PSC rejects BG and E rate hike

The Public Service Commission has rejected a rate structure plan proposed by the Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. that would have raised summer electric bills for some customers by up to 6 percent.

The Commission's unanimous vote overturned a June 28 order by the Commission's chief hearing examiner, Kirk J. Emge, that would have allowed the rate structure to take effect.

Under the "two - tier" rate structure plan approved by Emge, the utility would have imposed a monthly customer charge and an energy charge on its more than 700,000 residential customers.

The Commission said the plan would increase minimum service charges 52 percent for the utility's 167,000 elderly and low - income customers who use small amounts of electricity.

The PSC's action delays any increases in BG and E rates until the fall.

If the plan had been approved, the bill for a customer with air conditioning who uses 1,500 kilowatts of electricity per month would have increased about 6 percent from $65.96 to $69.84, a Commission spokesman said.

The service charge under the plan would have increased from $1.89 to $3.93 a month, even if a customer was away on vacation and using no electricity, he said.

Under the two - tier plan, an average customer pays only for the electricity or gas he burns and can reduce his monthly bill by cutting back on consumption.

But the additional service charge would in effect reduce or eliminate any savings, the commission said in rejecting the plan.

The utility argued that the service charge covered the costs for meters, taxes, and depreciation meters, including the cost of connecting service, reading meters and preparing monthly bills.

But the Commission ruled, "While it may be in the public interest to impose a charge for all customers to reflect the current costs for connection to the system, the imposition of a customer charge that does not include some minimum use may not be reasonable."

The five commissioners ordered the utility to revise its plan and submit a new proposal that would not penalize a customer who burns a small amount of electricity.

CHILDREN'S HOME—William E. Mullen (R), chairman of the board of directors of German Children's Home, and Mrs. Hannah Lindsey (C), board member, are shown receiving a check for $521,175 from Del. Louis P. Morsberger, D.-13th. The check represents payment of a grant from the Maryland Board of Public Works for the construction of a new administration building and dining hall. These state funds were contingent upon the Home raising an amount equal to the state grant. The Home is located at 205 Bloomsbury Ave.

Public housing tenants get security systems

The Department of Housing and Community Development entered the final phase of its six-year program to increase tenant security in high rise public housing projects with the dedication June 30 of two enclosed security systems at Lafayette Courts.

Housing Commissioner M.J. Brodie cut the ribbon on the facility at 131 N. Aisquith St. in ceremonies attended by city officials and Lafayette Courts residents.

Brodie said the security system was begun in 1972 when residents of multi - story public housing units asked for protective measures.

Using money provided through the Law Enforcement Assistance Fund, the department designed a security system which limits the number of doors used by people entering and leaving each building and posts guards at the entrances on a 24 - hour, seven - days - a - week basis.

In March, 1974, the first four systems were completed at a cost of $110,000 each.

Eight more were finished in March 1975, at a cost of nearly $140,000 each with money from Housing Authority modernization funds. Four more systems will be dedicated by the end of the summer, completing the final phase of the security program.

In each of 18 buildings, only one door is used for the entrance and exit of tenants and visitors. Beside each door is a bullet - proof guard booth containing TV monitors with views of laundry facilities, basements and exit doors, which are locked at all times. They are opened by the guard only during emergencies.

The guard constantly monitors a panel of two - way speakers used to hear the voices of persons who may be asking for help in any of the public areas within the building.

Each tenant eventually will be photographed and the pictures will remain in the guard booth so that residents can be distinguished from visitors.

When a visitor enters the door he must identify himself with the guard through a two - way microphone system. The guard then calls the resident he wishes to see. Only after the tenant gives his permission is the visitor allowed to enter the building.

Brodie said the system has raised the confidence of residents. He said it is one factor in assuring that unlike the situation in many other urban areas, Baltimore's public housing high - rise units are 100 percent filled.

Guards for the projects are women who were trained in a one - year special program sponsored through the housing department and Coppin State College. In order to qualify for the course, each woman had to be a resident of public housing.

About 95 percent of them were on welfare. After completion of their training the women were employed as guards at each of the high rise projects and, according to Herman Johnson, Housing Authority security director, most of them are then able to move out of public housing and into their own home or apartment.

The guards work on a 24 - hour basis Monday through Friday. A private security firm is used on weekends.

