

Senate Environment, Energy, and Transportation Committee

153rd General Assembly
Friday, February 14, 2025
Senate Chamber/Virtual Meeting
10 a.m. - 1:05 p.m.

[Senate Committee Recording](#)

Committee Members Present:

Senator Stephanie Hansen	Stephanie.Hansen@delaware.gov
Senator Russ Huxtable	Russ.Huxtable@delaware.gov
Senator Elizabeth Lockman	Elizabeth.Lockman@delaware.gov
Senator Eric Buckson	Eric.Buckson@delaware.gov
Senator Brian Pettyjohn	Brian.Pettyjohn@delaware.gov

Committee Members Absent:

Senator Spiros Mantzavinos	Spiros.Mantzavinos@delaware.gov
Senator Trey Paradee	Trey.Paradee@delaware.gov

Additional Legislators Present:

Senator Kyra Hoffner
Senator Marie Pinkney (virtually)
Senator Bryan Townsend, Senate Majority Leader
Senator David Sokola, President Pro Tem
Representative Claire Snyder-Hall
Representative Frank Burns
Representative Sophie Phillips
Representative Josue Ortega (virtually)
Representative Cyndie Romer (virtually)
Representative Kerri Evelyn Harris (virtually)
Representative Frank Cooke

Staff Members Present:

Anna Shields, Legislative Assistant to Senator Hansen
Anna.Shields@delaware.gov
Brandon Williams, Legislative Assistant to Senators Huxtable (Vice Chair) and Mantzavinos
Brandon.Williams@delaware.gov
Kiki Evinger, Policy Director, Senate Majority Caucus
Kathryn.Evinger@delaware.gov
Will Lescas, Deputy Policy Director, Senate Majority Caucus

Valerie McCartan, Legislative Assistant to Senator Sokola, President Pro Temp
Felicita “Emy” Diaz-Rivera, Legislative Aide to Reps. Josue Ortega and Sophie Phillips
Sophia Vassar, Legislative Director, House Majority Caucus
Dawn Hopkins, Legislative Aide, Reps. Ruth Briggs King, Ron Gray, and Jeff Hilovsky

Appendices

Appendix A: Attendees

Appendix B: Submitted Written Public Comment

Supplemental Materials

[DPL Presentation 2-14-25 EET Hearing](#)

[Energy Bill Concern Contact Info](#)

Agenda

Introduction

Senator Hansen commenced the meeting and reviewed the hybrid meeting protocol. She explained the meeting structure and the order in which comments would be taken from the committee members and the members of the public. She conducted a roll call, noting that Senator Mantzavinos was absent, due to a death in the family, as was Senator Paradee.[0:00:03]

Presentation from Delmarva Power

Phil Vavala: The Regional President of Delmarva Power provided a presentation on Delmarva Power’s rate increases and customer support initiatives. The presentation was titled “High Usage Winter 2025.” [00:05:36- 00:31:08]

Senator Hansen: asked Mr. Vavala about the narrative suggesting that price increases are due to Delaware’s renewable energy portfolio.[00:31:37]

Mr. Phill Vavala: clarified that the recent bill increases were primarily due to increased energy usage during colder months, not Delaware’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. He stated that the renewable portfolio is part of every customer’s bill, varying with usage, but emphasized that it was not the main driver of the cost increases. Delmarva Power’s role is to implement legislative mandates, and the narrative attributing price increases to the renewable energy portfolio is not one Delmarva Power supports.

Senator Hansen: asked for confirmation that consumption, not the renewable standard, was the primary cause.

Phill Valva: responded that Delmarva Power was not attributing the cost increases to the renewable standard.

Senator Hansen: asked about a social media post suggesting otherwise, allegedly from Delmarva Power.

Phill Valval: responded that the company had addressed the misinformation with the poster and the source, clarifying that it was not an official statement.

Senator Hansen: thanked Phill Valval for the clarification and gave the floor to Senator Huxtable.[00:34:04]

Senator Huxtable: referencing prior discussions with Senator Penny John, questioned Mr. Valval about the correlation between legislative mandates, federal timelines, and increased electricity bills. He acknowledged that colder weather contributed to higher usage but sought clarification on whether these mandates directly impacted costs. Additionally, he asked if, in a typical month like January of the previous year, there would have been noticeable changes in bills. [00:36:02]

Senator Huxtable: pressed Mr. Valval about the causes of elevated energy bills, referencing rate increases and their timeline. Mr. Valval explained that colder weather led to higher usage, which increased bills. He clarified that supply charges rose in June 2024, and delivery rate changes were implemented in April 2024. These factors, combined with January's extreme cold, contributed to the increased costs. However, he emphasized that the sharp bill increases noticed by customers were not solely due to these rate changes.

