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## SENATE BILL NO. 922

Senate Amendments in [ ] - February 8, 2018

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 56-585.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the regulation of investor-owned electric utilities.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Senator Chafin

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 56-585.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 56-585.1. Generation, distribution, and transmission rates after capped rates terminate or expire.**

A. During the first six months of 2009, the Commission shall, after notice and opportunity for hearing, initiate proceedings to review the rates, terms and conditions for the provision of generation, distribution and transmission services of each investor-owned incumbent electric utility. Such proceedings shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter 10 (§ 56-232 et seq.), except as modified herein. In such proceedings the Commission shall determine fair rates of return on common equity applicable to the generation and distribution services of the utility. In so doing, the Commission may use any methodology to determine such return it finds consistent with the public interest, but such return shall not be set lower than the average of the returns on common equity reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission for the three most recent annual periods for which such data are available by not less than a majority, selected by the Commission as specified in subdivision 2 b, of other investor-owned electric utilities in the peer group of the utility, nor shall the Commission set such return more than 300 basis points higher than such average. The peer group of the utility shall be determined in the manner prescribed in subdivision 2 b. The Commission may increase or decrease such combined rate of return by up to 100 basis points based on the generating plant performance, customer service, and operating efficiency of a utility, as compared to nationally recognized standards determined by the Commission to be appropriate for such purposes. In such a proceeding, the Commission shall determine the rates that the utility may charge until such rates are adjusted. If the Commission finds that the 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) to 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, 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, 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 settlement adopted by the Commission that extended in its application beyond January 1, 2002, and a

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60 Phase II Utility is an investor-owned incumbent electric utility that was bound by such a settlement.

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

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

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

85 c. The Commission may, consistent with its precedent for incumbent electric utilities prior to the  
86 enactment of Chapters 888 and 933 of the Acts of Assembly of 2007, increase or decrease the utility's  
87 combined rate of return based on the Commission's consideration of the utility's performance.

88 d. In any Current Proceeding, the Commission shall determine whether the Current Return has  
89 increased, on a percentage basis, above the Initial Return by more than the increase, expressed as a  
90 percentage, in the United States Average Consumer Price Index for all items, all urban consumers  
91 (CPI-U), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, since  
92 the date on which the Commission determined the Initial Return. If so, the Commission may conduct an  
93 additional analysis of whether it is in the public interest to utilize such Current Return for the Current  
94 Proceeding then pending. A finding of whether the Current Return justifies such additional analysis shall  
95 be made without regard to any enhanced rate of return on common equity awarded pursuant to the  
96 provisions of subdivision 6. Such additional analysis shall include, but not be limited to, a consideration  
97 of overall economic conditions, the level of interest rates and cost of capital with respect to business and  
98 industry, in general, as well as electric utilities, the current level of inflation and the utility's cost of  
99 goods and services, the effect on the utility's ability to provide adequate service and to attract capital if  
100 less than the Current Return were utilized for the Current Proceeding then pending, and such other  
101 factors as the Commission may deem relevant. If, as a result of such analysis, the Commission finds that  
102 use of the Current Return for the Current Proceeding then pending would not be in the public interest,  
103 then the lower limit imposed by subdivision 2 a on the return to be determined by the Commission for  
104 such utility shall be calculated, for that Current Proceeding only, by increasing the Initial Return by a  
105 percentage at least equal to the increase, expressed as a percentage, in the United States Average  
106 Consumer Price Index for all items, all urban consumers (CPI-U), as published by the Bureau of Labor  
107 Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, since the date on which the Commission determined  
108 the Initial Return. For purposes of this subdivision:

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

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

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

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

121 f. The determination of such returns shall be made by the Commission on a stand-alone basis, and

specifically without regard to any return on common equity or other matters determined with regard to facilities described in subdivision 6.

g. If the combined rate of return on common equity earned by the generation and distribution services is no more than 50 basis points above or below the return as so determined or, for any test period commencing after December 31, 2012, for a Phase II Utility and after December 31, 2013, for a Phase I Utility, such return is no more than 70 basis points above or below the return as so determined, such combined return shall not be considered either excessive or insufficient, respectively. However, for any test period commencing after December 31, 2012, for a Phase II Utility, and after December 31, 2013, for a Phase I Utility, if the utility has, during the test period or periods under review, earned below the return as so determined, whether or not such combined return is within 70 basis points of the return as so determined, the utility may petition the Commission for approval of an increase in rates in accordance with the provisions of subdivision 8 a as if it had earned more than 70 basis points below a fair combined rate of return, and such proceeding shall otherwise be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section.

