

- (1) common carrier companies;
- (2) electric companies;
- (3) gas companies;
- (4) gas and electric companies;
- (5) sewage disposal companies;
- (6) [steam heating companies;
- (7)] telegraph companies;
- [(8)] (7) telephone companies; or
- [(9)] (8) water companies.

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- (f) (1) "Owner" means a person that:
 - (i) owns or operates an underground facility; and
 - (ii) has the right to bury an underground facility.
- (2) "Owner" includes:
 - (i) a public utility;
 - (ii) a telecommunications corporation;
 - (iii) a cable television corporation;
 - (iv) a political subdivision;
 - (v) a municipal corporation;
 - (VI) A STEAM HEATING COMPANY; and
 - [(vi)](VII) an authority.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 1-101(x) through (gg), respectively, of Article - Public Utility Companies of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 1-101(w) through (ff), respectively.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1 of this Act:

(1) until October 1, 2002, a steam heating company that was subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission as of September 30, 1999 shall:

(i) be bound by any rate structure that was in effect for the company on September 30, 1999, unless a change in the rate structure would decrease rates; and

(ii) maintain service to its customers, unless: