility described in subdivision 6 for the purposes of this section.

The Commission shall have the authority to determine the duration or amortization period for any adjustment clause approved under this subdivision.

6. To ensure a reliable and adequate supply of electricity, to meet the utility's projected native load obligations and to promote economic development, a utility may at any time, after the expiration or termination of capped rates, petition the Commission for approval of a rate adjustment clause for recovery on a timely and current basis from customers of the costs of (i) a coal-fueled generation facility that utilizes Virginia coal and is located in the coalfield region of the Commonwealth, as described in § 15.2-6002, regardless of whether such facility is located within or without the utility's service territory, (ii) one or more other generation facilities, or (iii) one or more major unit modifications of generation facilities; however, such a petition concerning facilities described in clause (ii) that utilize nuclear power, facilities described in clause (ii) that are coal-fueled and will be built by a Phase I utility, or facilities described in clause (i) may also be filed before the expiration or termination of capped rates. A utility that constructs any such facility shall have the right to recover the costs of the facility, as accrued against income, through its rates, including projected construction work in progress, and any associated allowance for funds used during construction, planning, development and construction costs, life-cycle costs, and costs of infrastructure associated therewith, plus, as an incentive to undertake such projects, an enhanced rate of return on common equity calculated as specified below. The costs of the facility, other than return on projected construction work in progress and allowance for funds used during construction, shall not be recovered prior to the date the facility begins commercial operation. Such

enhanced rate of return on common equity shall be applied to allowance for funds used during construction and to construction work in progress during the construction phase of the facility and shall thereafter be applied to the entire facility during the first portion of the service life of the facility. The first portion of the service life shall be as specified in the table below; however, the Commission shall determine the duration of the first portion of the service life of any facility, within the range specified in the table below, which determination shall be consistent with the public interest and shall reflect the Commission's determinations regarding how critical the facility may be in meeting the energy needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth and the risks involved in the development of the facility. After the first portion of the service life of the facility is concluded, the utility's general rate of return shall be applied to such facility for the remainder of its service life. As used herein, the service life of the facility shall be deemed to begin on the date the facility begins commercial operation, and such service life shall be deemed equal in years to the life of that facility as used to calculate the utility's depreciation expense. Such enhanced rate of return on common equity shall be calculated by adding the basis points specified in the table below to the utility's general rate of return, and such enhanced rate of return shall apply only to the facility that is the subject of such rate adjustment clause. No change shall be made to any Performance Incentive previously adopted by the Commission in implementing any rate of return under this subdivision. Allowance for funds used during construction shall be calculated for any such facility utilizing the utility's actual capital structure and overall cost of capital, including an enhanced rate of return on common equity as determined pursuant to this subdivision, until such construction work in progress is included in rates. The construction of any facility described in clause (i) is in the public interest, and in determining whether to approve such facility, the Commission shall liberally construe the provisions of this title. The basis points to be added to the utility's general rate of return to calculate the enhanced rate of return on common equity, and the first portion of that facility's service life to which such enhanced rate of return shall be applied, shall vary by type of facility, as specified in the following table:

Type of Generation Facility	Basis Points	First Portion of Service Life
Nuclear-powered	200	Between 12 and 25 years

379 Carbon capture compatible,
380 clean-coal powered 200 Between 10 and 20
381 years
382 Renewable powered 200 Between 5 and 15
383 years
384 Conventional coal or combined-
385 cycle combustion turbine 100 Between 10 and 20
386 years

387 Generation facilities described in clause (ii) that utilize simple-cycle combustion turbines shall
388 not receive an enhanced rate of return on common equity as described herein, but instead shall receive
389 the utility's general rate of return during the construction phase of the facility and, thereafter, for the
390 entire service life of the facility.

391 For purposes of this subdivision, "general rate of return" means the fair combined rate of return
392 on common equity as it is determined by the Commission from time to time for such utility pursuant to
393 subdivision 2. In any proceeding under this subdivision conducted prior to the conclusion of the first
394 biennial review for such utility, the Commission shall determine a general rate of return for such utility
395 in the same manner as it would in a biennial review proceeding.

396 Notwithstanding any other provision of this subdivision, if the Commission finds during the
397 biennial review conducted for a Phase II utility in 2018 that such utility has not filed applications for all
398 necessary federal and state regulatory approvals to construct one or more nuclear-powered or coal-
399 fueled generation facilities that would add a total capacity of at least 1500 megawatts to the amount of
400 the utility's generating resources as such resources existed on July 1, 2007, or that, if all such approvals
401 have been received, that the utility has not made reasonable and good faith efforts to construct one or
402 more such facilities that will provide such additional total capacity within a reasonable time after
403 obtaining such approvals, then the Commission, if it finds it in the public interest, may reduce on a
404 prospective basis any enhanced rate of return on common equity previously applied to any such facility
405 to no less than the general rate of return for such utility and may apply no less than the utility's general
406 rate of return to any such facility for which the utility seeks approval in the future under this subdivision.