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

3. Each such utility shall make a biennial filing by March 31 of every other year, beginning in 2011, consisting of the schedules contained in the Commission's rules governing utility rate increase applications; however, if the Commission elects to stagger the dates of the biennial reviews of utilities as provided in subdivision 1, then each Phase I Utility shall commence biennial filings in 2011 and each Phase II Utility shall commence biennial filings in 2012. Such filing shall encompass the two successive 12-month test periods ending December 31 immediately preceding the year in which such proceeding is conducted, and in every such case the filing for each year shall be identified separately and shall be segregated from any other year encompassed by the filing. If the Commission determines that rates should be revised or credits be applied to customers' bills pursuant to subdivision 8 or 9, any rate adjustment clauses previously implemented pursuant to subdivision 5 or those related to facilities utilizing simple-cycle combustion turbines described in subdivision 6, shall be combined with the utility's costs, revenues and investments until the amounts that are the subject of such rate adjustment clauses are fully recovered. The Commission shall combine such clauses with the utility's costs, revenues and investments only after it makes its initial determination with regard to necessary rate revisions or credits to customers' bills, and the amounts thereof, but after such clauses are combined as herein specified, they shall thereafter be considered part of the utility's costs, revenues, and investments for the purposes of future biennial review proceedings. A Phase I Utility shall delay for one year the filing of its biennial review from March 31, 2013, to March 31, 2014, and shall not defer on its books for future recovery any costs incurred during calendar year 2011, other than as provided in subdivision 7 or § 56-249.6, and its subsequent biennial filing shall be made by March 31, 2016, and every two years thereafter. *In a biennial filing under this subdivision [ that does not result in an overall rate change] a utility may propose an adjustment to one or more tariffs that [ does not change the utility's rates, and the Commission shall approve such an adjustment if it finds that the adjustment is in the public interest are revenue neutral to the utility ] .*

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

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

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

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

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

None of the costs of new energy efficiency programs of an electric utility, including recovery of revenue reductions, shall be assigned to any customer that has a verifiable history of having used more than 10 megawatts of demand from a single meter of delivery. Nor shall any of the costs of new energy efficiency programs of an electric utility, including recovery of revenue reductions, be incurred by any large general service customer as defined herein that has notified the utility of non-participation in such energy efficiency program or programs. A large general service customer is a customer that has a verifiable history of having used more than 500 kilowatts of demand from a single meter of delivery. Non-participation in energy efficiency programs shall be allowed by the Commission if the large general service customer has, at the customer's own expense, implemented energy efficiency programs that have produced or will produce measured and verified results consistent with industry standards and other regulatory criteria stated in this section. The Commission shall, no later than November 15, 2009, promulgate rules and regulations to accommodate the process under which such large general service customers shall file notice for such an exemption and (i) establish the administrative procedures by which eligible customers will notify the utility and (ii) define the standard criteria that must be satisfied by an applicant in order to notify the utility. In promulgating such rules and regulations, the Commission may also specify the timing as to when a utility shall accept and act on such notice, taking into consideration the utility's integrated resource planning process as well as its administration of energy efficiency programs that are approved for cost recovery by the Commission. The notice of non-participation by a large general service customer, to be given by March 1 of a given year, shall be for the duration of the service life of the customer's energy efficiency program. The Commission on its own motion may initiate steps necessary to verify such non-participants' achievement of energy efficiency if the Commission has a body of evidence that the non-participant has knowingly misrepresented its energy efficiency achievement. A utility shall not charge such large general service customer, as defined by the Commission, for the costs of installing energy efficiency equipment beyond what is required to provide electric service and meter such service on the customer's premises if the customer provides, at the customer's expense, equivalent energy efficiency equipment. In all relevant proceedings pursuant to this section, the Commission shall take into consideration the goals of economic development, energy efficiency and environmental protection in the Commonwealth;

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

e. Projected and actual costs of projects that the Commission finds to be necessary to comply 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; and

f. Projected and actual costs, not currently in rates, for the utility to design, implement, and operate programs approved by the Commission that accelerate the vegetation management of distribution rights-of-way. No costs shall be allocated to or recovered from customers that are served within the large general service rate classes for a Phase II Utility or that are served at subtransmission or transmission voltage, or take delivery at a substation served from subtransmission or transmission voltage, for a Phase I Utility.

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

6. To ensure the generation and delivery of 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

245 without the utility's service territory, (ii) one or more other generation facilities, (iii) one or more major  
 246 unit modifications of generation facilities, including the costs of any system or equipment upgrade,  
 247 system or equipment replacement, or other cost reasonably appropriate to extend the combined operating  
 248 license for or the operating life of one or more generation facilities utilizing nuclear power, (iv) one or  
 249 more new underground facilities to replace one or more existing overhead distribution facilities of 69  
 250 kilovolts or less located within the Commonwealth, or (v) one or more pumped hydroelectricity  
 251 generation and storage facilities that utilize on-site or off-site renewable energy resources as all or a  
 252 portion of their power source and such facilities and associated resources are located in the coalfield  
 253 region of the Commonwealth as described in § 15.2-6002, regardless of whether such facility is located  
 254 within or without the utility's service territory; however, subject to the provisions of the following  
 255 sentence, the utility shall not file a petition under clause (iv) more often than annually and, in such  
 256 petition, shall not seek any annual incremental increase in the level of investments associated with such  
 257 a petition that exceeds five percent of such utility's distribution rate base, as such rate base was  
 258 determined for the most recently ended 12-month test period in the utility's latest biennial review  
 259 proceeding conducted pursuant to subdivision 3 and concluded by final order of the Commission prior to  
 260 the date of filing of such petition under clause (iv). In all proceedings regarding petitions filed under  
 261 clause (iv), the level of investments approved for recovery in such proceedings shall be in addition to,  
 262 and not in lieu of, levels of investments previously approved for recovery in prior proceedings under  
 263 clause (iv). Such a petition concerning facilities described in clause (ii) that utilize nuclear power,  
 264 facilities described in clause (ii) that are coal-fueled and will be built by a Phase I Utility, or facilities  
 265 described in clause (i) may also be filed before the expiration or termination of capped rates. A utility  
 266 that constructs or makes modifications to any such facility, or purchases any facility consisting of at  
 267 least one megawatt of generating capacity using energy derived from sunlight and located in the  
 268 Commonwealth and that utilizes goods or services sourced, in whole or in part, from one or more  
 269 Virginia businesses, shall have the right to recover the costs of the facility, as accrued against income,  
 270 through its rates, including projected construction work in progress, and any associated allowance for  
 271 funds used during construction, planning, development and construction or acquisition costs, life-cycle  
 272 costs, costs related to assessing the feasibility of potential sites for new underground facilities, and costs  
 273 of infrastructure associated therewith, plus, as an incentive to undertake such projects, an enhanced rate  
 274 of return on common equity calculated as specified below; however, in determining the amounts  
 275 recoverable under a rate adjustment clause for new underground facilities, the Commission shall not  
 276 consider, or increase or reduce such amounts recoverable because of (a) the operation and maintenance  
 277 costs attributable to either the overhead distribution facilities being replaced or the new underground  
 278 facilities or (b) any other costs attributable to the overhead distribution facilities being replaced.  
 279 Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the costs described in clauses (a) and (b) thereof shall remain  
 280 eligible for recovery from customers through the utility's base rates for distribution service. A utility  
 281 filing a petition for approval to construct or purchase a facility consisting of at least one megawatt of  
 282 generating capacity using energy derived from sunlight and located in the Commonwealth and that  
 283 utilizes goods or services sourced, in whole or in part, from one or more Virginia businesses may  
 284 propose a rate adjustment clause based on a market index in lieu of a cost of service model for such  
 285 facility. A utility seeking approval to construct or purchase a generating facility described in clause (i)  
 286 or (ii) shall demonstrate that it has considered and weighed alternative options, including third-party  
 287 market alternatives, in its selection process. The costs of the facility, other than return on projected  
 288 construction work in progress and allowance for funds used during construction, shall not be recovered  
 289 prior to the date a facility constructed by the utility and described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) begins  
 290 commercial operation, the date the utility becomes the owner of a purchased generation facility  
 291 consisting of at least one megawatt of generating capacity using energy derived from sunlight and  
 292 located in the Commonwealth and that utilizes goods or services sourced, in whole or in part, from one  
 293 or more Virginia businesses, or the date new underground facilities are classified by the utility as plant  
 294 in service. Such enhanced rate of return on common equity shall be applied to allowance for funds used  
 295 during construction and to construction work in progress during the construction phase of the facility  
 296 and shall thereafter be applied to the entire facility during the first portion of the service life of the  
 297 facility. The first portion of the service life shall be as specified in the table below; however, the  
 298 Commission shall determine the duration of the first portion of the service life of any facility, within the  
 299 range specified in the table below, which determination shall be consistent with the public interest and  
 300 shall reflect the Commission's determinations regarding how critical the facility may be in meeting the  
 301 energy needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth and the risks involved in the development of the  
 302 facility. After the first portion of the service life of the facility is concluded, the utility's general rate of  
 303 return shall be applied to such facility for the remainder of its service life. As used herein, the service  
 304 life of the facility shall be deemed to begin on the date a facility constructed by the utility and described  
 305 in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) begins commercial operation, the date the utility becomes the owner of a

