

~~(13) THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION, SHALL EVALUATE EXISTING PROGRAMS TO MAINTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS AND EVALUATE ANY NEW PROGRAMS AS APPROPRIATE TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS.~~

~~(14) NOTHING IN THIS SUBTITLE MAY OPERATE TO PREVENT THE APPLICATION OF STATE CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ANTITRUST STATUTES APPLICABLE TO ELECTRIC COMPANIES AND THEIR AFFILIATES AND TO ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS.~~

~~(C) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, INCLUDING SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION MAY REGULATE THE REGULATED SERVICES OF AN ELECTRIC COMPANY THROUGH ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF REGULATION.~~

~~(2) THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF REGULATION UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE COMMISSION FINDS, AFTER NOTICE AND HEARING, THAT THE ALTERNATIVE FORM OF REGULATION:~~

~~(I) PROTECTS CONSUMERS;~~

~~(II) ENSURES THE QUALITY, AVAILABILITY, AND RELIABILITY OF REGULATED ELECTRIC SERVICES; AND~~

~~(III) IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING SHAREHOLDERS OF THE ELECTRIC COMPANY.~~

~~(3) ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF REGULATION MAY INCLUDE:~~

~~(I) PRICE REGULATION, INCLUDING PRICE FREEZES OR CAPS;~~

~~(II) REVENUE REGULATION;~~

~~(III) RANGES OF AUTHORIZED RETURN;~~

~~(IV) RATE OF RETURN;~~

~~(V) CATEGORIES OF SERVICES; OR~~

~~(VI) PRICE INDEXING.~~

~~(D) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL FREEZE OR CAP, FOR 4 YEARS AFTER INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF CUSTOMER CHOICE IN THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S DISTRIBUTION TERRITORY, THE TOTAL OF THE RATES OF AN ELECTRIC COMPANY CHARGED TO A RETAIL ELECTRIC CUSTOMER AT THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF THE RATES IN EFFECT OR AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMISSION ON THE DATE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF CUSTOMER CHOICE IN THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S DISTRIBUTION TERRITORY.~~

~~(2) THE FREEZE OR CAP SHALL NOT APPLY TO THE RECOVERY OF COSTS UNDER § 7-512(A) THROUGH (C) OF THIS SUBTITLE THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN RATES ON JANUARY 1, 2000 EXCEPT FOR COSTS FOR THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE~~