Senator Huxtable: asked whether the increase in energy prices was due to Delaware's renewable energy portfolio.

Phill Valval: responded that the primary cause was increased usage due to colder weather, not new charges.

Senator Huxtable: inquired if bills would return to normal once the weather normalized. Mr. Valval stated that bills were proportional to usage, so they would decrease but still be impacted by fixed rate changes.

Senator Huxtable: questioned whether summer cooling demands could result in high bills. Mr. Valval confirmed that increased electricity usage in hot weather could lead to higher bills.

Senator Huxtable: asked if increasing local energy supply, such as coal or natural gas, would help lower costs.

Phill Valval: agreed that it could have a positive impact on prices.

Senator Huxtable: asked if Delmarva Power was the most expensive provider in the state. Mr. Valval clarified that Delmarva's rates were about 20% lower than comparable investor-owned utilities in the Mid-Atlantic.

Senator Huxtable: asked for clarification on why both rate increases and infrastructure charges appeared on customer bills.

Phill Valval: explained that rate increases covered long-term infrastructure investments, while improvement charges recovered costs between rate cases.

Senator Huxtable: asked whether retiring power plants and reliance on renewables had contributed to increased energy costs.

Mario Giovannini: responded that if retired plants were not replaced with reliable generation, it affected supply and drove up costs.

Senator Huxtable then inquired whether legislative mandates had accelerated plant retirements, leading to supply mismatches.

Mario Giovannini: confirmed that supply and demand mismatches in PJM markets had impacted energy prices.

Senator Huxtable: concluded by stating that while he supported green energy, he was concerned that legislative mandates with unrealistic timelines had created financial burdens for consumers.[00:49:01]

Senator Hansen: acknowledged the concerns raised and provided context for the upcoming hearing on energy reliability issues. She explained that the problem was not caused by renewable energy itself but by the lack of sufficient renewable generation to meet demand, leading to supply shortages and higher prices. She shared her analysis of constituents' electric bills, noting that while increased usage due to colder weather was a factor, rate increases in supply and delivery costs also played a significant role.

She illustrated the issue using a pizza analogy: just as more people and higher pizza prices increased the total cost, a combination of higher consumption, increased supply costs, and delivery rate hikes had driven up electric bills. She emphasized that while the renewable portfolio standard appeared on bills, it was a minor cost component—only about \$3.26 of a \$69 increase, likening it to the “pepperoni on the pizza.” She argued that the key to reducing costs was increasing efficiency and expanding renewable energy capacity, which was in high demand across the region.

Senator Huxtable: responded by agreeing that they were discussing the same issue from different perspectives. He stressed that legislative and regulatory policies had contributed to energy scarcity by pushing traditional power sources offline without sufficient replacements. He argued that this forced energy suppliers like PJM to purchase electricity in a more competitive and expensive market, often from out-of-state sources. He acknowledged that the cold weather played a role but insisted that initiatives such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and renewable energy mandates had accelerated supply constraints, driving up prices.

Senator Hansen: then turned the discussion over to Senate Majority Leader Townsend for his question.[00:59:37]

Senator Townsend: raised concerns about Delmarva Power's guaranteed 9.6% rate of return, questioning its fairness given the financial instability faced by Delawareans due to fluctuating energy bills. He suggested reevaluating whether the guaranteed return should be flexible or reduced, noting the importance of balancing investor returns with customer affordability while maintaining reliable electricity.

Senator Hansen: gave the floor to Senator Brian Pettyjohn.[1:00:46]

Senator Pettyjohn: expressed strong opposition to the idea of government dictating how individuals use electricity, emphasizing that decisions about energy consumption should be personal. He argued that renewable energy costs more, and current government mandates requiring increased renewable adoption without sufficient supply were disrupting natural economic balance, driving prices higher. He pointed out that solar adoption had plateaued, offshore wind faced uncertainty, and policy-driven demand increases were outpacing supply, contributing to higher costs.

He shared his own utility bill analysis, noting a 6% increase per kilowatt-hour compared to last year, despite using less electricity. He detailed specific line item changes, highlighting a 30.72% increase in wind and solar charges and a 362% rise in the energy efficiency surcharge, though it remained a small portion of the bill. He also noted supply standard offer service and transmission capacity charges had increased, further driving up costs.

Senator Pettyjohn: then raised a question about PJM capacity prices, citing a recent utility magazine article that reported a jump from \$2.2 billion to \$14.7 billion in the latest auction. He asked whether this was something that could be addressed now or if they would need to wait for PJM representatives at the next meeting for further clarification on its impact on constituents' bills.

Senator Hansen paused the discussion to see if Delmarva Power or state energy officials could provide insight on PJM capacity price increases.

Phill Valval stated that a detailed discussion would be appropriate for the next meeting but introduced Mario Giovannini to provide an overview.

Mario Giovannini explained that the PJM capacity auction, which was settled on July 30, 2024, affects the period from June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026. Delmarva customers would not see these increased capacity costs until mid-2025. He attributed the rise to retiring fossil fuel plants and growing electricity demand, particularly from AI-related infrastructure. PJM's capacity pricing accounts for generator reliability, with dispatchable sources like nuclear receiving higher credits than intermittent sources like wind and solar.

He noted that governors from multiple states, including Pennsylvania's Governor Shapiro, were working with PJM to cap capacity prices and that credits might help mitigate the impact on Delaware customers.

Senator Pettyjohn asked for clarification, using a hypothetical 100-megawatt power plant, asking if nuclear plants are credited at 90 megawatts while solar is only credited at 20 megawatts.

Mario Giovannini confirmed that PJM assigns higher capacity value to dispatchable energy sources since renewables depend on weather conditions.

Senator Pettyjohn questioned whether meeting renewable energy mandates required purchasing more renewable capacity than traditional sources to ensure reliability.

Mario Giovannini agreed, citing Europe's approach of scaling up renewable infrastructure to compensate for lower capacity credits. He noted that while wind and solar can lower electricity costs when abundant, PJM prioritizes dispatchable power for reliability.

Senator Pettyjohn asked if new baseload generation was being built to meet rising energy demands from EVs, data centers, and other high-consumption sources.

Mario Giovannini explained that PJM's interconnection queue is backlogged, delaying new projects by up to three years. While some gas-fired and fossil fuel plants are in the queue, renewables dominate. PJM is working to fast-track shovel-ready dispatchable plants with recent FERC approval.

Senator Pettyjohn then asked how much wind and solar generation would be needed to balance the grid.

Mario Giovannini deferred to PJM, noting that the grid spans 13 states and D.C., making it a complex question.

Phill Valval agreed, calling it a highly complex issue requiring further analysis.

Senator Pettyjohn concluded by stressing the importance of understanding how much renewable capacity must be built to achieve price stability while meeting mandates.

Mario Giovannini emphasized the growing impact of high electricity demand, particularly from AI data centers that consume as much power as major cities. He noted that a few years ago, PJM's energy demand growth was minimal, but now, major tech companies are rapidly increasing demand, exacerbating the supply-demand imbalance. He pointed out that electrification trends, including EVs and computing needs, further strain the grid. PJM had already flagged these risks in a past report and was working on solutions.

Phill Valval highlighted the interconnection between economic development, energy policy, and generation needs, stressing the importance of linking energy planning with legislative decisions.

Senator Hansen agreed that supply was insufficient but argued that policy decisions had actively blocked renewable energy expansion by rejecting offshore wind projects and restricting large-scale solar developments. She criticized the logic of lamenting supply

shortages while simultaneously preventing renewable projects from moving forward, stating that public policy choices had created many of the barriers to increasing clean energy capacity. She emphasized that Delaware had already committed to a cleaner energy future, and efforts should focus on removing obstacles to renewable development rather than relying on outdated fossil fuel solutions.

Senator Pettyjohn countered that advocating for renewables should not come at the expense of local governance, arguing that state mandates overriding local decisions on wind and solar projects set a dangerous precedent. He noted that replacing traditional power sources with renewables required a 7-to-1 scale-up ratio and suggested considering cleaner fossil fuel technologies, such as natural gas, to bridge the transition. He also pointed to nuclear power as a potential long-term solution, referencing the reopening of a Three Mile Island unit as a sign of shifting perspectives.

Senator Hansen: responded that no single energy source was a "panacea" and reaffirmed her support for a balanced energy mix. However, she argued that natural gas prices were also volatile, making it risky to rely too heavily on fossil fuels. She acknowledged that nuclear should be part of the discussion but warned that public opposition to nuclear projects in Delaware would be far greater than that for offshore wind. She concluded by stating that Delaware must explore all energy options—including those previously rejected—to ensure affordability, reliability, and environmental responsibility in the future.

Senate Hansen: Invited Drew Slater.[01:27:33]

Drew Slater: Executive Director of Energize Delaware, discussed PJM's interconnection queue, highlighting challenges in permitting, siting, supply chain issues, interest rates, and the length of time required—typically three or more years. He emphasized the difficulty in financial modeling due to fluctuating interest rates and mentioned the importance of effective load carrying capacity, particularly regarding renewables versus nuclear energy. He noted that while natural gas drives supply-side costs, state-level permitting and siting remain under local control. He also offered to discuss distribution-related issues, which are primarily managed within Delaware. [01:27:40.]

