

ice Commission Law," subtitle "Public Service Companies," sub-heading "Gas and Electric Companies," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments; that new Section 54B, be and it is hereby added to said Article and title, to follow immediately after Section 54A thereof; that Section 90 of said Article and title be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments; that Section 706 of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Health," subtitle "Air Quality Control," sub-heading "~~Permits for and Registration of Certain Equipment,~~" be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments; and all to read as follows:

POWER PLANT SITING

763. Establishment of an Environmental Trust Fund

(a) *The Environmental Trust Fund, hereafter known as the "Fund", is hereby created, effective January 1, 1972. For the purposes of this subtitle, there shall be established as an added cost of generation an environmental surcharge per kilowatt hour of electric energy generated in Maryland by any electric company as defined in Article 78 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Such surcharge shall be initially assessed at 0.1 mill per kilowatt hour as of January 1, 1972.*

The Public Service Commission shall take cognizance of the mandate by the General Assembly to impose the surcharge per kilowatt hour of electric energy generated within Maryland. BY AUTHORIZING THE ELECTRIC COMPANIES TO ADD THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE SURCHARGE TO CUSTOMERS' BILLS. Revenues from the surcharge so required to be made by electric companies and collected by the Comptroller shall be placed into the special fund known as the Environmental Trust Fund.

(b) *Commencing with 1972, the Secretary of Natural Resources will each year coordinate the preparation of a budget required to carry out the provisions of this Act. Upon approval of the Annual State Budget, by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland, the Public Service Commission shall establish the amount of the surcharge per kilowatt hour for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1972, and for each subsequent fiscal year thereafter, but in no event shall it continue beyond 1985 nor shall it ever exceed 0.3 mill per kilowatt hour.*

Prior to January 1, 1972, after consultation with the electric companies, the Comptroller shall establish the method of collection of the surcharge from the companies, provided that such collections shall accrue to the "Fund." In no event shall the utilities be required to pay into the fund a greater amount than that which has been collected less 1½% for expenses incurred in the collection thereof.

(c) *The "Fund" shall be administered by the Secretary of Natural Resources and shall be subject to the provisions for financial management and budgeting established by the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning. The "Fund" shall be used exclusively to carry out the provisions of this subtitle as provided for in the Annual State Budget. For the purposes of this subtitle, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall be authorized to execute appropriate contracts with State and Federal agencies, research organizations, in-*