Othe security system dedications to be held this summer will be at Flag House Courts, 110 S. Exeter St., and Lexington - Poe Homes, 221 N. Fremont Ave.

Art show to be held

The deadline is fast approaching for registration for the Fifteenth Annual Million Dollar Mile Art Show.

The show is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 19 and Sunday, Aug. 20. It will be held at Tydings Park, Havre de Grace, Md.

All media of artists and craftsmen are invited to display. Original work only will be allowed to exhibit — dealers and importers will not be permitted to participate. The show will be judged by professional judges.

All exhibits must be set up by 10 a.m. Saturday and noon on Sunday. Displays may not be dismantled prior to 6 p.m. each day.

Full description of media must accompany application. Applications may be obtained by writing to post office Box 174, Havre de Grace, Md. or by calling 939-2329.

Cut-off date for registering is Aug. 1.

In the event of rain the show is scheduled for Aug. 26 and 27.

Gas prices drop

Home energy prices in the Baltimore area dropped 0.1 percent in May, the first decrease in more than a year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

Alvin L. Margulis, the bureau's regional commissioner, said the local consumer price index shows that lower residential gas prices were partially offset by higher electricity prices.

He said electricity prices rose 0.4 percent in May, after dropping 1.3 percent in April.

Gasoline prices also increased in May, he said. But local residential gas prices dropped for the second time this year, a decline of 0.8 percent in May.

Margulis said consumers were paying $12.36 more per month for gas heating than the national average.

The bureau said Baltimore residents also were paying $6.71 more per month for electricity than Washington, D.C. residents.

Fuel oil prices remained the same, the Bureau said.

City getting burned on heating oil deal?

An audit revealed that a Baltimore fuel delivery service failed to deliver nearly 500,000 gallons of fuel oil to municipal agencies during the past year.

City Purchasing Agent Stanley D. Zemansky said Tuesday an audit by city, state and federal authorities showed no record that Paul's Discount Fuels Inc. delivered $171,000 worth of oil that was picked up at the city fuel tank.

The city Board of Estimates has declared the company in default of its $75,000 annual contract to deliver 499,498 gallons of oil to municipal agencies.

"We have no delivery tickets, only pickups," said city auditor Daniel Paul. "We know they picked up the oil at our tank farm, but there's no record that they ever delivered it to us."

Zemansky said the city has been unable to contact the firm's owner, Eileen Paul.

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'Care-givers'—alternative to nursing homes

A new program at Johns Hopkins Hospital offers an alternative to nursing homes for elderly people with health problems and at the same time brings additional jobs to volunteer families.

Marty Ross, a Hopkins official in charge of the "Care-Giver" Program, said elderly people who do not need full-time medical attention but cannot live alone will be able to live with trained volunteer families.

She said the volunteer care - givers will be paid by patients and will receive training from Hopkins doctors, nurses, physical therapists, social workers and dieticians.

For instance, a nurse will explain ways to store medicine and keep medical records, a therapist will outline methods of setting up a convenient sickroom in a home and a social worker will talk about methods of dealing with emotional problems common to the elderly, Ms. Ross said.

The Hopkins staff will continue to monitor the patients' situations in the homes so the care - givers will not feel they are left alone with any problems that might occur, she said.

A screening process has been started by Hopkins to find volunteers whose homes meet fire safety standards and who will provide the best care for the elderly people. A meeting of those volunteer "care-givers" who meet the standards will be held next week, she said.

Ms. Ross said she has received a number of applications from families in East and Southeast Baltimore, the location of the program, because of its proximity to the hospital.

Care - givers do not need a special background to fill the role, she said.

"The important requirement is a sincere interest in caring for an caring about another human being," she said.

Patricia Volland, Hopkins social work director, said the program will bring additional jobs to the area as well as offer appropriate care to older people whose disabilities prevent them from taking complete care of themselves.

By offering an alternative to persons who would normally be placed in nursing homes, the project also will be less costly to society, she said.

Ms. Ross said, "Also, sometimes it's psychologically detrimental for old people to go to a nursing home, but it can be hard on their families who are emotionally involved, to care for them."

Check out child labor laws

The child labor law, administered by the Department of Labor, sets standards protecting minors from employment that might endanger their health, safety and educational opportunities.

Under the federal law, those aged 18 or over may work at any job with no time restriction.

