

[30. Protection of cooperative's territory.

(a) On temporary organization. — Whenever a cooperative or a group of persons which has formed a temporary organization with the intention of forming a cooperative or a foreign corporation transacting business in this State pursuant to this act, (herein called the "filing corporation"), shall file with the Maryland Public Service Commission (hereinafter called the "Commission") a map or maps indicating the area or areas in which the operations of said filing corporation are intended to be conducted, together with a statement verified by oath or affirmation to the effect that a majority of the potential users of electric energy, not then receiving central station electric service in said area or areas, have signified in writing their willingness to take service from the proposed system of said filing corporation it shall be unlawful for an electric utility, power and light company, person or corporation, after receipt of any notice as hereafter provided by the filing of said map or maps and statement, to begin the construction of any electric distribution lines within said area or areas or to solicit customers for electric service therein or in any manner to conflict, interfere or compete with the proposed system of said filing corporation, until after the expiration of six months from the date of said filing of said map or maps and statement. The words area or areas as used herein in connection with the maps to be filed by said filing corporation shall be deemed to mean the areas which may be served in normal practice by secondary voltage extensions from the primary voltage lines indicated in said maps, which in any event shall not be less than a distance of fifteen hundred feet from either side of said primary lines.

(b) Entry into loan agreement with federal agency. — In the event that said filing corporation within said six months period shall enter into any loan agreement with any federal agency for the financing of its proposed electric system, and shall file a written notice thereof with the Commission, together with a copy of said loan agreement, no such electric utility, power and light company, person or corporation after receipt of such loan agreement shall begin the construction of any electric distribution lines within said area or areas or solicit customers for electric service therein until after the expiration of twelve months from the date of filing said notice of said loan agreement.

(c) Commission to give notice. — It shall be the duty of the Commission to give notice in writing of the filing of said map or maps and statement and said loan agreement to each electric utility and power and light company having any electric transmission or distribution lines or system within, or within ten miles of, any area shown in said map where said filing corporation intends to operate its proposed system. There shall be attached to said notices blueprint copies of said maps, a copy of said statement, and a copy of the notice of said loan agreement in the event that such an agreement shall have been entered into, sufficient copies for the purpose of such notices shall be furnished to the Commission by and at the expense of the filing corporation. The filing corporation may give the notices required by subsections (a) and (b) hereof and such notices shall be effectual for the purposes of this act notwithstanding any failure of the Commission to give the notices herein provided for. Any notice shall be deemed to have been given within the requirements of this act