

~~(7) the People's Counsel, or the People's Counsel's designee or a designee of the People's Counsel; and~~

(7) (8) the following ~~12~~ members, appointed by the Governor:

~~(i) two members representing the electricity transmission industry one member representing an electric transmission company; two members representing electric companies that are engaged in electric distribution and transmission, each from a different geographic part of the State;~~

(ii) one member representing an electric distribution company that is engaged solely in electric distribution;

~~(iii)~~ (iii) two members representing the telephone industry;

~~(iii)~~ (iv) two members representing the cable television industry;

~~(iv)~~ (v) two members representing the natural gas distribution industry;

~~(v)~~ (vi) two members representing the Maryland Municipal League; and

~~(vi)~~ (vii) two members representing the Maryland Association of Counties; and

(viii) two members representing the Utility Contractors Association.

(b) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.

(c) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(d) The Task Force shall:

(1) study and make recommendations to identify the best possible means of facilitating and reducing the costs of placing overhead utility lines underground; and

(2) study and make recommendations to identify a process by which public service companies and municipal corporations can coordinate construction, long-term maintenance, and repair projects located on or near roadways in the municipal corporations, including moving overhead utility lines underground; and

(3) report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2003.

(e) The Maryland Office of Smart Growth, with assistance from the Public Service Commission, shall provide oversight and coordination of the Task Force.

(f) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide the staff support for the Task Force.