

difference between the operating revenue obtained from the rates and charges prescribed in said temporary reduction order, and the operating revenue which would have obtained, during the period such temporary reduction order was in effect, based upon the same volume, from the rates and charges finally determined.

Whenever the Public Service Commission, upon petition of any public service corporation, is of the opinion and so finds, after an examination of the reports, annual or otherwise, filed with the Commission by such public service corporation, together with any other facts or information which the Commission may acquire or receive from an investigation of the books, records, or papers, or from an inspection of the property of such public service corporation, or upon evidence introduced by such public service corporation, that the operating income of such public service corporation, after reasonable deductions for depreciation and other proper and necessary reserves, is less than the amount required for a reasonable return upon the value of said public service corporation's property used and useful in rendering service to the public, and is of the opinion and so finds that a hearing to determine all of the issues involved in the final determination of the rates or service will require more than ninety (90) days of elapsed time, the Commission shall have power, in case of such emergency, and it is hereby given authority, to enter a temporary order fixing a temporary schedule of rates, which order shall be forthwith binding upon said public service corporation and its customers; provided, however, that when the Commission orders an increase in the rates or charges of any public service corporation by means of such temporary order, it shall require such public service corporation to enter into bond in such amount and with such security as the Commission shall approve, payable to the State of Maryland and conditioned to insure prompt refund by such public service corporation to those entitled thereto, of all amounts which such public service corporation shall collect or receive in excess or such rates and charges as may be finally fixed and determined by the Commission, and provided, further, however, that no such temporary order shall remain in force or effect for a longer period than nine (9) months from its effective date, and a further period not to exceed three (3) months in addition if so ordered by the Commission.

The term "public service corporation" when used in this section includes a "street railroad corporation", a "gas corporation", an "electrical corporation", a "telephone company", a "telegraph company", a "water company", and a "heating or refrigerating company", as each of said corporations or companies are hereinbefore defined in this sub-title, and shall like-