

telegraph service. The terms "telegraph company", "telephone company", or "a person operating telegraph or telephone lines" when used in this article, shall not be construed to include radio common carriers.

[(kk)](FF) "Family" in the case of commissioners, the People's Counsel, the General Counsel and hearing examiners means spouse, dependent child, parent, brother or sister and in the case of other personnel of the Commission and of the Office of the People's Counsel means spouse or dependent child.

[(ll)](GG) "Relative" means any person related by blood or marriage.

[(mm)](HH) "Transportation of passengers for hire" means any transportation of passengers for hire, including, but not limited to regularly scheduled operations, charter or contract operations, tour or sightseeing operations, and passengers carried by corporations, groups, and associations engaged in the transportation of their stockholders, shareholders or members, or their property or freight, whether on the cooperative plan or otherwise.

[(nn)](II) "Launch service" means any power boat company that transports passengers or freight between points on shore and vessels located in any body of water within the State.

[(oo)](JJ) "Small rural electric cooperative" means an electric company that:

- (1) Is owned and controlled exclusively by the consumers whom it serves;
- (2) Conducts its business on a nonprofit basis; and
- (3) Supplies electricity to less than 1,000 electric meters in Maryland.

[(pp)](KK)(1) "Gas master meter operator" means a person who owns or operates a pipeline system:

(i) That distributes gas within, but not limited to, a definable area, such as a mobile home park, housing project, or apartment complex;

(ii) For which the operator purchases metered, artificial, or natural gas from an outside source for resale through a gas distribution pipeline system; and

(iii) Which supplies the ultimate consumer, who either purchases the gas directly through a meter or by other means, such as by rents.

(2) In this subsection, "pipeline system" does not include piping within a building.

27.

(a) No public service company shall in its utility operations:

(1) Sell or render service or furnish any commodity until its schedules of rates therefor have been duly filed and published in accordance with § 28(a) of this article;