At 16 and 17 years of age, youths may also be employed without a time limitation and in any occupation other than the few that have been declared hazardous by the secretary of labor. These are:

— Working with explosives and radioactive materials;

— Operating certain power - driven woodworking, metalworking, bakery and paper products machinery;

— Operating various types of power - driven saws and guillotine shears;

Operating most power-driven hoisting apparatus such as non — automatic freight elevators, fork lifts and cranes;

— Operating certain power - driven meat processing equipment and machinery; or most jobs in slaughtering and meat packing establishments;

— Most jobs in mining, roofing, demolition, and in excavation;

— Operating motor vehicles or working as outside helper on motor vehicles;

— Most jobs in logging and sawmill operations and

— Most jobs in manufacturing bricks, tiles and similar products.

Workers 14 and 15 - years - old can be employed in a variety of jobs such as clerical and office work; various retail and food service jobs; errand and delivery work by foot, bicycle or public transportation; and they may work at gas stations dispensing gas and oil and performing courtesy service.

Fourteen and 15 - year - olds are excluded from all hazardous occupations; manufacturing or mining; operating or tending most power - driven machinery; and as public messengers. In work contected with warehousing, storage, transportation, communications, public utilities, and construction, they may hold only office jobs.

In any job, those aged 14 or 15 may only work between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. between June 1 and Labor Day, and they may only work no more than eight hours a day, 40 hours a week.

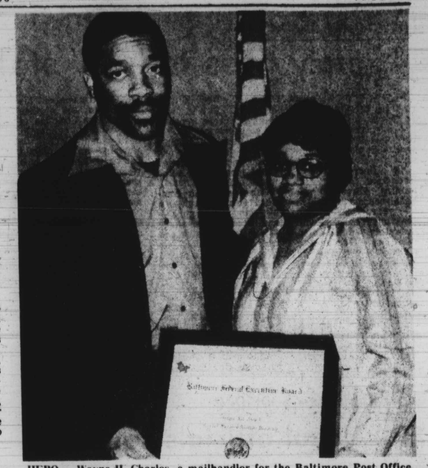
When school is in session, work time is limited to three hours on a school day outside of schools hours and totaling no more than 18 hours a week. They may work between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The child labor provisions do not apply to newspaper delivery to consumers; performing in theatrical, motion picture or broadcast productions; or to children working for their parents except in manufacturing, mining and non - agricultural hazardous occupations.

Employers are urged to review not only federal, but state child labor laws that apply to the type of business in which they are engaged. While state laws vary, application of federal laws is uniform in all states. When both federal and state laws apply, the more stringent law must be observed.

Most state child labor laws require employers to obtain employment or age certificates (work permits) for minors.

Additional information on child labor laws and hazardous occupations is available from local offices of the Wage and Hour Division, listed in most phone directories under U.S. Government, Department of Labor, Employment Standards Administration.



HERO — Wayne H. Charles, a mailhandler for the Baltimore Post Office, received the first place plaque of Heroic Acts Award at a recent Federal Executive Awards Luncheon. Charles received the award for his efforts in rescuing an unconscious man from a burning building. With the help of his brother, he entered the building and dragged the victim to safety. Both were cited by the Baltimore Fire Department and presented a Distinguished Civilian Award. Charles is shown here with his wife, Helen.

Two fined for smoking marijuana on MTA bus

Two Baltimore bus riders have each been fined $110 for smoking marijuana on a bus and disorderly conduct, and 10 other defendants have been granted jury trials by a District Court judge.

Judge Joseph A. Ciotola Tuesday fined Lavonne Threet, 18, and Audrey Parker, 34, for the June 9 incident after their lawyers accepted statements of fact read to the judge by prosecutor Charles K. Kearney Jr.

Kearney said the two women and 11 other persons out of 43 passengers were arrested by three Mass Transit Administration officers on North Charles Street as part of a new crackdown on rowdy and illegal conduct on the city's buses.

Ciotola said, "People have the right to ride the buses in comfort. They pay their fares and their tax dollars."

Ten defendants requested jury trials and a warrant was issued for the arrest of the eleventh defendant who failed to appear for the hearing.

Defendant Fred Wright Jr., failed to appear and Ciotola set a $500 bond and issued a warrant for his arrest.

Probation union to meet

The Labor Management Committee for Parole and Probation of Local 2203 AFSCME Council 92, is calling a meeting of all parole and probation agents throughout the state, who are members of this Union, on Tuesday, July 18, 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of 305 W. Monument St.