Senator Huxtable: asked whether the recent rate increase was significant and if it was difficult to obtain approval.[01:29:13]

Drew Slater: confirmed that the rate increase was one of the largest in Delaware's history. As a public advocate at the time, he had raised concerns, stating that no customer should have to choose between paying for utilities and other essential needs. However, he was not involved in the final settlement or the rate implementation in April. [01:29:29]

Senator Huxtable: inquired whether it was unprecedented for the Commission to recall Delmarva Power and request a reduction. [01:30:21]

Drew Slater: stated that to his knowledge, a rate reduction had only occurred once during his tenure as a public advocate. This was due to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which lowered the corporate tax rate. He had petitioned to adjust utility rates accordingly, and while some utilities opposed it, Delmarva Power did not. [01:30:29]

Senator Huxtable : noted that while large rate increases are uncommon, smaller routine increases occur frequently, and he asked if Delmarva Power had additional rate increases pending. [01:31:08]

Drew Slater: clarified that Huxtable was likely referring to the Distribution System Improvement Charge (DSIC), which allows Delmarva to recover infrastructure costs between rate cases. He explained that while this charge is meant to extend the time between major rate cases, it does not always achieve that goal. The DSIC typically results in small bill adjustments of around \$3 rather than major increases. [01:31:26]

Senator Huxtable: expressed concern that while individual rate hikes might seem small, their cumulative impact—combined with other costs—can significantly burden customers. [01:32:10.530]

Drew Slater: explained that the DSIC is capped at 7.5%, and at the time of discussion, it was at 2.93%, meaning any immediate increases would likely be minor—possibly around \$1. Once it reaches the 7.5% threshold, a full rate case becomes mandatory. [01:32:41]

Senator Huxtable: thanked Slater for the discussion and mentioned he might have further questions in the future. [01:33:03]

Senator Hansen: acknowledged the discussion on rates and introduced Matt Hartigan, Executive Director of the Public Service Commission, to provide further insight. [01:33:10]

Matt Hartigan: Executive Director of the Public Service Commission, explained that the Public Service Commission oversees Delmarva Power's rates. He noted that Delmarva typically files electric rate cases every two years, while natural gas rate cases are less frequent. He outlined Delaware's "business judgment rule" for cost recovery, which requires proving waste, fraud, or abuse of discretion to disallow costs. This differs from the "prudence standard" used in other states, where utilities must justify costs as prudent. [01:33:40.330 - 01:34:44.]

Senator Hansen: thanked Mr. Hartigan and indicated that he may be called back for further discussion. [01:34:43]

Senator Hansen: asked Senator Huxtable if he had any questions. [01:34:45]

Senator Huxtable : raised concerns about the sharp increase in customers' electricity bills, citing specific examples from constituents. He questioned the structure of the distribution charge, asking if adjustments could be made to lessen the burden on customers. [01:34:55]

Phill Valval: acknowledged the concerns and expressed willingness to discuss potential solutions. He mentioned that Delmarva Power had suspended disconnections and waived

certain fees to assist customers. He emphasized that each bill is unique and depends on several factors, including heating type, home insulation, and customer usage behaviors. He encouraged discussions on both rate adjustments and energy efficiency programs to help customers. [01:36:20]

Senator Huxble: asked if the distribution charge is directly related to a customer's usage and whether higher consumption leads to significantly increased maintenance costs. [01:38:17]

Phill Valval: explained that charging based on usage is an industry-standard practice. The distribution charge accounts for wear and tear on infrastructure, such as poles, wires, and valves. He stressed that investments in long-term infrastructure maintenance are essential for reliable energy delivery. [01:38:48]

Senator Huxble: referenced the rapid growth in Sussex County and asked if the costs of new infrastructure were reflected in the distribution charge. [01:39:41]

Phill Valval: confirmed that costs associated with new infrastructure due to growth are included in the distribution charge. He mentioned that expansion projects in areas like Rehoboth and Long Neck contribute to this cost. [01:40:15]

Senator Huxble: questioned whether the distribution charge was reasonable and if there were any caps on Delmarva's profit margin. [01:40:38]

Phill Valval: explained that Delmarva Power's return on equity (ROE) is determined through an approved process and is in line with industry averages. He emphasized that as an investor-owned utility, Delmarva Power has responsibilities to both customers and shareholders. [01:40:54]

Senator Huxble: asked about differences between Delmarva Power (DP) and Delaware Electric Cooperative (DEC), noting that he had not received complaints from DEC customers. [01:41:52]

Phill Valval: stated that the primary difference between Delmarva Power and DEC is that DEC is a nonprofit cooperative, while Delmarva Power is an investor-owned utility. He noted that DEC reinvests profits differently and operates on a smaller scale, while Delmarva Power serves over 470,000 customers and operates as a transmission provider. [01:42:19]

Senator Huxble: asked if Delmarva Power is allowed to generate its own electricity. [01:43:15]

