

secretary to the Commission,] or any hearing examiner shall have the power to [administer oaths,] examine witnesses, [and] conduct hearings and [any authorized personnel of the Commission may] perform any other acts necessary to the conduct of proceedings. THE COMMISSION, ANY COMMISSIONER, THE SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, OR ANY HEARING EXAMINER SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO ADMINISTER OATHS.

(B) IN ALL MATTEPS BEFORE THE COMMISSION, UNLESS THE COMMISSION DETERMINES THE PUBLIC INTEREST WOULD NOT BE SERVED THEREBY, THE STAFF OF THE COMMISSION SHALL [[ACT AS THE ADVOCATE FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST]] MAKE AN EVIDENTIARY PRESENTATION REFLECTING THE STAFF'S ANALYSIS OF THE ISSUES AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS [[WITH RESPECT TO THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC AS A WHOLE]]. IN MAKING ITS ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, THE STAFF SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE CONSIDERATIONS SET FORTH IN SECTION 56. TO DISCHARGE THIS RESPONSIBILITY IT SHALL HAVE ALL RIGHTS OF A PARTY TO THE PROCEEDING, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THOSE SPECIFIED IN § 82, AND, TO THE EXTENT IT DEEMS NECESSARY IN A PARTICULAR CASE, IT SHALL PRESENT DIRECT AND REDIRECT CASES OF ITS OWN, CROSS-EXAMINE, SUBMIT BRIEFS, AND ENGAGE IN ORAL ARGUMENT TO INSURE THAT THE COMMISSION HAS A COMPLETE RECORD ON ALL RELEVANT ISSUES.

77.

(b) If any complaint is filed with the Commission which concerns the illuminating power, purity or pressure of gas; or the initial efficiency of the electric incandescent lamp supply; or the regulation of the voltage of the said supply system or the price of gas or electricity, and the complaint is signed by the PEOPLE'S COUNSEL, THE chief executive or local legislative bodies of any municipality or county in which any gas or electric company is authorized to operate, or by not less than 100 customers of the gas or electric company, whose names and addresses by street and number, if any, are set out in the complaint, the Commission shall not take final action thereon without itself conducting an investigation of the matters complained of.

82.

Any party to any [hearing] PROCEEDING shall have, in addition to any other rights to which he may be entitled:

(a) The right to summon witnesses, present evidence with respect to the issues involved, and present argument to the commissioners who are to render or approve the decision.

(b) The right of cross-examination and the right to submit rebuttal evidence.

(c) The right to take depositions within or without the State of Maryland, in accordance with the procedure