



Delaware House of Representatives House Majority Caucus

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KOWALKO APPLIES TO INTERVENE ON DELMARVA POWER NATURAL GAS RATES

Chair of House Energy Committee looks to testify before Public Service Commission

NEWARK – House Energy Committee chair Rep. John A. Kowalko filed an application on Wednesday to intervene in Delmarva Power’s attempt to increase its natural gas base rates.

Last month, Delmarva Power applied to increase its natural gas base rates, propose a revenue decoupling rate design and make miscellaneous tariff changes. The proposed base rate increase would represent a 6.3-percent revenue increase for the utility, which last sought a natural gas base rate change in 2006. The company contends in its application that “the costs of providing safe and reliable natural gas service have increased sharply since then.”

Rep. Kowalko, D-Newark, noted in his seven-point application that he is a natural gas customer of Delmarva Power who has been actively involved for many years in issues relating to energy policy in Delaware and particularly in matters of utility affordability for the residential customer. He added that as chair of the House Energy Committee, he has held public hearings on natural gas and electricity rate increase requests, decoupling, smart meters, pension fund replenishment, and other matters.

As an elected official who represents many Delmarva customers, Rep. Kowalko said he is requesting to intervene to represent their best interests in this matter.

“I have major concerns that these rate increase requests may not be justified, nor be in the best interest of the consumer, as it will make natural gas unaffordable for the natural gas customers of Delmarva Power in this current economic climate,” Rep. Kowalko said in his application. “I also question the appropriateness of a standard sustained rate increase as requested when Delmarva has other, existing means to seek relief from the PSC in the event of revenue shortfalls.”

A PSC public comment session on Delmarva’s application will be held on September 22 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Carvel State Office Building in Wilmington.

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