Phill Valval: stated that Delmarva Power divested its generation assets in 1999 and currently does not generate its own power. However, he acknowledged that discussions around energy adequacy could potentially lead to reconsideration of this policy. [01:43:53]

Senator Huxble: asked if Delmarva Power is prohibited from implementing storage solutions. [01:43:57]

Phill Valval: confirmed that Delmarva Power is not prohibited from installing battery storage and is currently discussing potential storage projects with the committee. He emphasized the need for demonstrated customer demand to justify such investments. [01:44:30]

Senator Huxble: inquired about the presence of alternative energy suppliers, such as Clearview and Direct Energy Services, on customer bills. [01:45:22]

Phill Valval: explained that Delmarva Power serves as a "provider of last resort" for customers who do not choose a third-party energy supplier. Customers have the option to select other suppliers, which may offer variable rates. [01:45:35]

Representative Claire Schneider Hall: raised concerns about why Delmarva Power bills are significantly higher than DEC bills and questioned how investor profits are incorporated into the bill. [01:46:31]

Susan DeVito: Director Pricing and Regulatory Services, confirmed that Delmarva Power, as an investor-owned utility, includes shareholder returns in its rates, though it is not guaranteed. She clarified that the profit margin is built into distribution rates and is reviewed and approved by the Public Service Commission. [01:48:11]

Representative Claire Schneider Hall: asked whether the percentage of profit had increased. [01:48:24]

Susan DeVito: stated that the most recent rate case, approved in April 2024, set Delmarva Power's return at 9.6%. [01:48:24]

Senator Hansen: passed the floor to Senator Lockman, Senator Lawson, and Representative Burns in that order. [01:49:04]

Senator Lockman: asked how proactive Delmarva Power is in identifying customers who may need assistance before they face disconnections. [01:50:00]

Phill Valval: detailed Delmarva's efforts to monitor customer energy usage, offer financial assistance programs, and conduct outreach events to gauge community needs. He highlighted technological tools, such as alerts that notify customers of high energy usage, and budget billing options to improve bill predictability. [01:51:52]

Senator Lockman: asked if the no-disconnections policy applies to all customers through winter. [01:52:10]

Phill Valval: confirmed that the disconnection moratorium is in place through February and will be reassessed. He stressed that disconnection is a last resort and that Delmarva Power offers payment plans and fee waivers to assist struggling customers. [01:52:42]

Senator Lawson: asked how many delivery charges are included in customers' bills. [01:52:42]

Phill Valval: stated that there is typically one delivery charge for electric customers, though gas customers may have additional charges. [01:52:57]

Senator Lawson: asked for clarification on how different charges on the bill are calculated. [01:53:11]

Phill Valval: explained that some components are multiplied based on usage, while others are added to the total bill. [01:53:27]

Senator Lawson: asked about a “Think Energy” charge appearing on some Delmarva bills. [01:55:00]

Susan DeVito: stated that Delmarva Power does not generate this charge and suggested it may be linked to a third-party energy supplier. [01:56:55]

Phill Valval: confirmed that Delmarva Power would investigate the issue for affected customers and ensure that customers are not disconnected due to an unauthorized supplier charge. [01:57:04]

Senator Hoffner: reported that constituents are experiencing unexplained charges from third-party suppliers like Think Energy and Arbor. She described cases where customers never signed up for these services but were still charged, sometimes with inflated fees. Hoffner expressed frustration over the lack of clear answers from Delmarva Power regarding these billing inconsistencies. [01:58:36 - 02:01:59]

Senator Hansen: suggested that the issue of unauthorized third-party charges on Delmarva Power bills should be referred to the Attorney General’s office, particularly through their consumer fraud protection division. [02:01:60]

Phill Valval: agreed that specific cases should be examined further and assured that Delmarva Power would work with legislators to resolve individual customer issues.[02:02:13]

Senator Hansen: the floor to Representative Burns and reminded everyone that they needed to move toward public comment soon.[02:02:30]

Representative Burns: questioned how Delaware could protect its ratepayers from out-of-state corporations—especially data centers like Amazon Cloud Services—which might compete for local power supply. He was concerned that local energy generation projects could ultimately serve businesses in other states rather than benefiting Delaware residents.[02:02:38]

Phill Valval: acknowledged this concern and confirmed that the energy industry is actively addressing the impact of data centers on local power availability. He noted that the co-location of data centers and behind-the-meter connections could put additional pressure on the grid, increasing customer bills. He expressed openness to discussions on protecting Delaware’s energy supply from being overextended by external industries.[02:03:23]

Senator Hansen: agreed with Burns' concerns, emphasizing that large data centers would compete for electricity, potentially driving up costs for Delaware residents. She suggested that this topic be discussed further in two weeks during a meeting with PJM. [02:04:08]

Senator Hansen: opened the floor for public comment and acknowledged the presence of former Senator Ernie Lopez. [02:04:33]