407 7. Any petition filed pursuant to subdivision 4, 5, or 6 shall be considered by the Commission on
408 a stand-alone basis without regard to the other costs, revenues, investments, or earnings of the utility.
409 Any costs incurred by a utility prior to the filing of such petition, or during the consideration thereof by

the Commission, that are proposed for recovery in such petition and that are related to clause (a) of subdivision 5, or that are related to facilities and projects described in clause (i) of subdivision 6, shall be deferred on the books and records of the utility until the Commission's final order in the matter, or until the implementation of any applicable approved rate adjustment clauses, whichever is later. Any costs prudently incurred on or after July 1, 2007, by a utility prior to the filing of such petition, or during the consideration thereof by the Commission, that are proposed for recovery in such petition and that are related to facilities and projects described in clause (ii) of subdivision 6 that utilize nuclear power, or coal-fueled facilities and projects described in clause (ii) of subdivision 6 if such coal-fueled facilities will be built by a Phase I Utility, shall be deferred on the books and records of the utility until the Commission's final order in the matter, or until the implementation of any applicable approved rate adjustment clauses, whichever is later. Any costs prudently incurred after the expiration or termination of capped rates related to other matters described in subdivisions 4, 5 or 6 shall be deferred beginning only upon the expiration or termination of capped rates, provided, however, that no provision of this act shall affect the rights of any parties with respect to the rulings of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in PJM Interconnection LLC and Virginia Electric and Power Company, 109 F.E.R.C. P 61,012 (2004). The Commission's final order regarding any petition filed pursuant to subdivision 4, 5 or 6 shall be entered not more than three months, eight months, and nine months, respectively, after the date of filing of such petition. If such petition is approved, the order shall direct that the applicable rate adjustment clause be applied to customers' bills not more than 60 days after the date of the order, or upon the expiration or termination of capped rates, whichever is later.

8. If the Commission determines as a result of such biennial review that:

(i) The utility has, during the test period or periods under review, considered as a whole, earned more than 50 basis points below a fair combined rate of return on both its generation and distribution services, as determined in subdivision 2, without regard to any return on common equity or other matters determined with respect to facilities described in subdivision 6, the Commission shall order increases to the utility's rates necessary to provide the opportunity to fully recover the costs of providing the utility's services and to earn not less than such fair combined rate of return, using the most recently ended 12-

437 month test period as the basis for determining the amount of the rate increase necessary. However, the
438 Commission may not order such rate increase unless it finds that the resulting rates will provide the
439 utility with the opportunity to fully recover its costs of providing its services and to earn not less than a
440 fair combined rate of return on both its generation and distribution services, as determined in subdivision
441 2, without regard to any return on common equity or other matters determined with respect to facilities
442 described in subdivision 6, using the most recently ended 12-month test period as the basis for
443 determining the permissibility of any rate increase under the standards of this sentence, and the amount
444 thereof;

445 (ii) The utility has, during the test period or test periods under review, considered as a whole,
446 earned more than 50 basis points above a fair combined rate of return on both its generation and
447 distribution services, as determined in subdivision 2, without regard to any return on common equity or
448 other matters determined with respect to facilities described in subdivision 6, the Commission shall,
449 subject to the provisions of subdivision 9, direct that 60 percent of the amount of such earnings that were
450 more than 50 basis points above such fair combined rate of return for the test period or periods under
451 review, considered as a whole, shall be credited to customers' bills. Any such credits shall be amortized
452 over a period of six to 12 months, as determined at the discretion of the Commission, following the
453 effective date of the Commission's order, and shall be allocated among customer classes such that the
454 relationship between the specific customer class rates of return to the overall target rate of return will
455 have the same relationship as the last approved allocation of revenues used to design base rates; or

456 (iii) Such biennial review is the second consecutive biennial review in which the utility has,
457 during the test period or test periods under review, considered as a whole, earned more than 50 basis
458 points above a fair combined rate of return on both its generation and distribution services, as
459 determined in subdivision 2, without regard to any return on common equity or other matter determined
460 with respect to facilities described in subdivision 6, the Commission shall, subject to the provisions of
461 subdivision 9 and in addition to the actions authorized in clause (ii) of this subdivision, also order
462 reductions to the utility's rates it finds appropriate. However, the Commission may not order such rate
463 reduction unless it finds that the resulting rates will provide the utility with the opportunity to fully

recover its costs of providing its services and to earn not less than a fair combined rate of return on both its generation and distribution services, as determined in subdivision 2, without regard to any return on common equity or other matters determined with respect to facilities described in subdivision 6, using the most recently ended 12-month test period as the basis for determining the permissibility of any rate reduction under the standards of this sentence, and the amount thereof.

The Commission's final order regarding such biennial review shall be entered not more than nine months after the end of the test period, and any revisions in rates or credits so ordered shall take effect not more than 60 days after the date of the order.