This meeting is to determine and prepare necessary actions to abate the ever increasing case loads that they are required to handle.

In response to a proposed release of 1100 inmates by the Parole Commission, the agents are concerned how they can have their grievances aired as a result of this increased work-load.

For low-income BG and E customers

Legal Aid proposes legislation to help residents pay bills

The Legal Aid Bureau in Baltimore has drafted legislation to put before next year's General Assembly designed to help low income customers of the Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. pay their heating bills.

Legal Aid attorney Mark Davis said the proposals would restructure gas and electric rates and force state officials to provide emergency assistance to homeowners unable to meet high utility costs.

The first proposal, which has been criticized by BG and E, would authorize the state Public Service Commission to set a "lifeline quantity" of gas and electricity needed to meet the minimum energy required during a cold winter.

James Lyko, another Legal Aid lawyer, said the "lifeline rates" would result in low volume users paying a low rate and should ultimately benefit low income families.

He said under the present rate system, the largest users pay a lower rate because rates for kilowatt hours of electricity drop as greater quantities are used.

Charles Franklin, a spokesman for the utility, objected to the rate structure proposal, saying low income families did not always use the smallest amount of energy.

He said sometimes they use more kilowatts because of inefficient appliances or home heating and electrical systems.

But the utility has agreed to review the rate proposal, which would provide up to $250 for residents eligible for the federal - state emergency assistance to families with children program.

It also would give up to $200 to families covered under the state - funded emergency assistance project.

CITY STATISTICS

Robbery With A Deadly Weapon — Lorette Gant, guilty 2nd count, sub curia pending pre-sentence report.

Robbery With A Deadly Weapon — Deon Connelly, plea of guilty, sub curia pending pre-sentence report. Murder — Neil M. Haddaway, guilty 1st degree, sub curia pending motion for a new trial.

Robbery With A Deadly Weapon — Same, jury instructed not to consider further in view of Newton vs. State.

Murder — Leon G. Johnson, plea of guilty 2nd degree, 15 years imprisonment, suspended 5 years probation.

Sex Offense — David Brown, guilty, 5 years probation.

Robbery — Jeffrey A. Keela, guilty, 10 years imprisonment, suspended 5 years probation.

Robbery — James Bank, plea of guilty, 6 years imprisonment.

Traffic Violation — Robert G. Bell, guilty, fine $50.

Attempted Robbery — James Simms, guilty, sub curia pending pre-sentence report and motion for a new trial.

Murder — Wycal J. Carter; Ellsworth Jackson, guilty 2nd degree, 12 years imprisonment, as to each; James E. Owens, Melvin Carter, guilty 2nd degree, 15 years imprisonment, as to each; Rudolph Thompson, guilty, 2nd degree, sub curia pending pre-sentence report.

Hand Gun Violation — Same guilty, 12 years imprisonment, concurrent as to each; Same, guilty, 15 years imprisonment, concurrent, as to each.

Traffic Violation — Samuel Johnson, plea of guilty, 60 days imprisonment, consecutive.

Sodomy — Michael Taylor, plea of guilty, sub curia pending pre-sentence report.

Storehouse Breaking — Daniel Haas, verdict stayed section 641, 6 months probation.

Rape — Lorenzo Samuel, plea of 2nd degree, sub curia pending pre-sentence report.

Violation Of Probation — Paul L. Sadak, guilty, 18 months imprisonment.

Receiving Stolen Goods — Clifford D. Bruton, guilty, 18 months imprisonment, suspended 4 years probation.

Shoplifting — Robert E. Pierson, guilty, 18 months imprisonment, suspended 4 years probation.

Shoplifting — Robert E. Pierson, guilty, 18 months imprisonment suspended 3 years probation and fine $250.

Narcotics Violation — Dana Richardson, verdict stayed section 292, 1 year probation.

Disturbing The Peace — Same, guilty, fine $50.

Assault — James Domneys, guilty, 1 year imprisonment, suspended 1 year probation and fine $150.

Disorderly Conduct — Same, guilty, fine $50.

False Pretenses — Gloria O. Dickens, guilty, 18 months imprisonment, suspended 2 years probation and restitution.

Traffic Violation — Noyse B. King, guilty, 1 year imprisonment, suspended 3 years probation and fine $350; Same, guilty, same disposition and fine $180.

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