Public Comment Session

Terry Baker: Representing Vietnam Veterans of America and disabled veterans, Baker shared frustration over high energy bills.[02:06:16]

Kay Baker: expressed similar frustrations about rising costs.[02:09:08]

Corey Underwood: shared frustration over a significant increase in her electric bill. [02:10:08]

John Nichols: voiced disapproval of the clean energy policy, stating that it contributed to high energy costs.[02:13:00]

Dustin Thompson: chapter director of the Sierra Club Delaware, supported SB 33, advocating for clean energy solutions.[02:16:16]

Dave Stevenson: from the Caesar Rodney Institute, shared frustration over high bills and suggested that Delaware should consider alternative energy sources.[02:18:53]

Doris: expressed frustration about high energy bills, previous administrations' policies, and the impact of new developments.[02:21:44]

Dora Williams: prayed for the legislators, asking that they serve the people wisely.[02:22:53]

Michelle Roberts: from the National Coordinator for the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform, questioned how the Attorney General could hold Delmarva Power accountable. [02:23:57]

Joe Walls: CEO of Veteran Services, shared how high energy bills were affecting veterans. [02:27:16]

Virtual Public Comment Opened [02:29:42]

Cheyenne Miller: expressed concerns over high energy bills.[02:30:30]

Sherry Long: shared frustration about rising costs.[02:32:01]

Jennifer Comer: voiced her frustration with Delmarva Power's rates.[02:33:14]

Scott Wilson: criticized Senate Bill 265, arguing it exacerbated energy cost issues. [02:34:41]

Matt Smith: accused Delmarva Power of profiting excessively from Delaware citizens and urged an investigation. [02:36:06]

Brent Burdge: criticized how legislators pass laws without considering timelines and policy applicability. [02:37:56]

Regina Reed: expressed frustration, focusing on how seniors are disproportionately affected by high bills. [02:39:23]

Ebony Moore: shared frustration over her high energy bill. [02:40:20]

Martha Audette: expressed frustration over high energy costs. [02:43:03]

Jose Matthews: criticized Delmarva Power's high profits and called for an investigation. [02:44:47]

Mark Durbano: described Delmarva Power as a monopoly and asked whether new legislation could introduce another energy provider. [02:46:11]

Candace Esham: criticized high energy bills.[02:47:28]

Robert Ridgeway: expressed frustration over rate increases. [02:48:15]

Anne Kirby: criticized the narrative linking clean energy to high costs, urging legislators to find ways to lower prices. [02:49:24]

Erin Chronister: shared concerns about high bills and their connection to new legislation. [02:50:48]

Richard Wilkins: warned that the mandated renewable energy transition would further increase electricity costs. [02:52:12]

Tawna House: founder of the Delmarva Power Victims Facebook Group, voiced frustration over energy costs.[02:53:18]

Rob Bullock:called for the Public Service Commission to be reformed, criticizing rising bills. [02:54:47]

Nadine Chance: claimed that Delmarva Power was aware of third-party supplier issues and expressed frustration over lack of transparency. [02:55:56]

Lucilla Esham: member of the Delaware Electric Cooperative, shared frustration over high costs. [02:57:02]

Stevie Keeley: described unexplained charges and high bills as a major issue. [02:58:47]

Senator Hansen: thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m [03:00:37]

Appendix A: Attendees

In-Person Attendees

Terry Baker
Kay Baker
Kori Underwood
John Nichols
Dustyn Thompson, Sierra Club Delaware Chapter
David Stevenson, Caesar Rodney Institute
William Sharpe
Dora Williams
Michele Roberts
Joe Walls, Veterans Services
Phil Vavala, President, DPL
Susan DeVito, Director Pricing and Regulatory Services
Mario Giovannini, Director Energy Acquisition

Zoom Attendees

Jennifer Morales, Advocate
K Lisa Kennedy, Bookkeeper/Business Office, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton RC Church
Mary Wolfe, BSN, RN Ret., Retired Registered Nurse
Rachel Cimino, Business Analyst, Delmarva Power
Donyale Hall, Candidate , Hall for House
Mac Gardner, CEO, Global MnM Solutions
Kiley Thomson, CGO, CGO
Jennifer Comer, Chief commercial officer
David Del Grande, Chief of Technology and Administrative Services, New Castle County
Wylie Feaster, Climate Community Planning Specialist, DNREC
Harold Gray, Commissioner, DE Public Service Commission
Lisa Roibnson, Court Administrator, Superior Court
Sophia Vassar, Director of Legislative Affairs , HD
Brian Andersen, DNREC
Val Gould, DNREC
Scott Goss, DSEA
Angie Bivens, EE Program Manager , Exelon
Krist Matthew, Energy Advisor , Energize Delaware
Steve Vucco, Energy consultant, Hercules LED
Nicholas DiNardo, Engineer, Former Fellow of the Senate
Nichole Tucker, Engineering tech , Civilian/DOD contractor
Richard Wilkins, Executive Director , Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association
Ginger Turner, FIA 2 Specialist, State of Maryland DHS

