

(B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(1) ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS AMONG THE LEAST EXPENSIVE WAYS TO MEET THE GROWING ELECTRICITY DEMANDS OF THE STATE; AND

(2) TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, AND CLEAN ENERGY FOR CONSUMERS OF MARYLAND, IT IS THE GOAL OF THE STATE TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING ENERGY EFFICIENCY, CONSERVATION, AND DEMAND RESPONSE TARGETS, BASED ON 2007 ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION:

(I) A 15% REDUCTION IN PER CAPITA ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION BY THE END OF 2015; AND

(II) A 15% REDUCTION IN PER CAPITA PEAK DEMAND BY THE END OF 2015.

(C) BEGINNING WITH THE 2008 CALENDAR YEAR AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL CALCULATE:

(1) THE PER CAPITA ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION FOR THAT YEAR; AND

(2) THE PEAK DEMAND FOR THAT YEAR.

[(a)] ~~(c)~~ (D) Subject to review and approval by the Commission, each gas company and electric company shall develop and implement programs and services to encourage and promote the efficient use and conservation of energy by consumers, gas companies, and electric companies.

~~(D)~~ (E) AS DIRECTED BY THE COMMISSION, EACH MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AND ~~SMALL-RURAL~~ EACH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE THAT SERVES A POPULATION OF LESS THAN 250,000 IN ITS DISTRIBUTION TERRITORY SHALL INCLUDE THESE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS OR SERVICES AS PART OF THEIR SERVICE TO THEIR CUSTOMERS.

[(b)] ~~(E)~~ (F) The Commission shall:

(1) require each gas company and electric company to establish any program or service that the Commission deems appropriate and cost effective to encourage and promote the efficient use and conservation of energy;

(2) adopt rate-making policies that provide cost recovery and, in appropriate circumstances, reasonable financial incentives for gas companies and