306 purchased generation facility consisting of at least one megawatt of generating capacity using energy  
 307 derived from sunlight and located in the Commonwealth and that utilizes goods or services sourced, in  
 308 whole or in part, from one or more Virginia businesses, or the date new underground facilities are  
 309 classified by the utility as plant in service, and such service life shall be deemed equal in years to the  
 310 life of that facility as used to calculate the utility's depreciation expense. Such enhanced rate of return  
 311 on common equity shall be calculated by adding the basis points specified in the table below to the  
 312 utility's general rate of return, and such enhanced rate of return shall apply only to the facility that is the  
 313 subject of such rate adjustment clause. Allowance for funds used during construction shall be calculated  
 314 for any such facility utilizing the utility's actual capital structure and overall cost of capital, including an  
 315 enhanced rate of return on common equity as determined pursuant to this subdivision, until such  
 316 construction work in progress is included in rates. The construction of any facility described in clause (i)  
 317 or (v) is in the public interest, and in determining whether to approve such facility, the Commission  
 318 shall liberally construe the provisions of this title. The construction or purchase by a utility of one or  
 319 more generation facilities with at least one megawatt of generating capacity, and with an aggregate rated  
 320 capacity that does not exceed 500 megawatts, that use energy derived from sunlight and are located in  
 321 the Commonwealth, regardless of whether any of such facilities are located within or without the utility's  
 322 service territory, is in the public interest, and in determining whether to approve such facility, the  
 323 Commission shall liberally construe the provisions of this title. A utility may enter into short-term or  
 324 long-term power purchase contracts for the power derived from sunlight generated by such generation  
 325 facility prior to purchasing the generation facility. The replacement of any subset of a utility's existing  
 326 overhead distribution tap lines that have, in the aggregate, an average of nine or more total unplanned  
 327 outage events-per-mile over a preceding 10-year period with new underground facilities in order to  
 328 improve electric service reliability is in the public interest. In determining whether to approve petitions  
 329 for rate adjustment clauses for such new underground facilities that meet this criteria, and in determining  
 330 the level of costs to be recovered thereunder, the Commission shall liberally construe the provisions of  
 331 this title. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the conversion of such facilities will provide local  
 332 and system-wide benefits, that such new underground facilities are cost beneficial, and that the costs  
 333 associated with such new underground facilities are reasonably and prudently incurred. The basis points  
 334 to be added to the utility's general rate of return to calculate the enhanced rate of return on common  
 335 equity, and the first portion of that facility's service life to which such enhanced rate of return shall be  
 336 applied, shall vary by type of facility, as specified in the following table:

Type of Generation Facility	Basis Points	First Portion of Service Life
337 Nuclear-powered	200	Between 12 and 25 years
338 Carbon capture compatible, clean-coal powered	200	Between 10 and 20 years
339 Renewable powered, other than landfill gas powered	200	Between 5 and 15 years
340 Coalbed methane gas powered	150	Between 5 and 15 years
341 Landfill gas powered	200	Between 5 and 15 years
342 Conventional coal or combined-cycle combustion turbine	100	Between 10 and 20 years

344 For generating facilities other than those utilizing nuclear power constructed pursuant to clause (ii) or  
 345 those utilizing energy derived from offshore wind, as of July 1, 2013, only those facilities as to which a  
 346 rate adjustment clause under this subdivision has been previously approved by the Commission, or as to  
 347 which a petition for approval of such rate adjustment clause was filed with the Commission, on or  
 348 before January 1, 2013, shall be entitled to the enhanced rate of return on common equity as specified  
 349 in the above table during the construction phase of the facility and the approved first portion of its  
 350 service life.

351 For generating facilities within the Commonwealth utilizing nuclear power or those utilizing energy  
 352 derived from offshore wind projects located in waters off the Commonwealth's Atlantic shoreline, such  
 353 facilities shall continue to be eligible for an enhanced rate of return on common equity during the  
 354 construction phase of the facility and the approved first portion of its service life of between 12 and 25  
 355 years in the case of a facility utilizing nuclear power and for a service life of between 5 and 15 years in  
 356 the case of a facility utilizing energy derived from offshore wind, provided, however, that, as of July 1,  
 357 2013, the enhanced return for such facilities constructed pursuant to clause (ii) shall be 100 basis points,  
 358 which shall be added to the utility's general rate of return as determined under subdivision 2. Thirty  
 359 percent of all costs of such a facility utilizing nuclear power that the utility incurred between July 1,  
 360 2007, and December 31, 2013, and all of such costs incurred after December 31, 2013, may be deferred  
 361 by the utility and recovered through a rate adjustment clause under this subdivision at such time as the  
 362 Commission provides in an order approving such a rate adjustment clause. The remaining 70 percent of  
 363 all costs of such a facility that the utility incurred between July 1, 2007, and December 31, 2013, shall  
 364 not be deferred for recovery through a rate adjustment clause under this subdivision; however, such  
 365 remaining 70 percent of all costs shall be recovered ratably through existing base rates as determined by  
 366 the Commission in the test periods under review in the utility's next biennial review filed after July 1,  
 367 2014. Thirty percent of all costs of such a facility utilizing energy derived from offshore wind that the

utility incurred between July 1, 2007, and December 31, 2013, and all of such costs incurred after December 31, 2013, may be deferred by the utility and recovered through a rate adjustment clause under this subdivision at such time as the Commission provides in an order approving such a rate adjustment clause. The remaining 70 percent of all costs of such a facility that the utility incurred between July 1, 2007, and December 31, 2013, shall not be deferred for recovery through a rate adjustment clause under this subdivision; however, such remaining 70 percent of all costs shall be recovered ratably through existing base rates as determined by the Commission in the test periods under review in the utility's next biennial review filed after July 1, 2014.

In connection with planning to meet forecasted demand for electric generation supply and assure the adequate and sufficient reliability of service, consistent with § 56-598, planning and development activities for a new nuclear generation facility or facilities are in the public interest.

In connection with planning to meet forecasted demand for electric generation supply and assure the adequate and sufficient reliability of service, consistent with § 56-598, planning and development activities for a new utility-owned and utility-operated generating facility or facilities utilizing energy derived from sunlight with an aggregate capacity of 500 megawatts, or from offshore wind, are in the public interest.

Neither generation facilities described in clause (ii) that utilize simple-cycle combustion turbines nor new underground facilities shall receive an enhanced rate of return on common equity as described herein, but instead shall receive the utility's general rate of return during the construction phase of the facility and, thereafter, for the entire service life of the facility. No rate adjustment clause for new underground facilities shall allocate costs to, or provide for the recovery of costs from, customers that are served within the large power service rate class for a Phase I Utility and the large general service rate classes for a Phase II Utility. New underground facilities are hereby declared to be ordinary extensions or improvements in the usual course of business under the provisions of § 56-265.2.

As used in this subdivision, a generation facility is (1) "coalbed methane gas powered" if the facility is fired at least 50 percent by coalbed methane gas, as such term is defined in § 45.1-361.1, produced from wells located in the Commonwealth, and (2) "landfill gas powered" if the facility is fired by methane or other combustible gas produced by the anaerobic digestion or decomposition of biodegradable materials in a solid waste management facility licensed by the Waste Management Board. A landfill gas powered facility includes, in addition to the generation facility itself, the equipment used in collecting, drying, treating, and compressing the landfill gas and in transmitting the landfill gas from the solid waste management facility where it is collected to the generation facility where it is combusted.

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

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

7. Any petition filed pursuant to subdivision 4, 5, or 6 shall be considered by the Commission on a stand-alone basis without regard to the other costs, revenues, investments, or earnings of the utility. 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 subdivision 5 a, or that are related to facilities and projects described in clause (i) of subdivision 6, or that are related to new underground facilities described in clause (iv) 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. Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 6, 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) or clause (iii) 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 subdivision 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). A utility shall establish a regulatory asset for regulatory accounting and ratemaking purposes under which it shall defer its operation and maintenance costs incurred in connection with (i) the refueling of any nuclear-powered generating plant and (ii) other work at such plant normally performed during a refueling outage. The utility shall amortize such deferred costs over the refueling cycle, but in no case more than 18 months, beginning with the month in which such plant resumes operation after such refueling. The refueling cycle shall be the applicable period of time between planned refueling outages for such plant. As of January 1, 2014, such amortized costs are a component of base rates, recoverable in base rates only ratably over the refueling cycle rather than when such outages occur, and are the only nuclear refueling costs recoverable in base rates. This provision shall apply to any nuclear-powered generating plant refueling outage commencing after December 31, 2013, and the Commission shall treat the deferred and amortized costs of such regulatory asset as part of the utility's costs for the purpose of proceedings conducted (a) with respect to biennial filings under subdivision 3 made on and after July 1, 2014, and (b) pursuant to § 56-245 or the Commission's rules governing utility rate increase applications as provided in subsection B. This provision shall not be deemed to change or reset base rates.

