

concerned shall enter into a bond, with such security and in such amount as may be approved by the commission, payable to the State of Maryland and conditioned to insure prompt refund with interest to each person of all amounts received by the company from him in excess of the rates finally determined by the commission.

(b) The temporary increase or reduction shall remain in force for such time as prescribed by the commission, not exceeding an initial period of nine months, and an additional period, if the commission so orders, not to exceed three months. Any temporary reduction or increase in rates shall be limited so as to equal the amount found by the commission to be in excess of or below just and reasonable rates as defined in section 62 of this article.

(c) If the rates finally determined are in excess of the rates prescribed in the temporary order, the public service company may amortize and recover over such period as the commission may fix, by means of a temporary increase over the rates as finally determined, the difference between the operating revenue obtained under the temporary order and the operating revenue that would have been obtained from the same volume of business from the rates as finally determined.

(d) If the rates in the temporary schedule are greater than the rates as finally determined, the Commission shall order a refund, charge off or amortization in accordance with the provisions of section 63(c) of this article.

65. (Valuation.)

The commission may investigate and ascertain at any time the fair value of the property of any public service company used and useful in rendering service to the public. Such valuation shall not become final unless the Commission serves upon the company concerned a copy of the order fixing the proposed valuation and the method by which it is arrived at, and allows a reasonable time in which to file a protest. The valuation shall become final if no protest is filed within the time specified. If a timely protest is filed, the commission shall enter a final order of valuation after hearing. All final valuations shall be prima facie evidence of value in proceedings had in pursuance of this article.

Service

66. (In General.)

The commission may by regulation passed after due notice and opportunity for interested parties to be heard prescribe standards of safe, adequate, reasonable and proper service for any class of public service company, which in its opinion will best promote the security or convenience of the public, of those employed in furnishing service, and of those to whom service is rendered; and to these ends, the commission may enforce the standards set by it, and may by order require such changes and additions in the service of any public service company as it may deem necessary, including but not limited to repairs or improvements in plant, increase in motive power and change in schedule or manner of operations.

67. (Specific Powers.)

Without limiting the generality of the preceding section the commission is specifically empowered: (1) to order, as it may deem