regina reed, FIA Adm Spec 1, KCDSS

Tawna House , Founder, Delmarva Power Victims

Pete Bauchle, HOA President, Vineyards Court HOA

Stacey Knapper, Legislative Assistant, New Castle County Council

Kendra Brumfield-NaWangna, Legislative Research and Policy Director, Wilmington City Council

michael normand, Manager of Regulatory Policy , Delmarva

Cindy Bolin, Mayor, Town of Farmington

Judith I Sanchez, Member Advocate , AmeriHealth Cáritas delaware

VALERIE GEORGE, New castle county council member, New Castle County Council

Luna Whaley, Nurse aid

Kezz Waweru, Nurse, LCS

Matt Smith, Operations bank manager

Danielle Rutter, Operations specialist , Discover

Jennifer Robinson, Outreach Manager II, Franklin Energy

Sedare Johnson, Outreach Manager, Franklin Energy

pam scott, partner, saul ewing

rob bullock, president, 913 community alliance

Diane Henry, President, Civic Association

John Ritter, Project Manager, Delmarva Power

Catrine Wilford , Public Health Consultant

Monica Hill, REALTOR, RE/MAX Associates

michelle morris, Regional purchasing manager , Break thru bev

Traci Evans, Residential Program Manager, Energize Delaware

Philip Schulte, Retired, Us Army

Charuni Patibanda, Secretary of State, DOS

Javier Paula, Secretary, Simonds Gardens Civic Association

Carlos Dipres R., Sr. Community Relations, WM

Donna Rich, Sr. Procurement Specialist, Kuraray America, Inc.

Tricia Gannon, Sr. Regulatory Policy Administrator, Delaware Public Service Commission

Tyler Wilson, State Of MD - private citizen- Class action lawsuit facilitator , We the people of Maryland

Alexis Ballard, Student, Delaware State University

Jonathan Nacchio, Supervisor, Action events and rentals

Rick Jensen, talk show host, wdel radio

Kevin Yingling, Vice President - Member Service , Delaware Electric Cooperative

Michael Oleck , VP NCC, HBADE

Abigail Leary

Ann Marie Thompson

Beth Smith

Allison Greene

Ann Savina

Beverly Ward

Amanda Grant

Anna Rousk

Brent Burdge

Amanda Mendoza

Anne Kirby

Brian McGowan

Amy Whitman

Anson Gock

Brian Pan

Andrea Caggiano

Barry Dupont

Brian Pincin

Brian Smith	Claire Keeting	Gloria James
Bruce Turner	D Wilson	Gretchen Shahan
Bruno Damiani	Dale Swain	Heather Stiffler
Bryan Budzynski	Dara Lucas	Henry Miller
Bryce Parry	Darian Gillette	Holly Morgan
Candace Esham	David Kizner	Jackie Wheeler
Carina Slater	Denise Clendenning	Jalissa Cannon
Carrie Ellis	Dorese Jackson	James Ianozi
Cassady Mills	Dorothy Brozosky	Janine Blumenthal
Cassandra Evans	Ebony Moore	Jeannie Forgie
Celestine Dorsey	Edna Velle	Jen Willing
Chris Chakonas	Elizabeth Simpkins	Jeniva Rios
Chris Cote	Emily Dudley	Jenna Ellis
Christi Maliepaard	Erin Chronister	Jennifer Hawkins
Christine Bates	Evan Wilner	Jessica Wilkins
Christy Wright	Felicita Diaz	Jessica Quinn
Jessica Willey	Linda Conway	Peter Kennedy
John Jacob	Lisa Jones	Priya A
John Virdin	Lisa Karageorge	Prudence Brown
Jorge Vasquez	Lisa Zimmerman	Rasheena Bungy
Jose Matthews	Louise Koonce	Regina Edmiston
Joseph Arsenault	Lucilla Esham	Renee' Brown
Joseph Burns	Lucy Brandolo	Rhonda Register
Joshua Papp	Margaret Dixon	Richard Bieker
Joyce Hawkins	Maria Mccutcheon	Robert Ridgeway
Justin Riley	Marie Collins	Rony Baltazar-Lopez
Karen Jordan	Marie Maks	Rosalyn Henderson
Karen Clifton-Merritt	Mark Durbano	Saaib Uppal
Karim Musani	Mark Pugh	Samantha Scullen
Kathryn Jackson	Martha Audet	Samantha Thomas
Kathy Lindemer	Mary Bailey	Sandra Ham
Kathy Walsh	Mary Vaness	Sandra Wesesky
Ken Persing	Megan Fioravanti	Shan'ette Addicks
Ken Stapleton	Melinda	Shannon Evans
Kenneth Rush	Anderson-Schmier	Sharon Delligatti
Kevin Mcghee	Michael Begatto	Shawna Gibbs
Laurie Thompson	Mirallyn Perrotta	Sherry Long
Leigh Ann Degirolano	Mohammed Farhad	Shyanne Miller
Lin Pawlyk	Nadine Chance	Stephani Ballard Wagner
Lincoln Willis	P. Lynn Estep	Steve Dinatale
Linda Jackson	Patricia Hinton	Stevie Keeley
Linda Carmichael	Perry Newman	Sylvie Pleasant