9. If, as a result of a biennial review required under this subsection and conducted with respect to any test period or periods under review ending later than December 31, 2010 (or, if the Commission has elected to stagger its biennial reviews of utilities as provided in subdivision 1, under review ending later than December 31, 2010, for a Phase I Utility, or December 31, 2011, for a Phase II Utility), the Commission finds, with respect to such test period or periods considered as a whole, that (i) any utility has, during the test period or periods under review, considered as a whole, earned more than 50 basis points above a fair combined rate of return on both its generation and distribution services, as determined in subdivision 2, without regard to any return on common equity or other matters determined with respect to facilities described in subdivision 6, and (ii) the total aggregate regulated rates of such utility at the end of the most recently-ended 12-month test period exceeded the annual increases in the United States Average Consumer Price Index for all items, all urban consumers (CPI-U), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, compounded annually, when compared to the total aggregate regulated rates of such utility as determined pursuant to the biennial review conducted for the base period, the Commission shall, unless it finds that such action is not in the public interest or that the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) of subdivision 8 are more consistent with the public interest, direct that any or all earnings for such test period or periods under review, considered as a whole that were more than 50 basis points above such fair combined rate of return shall be credited to customers' bills, in lieu of the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) of subdivision

8. Any such credits shall be amortized and allocated among customer classes in the manner provided by clause (ii) of subdivision 8. For purposes of this subdivision:

"Base period" means (i) the test period ending December 31, 2010 (or, if the Commission has elected to stagger its biennial reviews of utilities as provided in subdivision 1, the test period ending December 31, 2010, for a Phase I Utility, or December 31, 2011, for a Phase II Utility), or (ii) the most recent test period with respect to which credits have been applied to customers' bills under the provisions of this subdivision, whichever is later.

"Total aggregate regulated rates" shall include: (i) fuel tariffs approved pursuant to § 56-249.6, except for any increases in fuel tariffs deferred by the Commission for recovery in periods after December 31, 2010, pursuant to the provisions of clause (ii) of subsection C of § 56-249.6; (ii) rate adjustment clauses implemented pursuant to subdivision 4 or 5; (iii) revisions to the utility's rates pursuant to clause (i) of subdivision 8; (iv) revisions to the utility's rates pursuant to the Commission's rules governing utility rate increase applications (20 VAC 5-200-30), as permitted by subsection B, occurring after July 1, 2009; and (v) base rates in effect as of July 1, 2009.

10. For purposes of this section, the Commission shall regulate the rates, rate structure, terms and conditions of any utility subject to this section on a stand-alone basis utilizing the actual end-of-test period capital structure and cost of capital of such utility, unless the Commission finds that the debt to equity ratio of such capital structure is unreasonable for such utility, in which case the Commission may utilize a debt to equity ratio that it finds to be reasonable for such utility in determining any rate adjustment pursuant to clauses (i) and (iii) of subdivision 8, and without regard to the cost of capital, capital structure, revenues, expenses or investments of any other entity with which such utility may be affiliated. In particular, and without limitation, the Commission shall determine the federal and state income tax costs for any such utility that is part of a publicly traded, consolidated group as follows: (i) such utility's apportioned state income tax costs shall be calculated according to the applicable statutory rate, as if the utility had not filed a consolidated return with its affiliates, and (ii) such utility's federal income tax costs shall be calculated according to the applicable federal income tax rate and shall exclude

516 any consolidated tax liability or benefit adjustments originating from any taxable income or loss of its
517 affiliates.

518 B. Nothing in this section shall preclude an investor-owned incumbent electric utility from
519 applying for an increase in rates pursuant to § 56-245 or the Commission's rules governing utility rate
520 increase applications (20 VAC 5-200-30); however, in any such filing, a fair rate of return on common
521 equity shall be determined pursuant to subdivision 2. Nothing in this section shall preclude such utility's
522 recovery of fuel and purchased power costs as provided in § 56-249.6.

523 C. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Commission shall exercise authority over the
524 rates, rate structure, terms and conditions of investor-owned incumbent electric utilities for the provision
525 of generation, transmission and distribution services to retail customers in the Commonwealth pursuant
526 to the provisions of Chapter 10 (§ 56-232 et seq.) of this title, including specifically § 56-235.2. -

527 D. Nothing in this section shall preclude the Commission from determining, during any
528 proceeding authorized or required by this section, the reasonableness or prudence of any cost incurred or
529 projected to be incurred, by a utility in connection with the subject of the proceeding. A determination of
530 the Commission regarding the reasonableness or prudence of any such cost shall be consistent with the
531 Commission's authority to determine the reasonableness or prudence of costs in proceedings pursuant to
532 the provisions of Chapter 10 (§ 56-232 et seq.) of this title.

533 E. The Commission shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to
534 implement the provisions of this section.

535 § 56-596. Consideration of economic development, energy efficiency, and environmental
536 protection; report.

537 A. In all relevant proceedings pursuant to this Act, the Commission shall take into consideration,
538 among other things, ~~the goal of economic development in the Commonwealth.~~ the goals of economic
539 development, energy efficiency, and environmental protection in the Commonwealth.

540 B. By September 1 of each year, the Commission shall report to the Commission on Electric
541 Utility Regulation and the Governor on the status of the implementation of this chapter and its
542 recommendations regarding the implementation of the provisions of this chapter. This report shall

543 include the Commission's recommendations for any actions by the General Assembly, the Commission,
544 electric utilities, or any other entity that the Commission considers to be in the public interest.

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