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. In any biennial review proceeding, the following utility generation and distribution costs not proposed for recovery under any other subdivision of this subsection, as recorded per books by the utility for financial reporting purposes and accrued against income, shall be attributed to the test periods under review: costs associated with asset impairments related to early retirement determinations made by the utility prior to December 31, 2012, for utility generation plant; costs associated with severe weather events; and costs associated with natural disasters. Such costs shall be deemed to have been recovered from customers through rates for generation and distribution services in effect during the test periods under review unless such costs, individually or in the aggregate, together with the utility's other costs, revenues, and investments to be recovered through rates for generation and distribution services, result in the utility's earned return on its generation and distribution services for the combined test periods under review to fall more than 50 basis points below the fair combined rate of return authorized under subdivision 2 for such periods or, for any test period commencing after December 31, 2012, for a Phase II Utility and after December 31, 2013, for a Phase I Utility, to fall more than 70 basis points below the fair combined rate of return authorized under subdivision 2 for such periods. In such cases, the Commission shall, in such biennial review proceeding, authorize deferred recovery of such costs and allow the utility to amortize and recover such deferred costs over future periods as determined by the Commission. The aggregate amount of such deferred costs shall not exceed an amount that would, together with the utility's other costs, revenues, and investments to be recovered through rates for generation and distribution services, cause the utility's earned return on its generation and distribution services to exceed the fair rate of return authorized under subdivision 2, less 50 basis points, for the combined test periods under review or, for any test period commencing after December 31, 2012, for a Phase II Utility and after December 31, 2013, for a Phase I Utility, to exceed the fair rate of return authorized under subdivision 2 less 70 basis points. Nothing in this section shall limit the Commission's authority, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 10 (§ 56-232 et seq.), including specifically § 56-235.2, following the review of combined test period earnings of the utility in a biennial review, for normalization of nonrecurring test period costs and annualized adjustments for future costs, in determining any appropriate increase or decrease in the utility's rates for generation and distribution services pursuant to subdivision 8 a or 8 c.

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

a. 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 its generation and distribution services or, for any test period commencing after December 31, 2012, for a Phase II Utility and after December 31, 2013, for a Phase I Utility, more than 70 basis points below a fair combined rate of return on 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-month test period as the basis for determining the amount of the rate increase necessary. However, the Commission may not order such rate increase unless it finds that the resulting rates are necessary to 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 increase under the standards of this sentence, and the amount thereof;

b. The utility has, during the test period or test periods under review, considered as a whole, earned more than 50 basis points above a fair combined rate of return on its generation and distribution services or, for any test period commencing after December 31, 2012, for a Phase II Utility and after December 31, 2013, for a Phase I Utility, more than 70 basis points above a fair combined rate of return on 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, subject to the provisions of subdivision 9, direct that 60 percent of the amount of such earnings that were more than 50 basis points, or, for any test period commencing after December 31, 2012, for a Phase II Utility and after December 31, 2013, for a Phase I Utility, that 70 percent of the amount of such earnings that were more than 70 basis points, above such fair combined rate of return for the test period or periods under review, considered as a whole, shall be credited to customers' bills. Any 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 shall 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; or

c. Such biennial review is the second consecutive biennial review in which the utility has, during the test period or test periods under review, considered as a whole, earned more than 50 basis points above a fair combined rate of return on its generation and distribution services or, for any test period commencing after December 31, 2012, for a Phase II Utility and after December 31, 2013, for a Phase I Utility, more than 70 basis points above a fair combined rate of return on its generation and distribution services, as determined in subdivision 2, without regard to any return on common equity or other matter determined with respect to facilities described in subdivision 6, the Commission shall, subject to the provisions of subdivision 9 and in addition to the actions authorized in subdivision b, also order reductions to the utility's rates it finds appropriate. However, 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 a fair combined rate of return on 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 eight months after the date of filing, and any revisions in rates or credits so ordered shall take effect not more than 60 days after the date of the order. The fair combined rate of return on common equity determined pursuant to subdivision 2 in such biennial review shall apply, for purposes of reviewing the utility's earnings on its rates for generation and distribution services, to the entire two successive 12-month test periods ending December 31 immediately preceding the year of the utility's subsequent biennial review filing under subdivision 3.

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 its generation and distribution services or, for any test period commencing after December 31, 2012, for a Phase II Utility and after December 31, 2013, for a Phase I Utility, more than 70 basis points above a fair combined rate of return on 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

552 annual increases in the United States Average Consumer Price Index for all items, all urban consumers  
553 (CPI-U), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor,  
554 compounded annually, when compared to the total aggregate regulated rates of such utility as  
555 determined pursuant to the biennial review conducted for the base period, the Commission shall, unless  
556 it finds that such action is not in the public interest or that the provisions of subdivisions 8 b and c are  
557 more consistent with the public interest, direct that any or all earnings for such test period or periods  
558 under review, considered as a whole that were more than 50 basis points, or, for any test period  
559 commencing after December 31, 2012, for a Phase II Utility and after December 31, 2013, for a Phase I  
560 Utility, more than 70 basis points, above such fair combined rate of return shall be credited to  
561 customers' bills, in lieu of the provisions of subdivisions 8 b and c. Any such credits shall be amortized  
562 and allocated among customer classes in the manner provided by subdivision 8 b. For purposes of this  
563 subdivision:

564 "Base period" means (i) the test period ending December 31, 2010 (or, if the Commission has elected  
565 to stagger its biennial reviews of utilities as provided in subdivision 1, the test period ending December  
566 31, 2010, for a Phase I Utility, or December 31, 2011, for a Phase II Utility), or (ii) the most recent test  
567 period with respect to which credits have been applied to customers' bills under the provisions of this  
568 subdivision, whichever is later.

569 "Total aggregate regulated rates" shall include: (i) fuel tariffs approved pursuant to § 56-249.6, except  
570 for any increases in fuel tariffs deferred by the Commission for recovery in periods after December 31,  
571 2010, pursuant to the provisions of clause (ii) of subsection C of § 56-249.6; (ii) rate adjustment clauses  
572 implemented pursuant to subdivision 4 or 5; (iii) revisions to the utility's rates pursuant to subdivision 8  
573 a; (iv) revisions to the utility's rates pursuant to the Commission's rules governing utility rate increase  
574 applications, as permitted by subsection B, occurring after July 1, 2009; and (v) base rates in effect as  
575 of July 1, 2009.

576 10. For purposes of this section, the Commission shall regulate the rates, terms and conditions of any  
577 utility subject to this section on a stand-alone basis utilizing the actual end-of-test period [  
578 *unconsolidated*] capital structure and cost of capital of such utility, [*excluding any debt associated with*  
579 *securitized bonds that are the obligation of non-Virginia jurisdictional customers.*] unless the  
580 Commission finds that the debt to equity ratio of such capital structure is unreasonable for such utility,  
581 in which case the Commission may utilize a debt to equity ratio that it finds to be reasonable for such  
582 utility in determining any rate adjustment pursuant to subdivisions 8 a and c, and without regard to the  
583 cost of capital, capital structure, revenues, expenses or investments of any other entity with which such  
584 utility may be affiliated. In particular, and without limitation, the Commission shall determine the  
585 federal and state income tax costs for any such utility that is part of a publicly traded, consolidated  
586 group as follows: (i) such utility's apportioned state income tax costs shall be calculated according to the  
587 applicable statutory rate, as if the utility had not filed a consolidated return with its affiliates, and (ii)  
588 such utility's federal income tax costs shall be calculated according to the applicable federal income tax  
589 rate and shall exclude any consolidated tax liability or benefit adjustments originating from any taxable  
590 income or loss of its affiliates.

591 B. Nothing in this section shall preclude an investor-owned incumbent electric utility from applying  
592 for an increase in rates pursuant to § 56-245 or the Commission's rules governing utility rate increase  
593 applications; however, in any such filing, a fair rate of return on common equity shall be determined  
594 pursuant to subdivision A 2. Nothing in this section shall preclude such utility's recovery of fuel and  
595 purchased power costs as provided in § 56-249.6.

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

600 D. The Commission may determine, during any proceeding authorized or required by this section, the  
601 reasonableness or prudence of any cost incurred or projected to be incurred, by a utility in connection  
602 with the subject of the proceeding. A determination of the Commission regarding the reasonableness or  
603 prudence of any such cost shall be consistent with the Commission's authority to determine the  
604 reasonableness or prudence of costs in proceedings pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 10 (§ 56-232 et  
605 seq.). In determining the reasonableness or prudence of a utility providing energy and capacity to its  
606 customers from renewable energy resources, the Commission shall consider the extent to which such  
607 renewable energy resources, whether utility-owned or by contract, further the objectives of the  
608 Commonwealth Energy Policy set forth in §§ 67-101 and 67-102, and shall also consider whether the  
609 costs of such resources is likely to result in unreasonable increases in rates paid by consumers.

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