Tammy Kelley

Thomas Gargalas

Victor Kennedy

Tanya Monteras

Tracey Tracey

Vince Caricchio

Tara Diodato

Varina Marshall

Tara Taylor

Verity Watson

Appendix B: Submitted Written Public Comment**Debbie McKeown**

If Delmarva Power/Excelon is only receiving <\$10 on \$380 delivery charge, I'm told the balance goes to State of MD or DE 'taxes & fees'. What is the increase in DE state tax & fees? How was that large increase justified to PSC?

Thank you,

Debbie McKeown

Debbie,

Passing this along! That's not something I've heard before so I'm not sure what the answer is—do you know where you heard about that from?

Anna Shields

Anna,

I heard it from the Delmarva Power representative when I called last week for explanation of doubled “delivery charge”.

Please submit my question.

Thank you,

Debbie McKeown

Vincent Carricchio Q1

Delaware law, revised in 2021 [requiring major electricity utilities to derive an increasing percentage of their power from renewable energy](#). Currently, 25% of Delaware’s electricity must come from renewables, a rate that will rise annually over the next 10 years, topping out at 40% in 2035.

Officials with PJM Interconnection, a regional company that manages the electrical grid, have cited this as a point of concern. [They note that fossil-fuel power plants have been rapidly retired in recent years but that the new renewable energy facilities that were supposed to take their place have not been built fast enough to fill the deficit.](#)

Delmarva Power’s response to the rising cost of utilities only pacifies the customer, placing a band-aid on the problem not a solution.

Suspending disconnection and reconnection fees along with no late payment fees for January and February, does nothing to address the doubling or tripling of our utility bills! All it does is kick the can down the road! What happens in March and beyond???

What is the Senate Environment, Energy & Transportation Committee’s plans to lower or stop the increase in Delawareans’ energy bills?

Prepared by Mercy Walelgne and Anna Shields

Vincent Carricchio Q2

“The Clean Energy Act that was passed into law, requires [major electricity utilities to derive an increasing percentage of their power from renewable energy](#). Currently, 25% of Delaware’s electricity must come from renewables, increasing annually and topping out at 40% in 2035.

This in turn, causes the delivery of electricity to be much more expensive due to the way it is generated using cleaner fuel options (wind, solar, etc.). The infrastructure needed to deliver this renewable energy requires larger investments by the electric companies, which in turn is passed onto the customer.

Obviously, the electric companies did not produce or deliver the necessary infrastructure to meet the demands of this law (25% now to 40% in 2035). I don’t know what the electric companies’ obligations were, but I am sure this plays a significant factor in the enactment of this law”.

Question: What is the Senate Environment, Energy & Transportation Committee’s plan to amend Delaware’s Clean Air Act to be more in line with the need for additional infrastructure, now and in the future?

Sincerely,

Vincent J. Caricchio

Bear, DE 19701

Gretchen Mahoney

I am a business owner and Delmarva consumer in N Wilmington. I signed a multi-year lease which has multiple tenants, and as the leaseholder, I assigned a rent amount based upon all of the past costs. With the sudden, much higher Delmarva bill, I personally am now responsible for the increase and cannot pass it on for the full year. And when I do, it will be a huge surprise to all the subleasees.

I cannot bear the burden, and it is affecting my business health. Please help.

Thanks,

Gretchen Mahoney

Erin Brown

My bill was gone from \$250 to \$485. This is just ridiculous! The delivery fee is more than my use of gas and electric. How am I supposed to afford this ? This is not right and needs to be investigated

Erin Brown

Cherilyn Harmon

I am writing to express my urgent concerns regarding the excessive electric bills that residents, including myself, have been receiving from Delmarva Power. As a single mother with a child who has severe medical issues, the financial strain of these escalating charges is becoming increasingly unmanageable.

Despite my consistent and conservative usage of electricity, my bills continue to rise each month without any clear justification. The excuses provided by Delmarva Power, citing that it has been colder than normal, are simply dishonest. Such weather conditions would not result in bills increasing by hundreds of dollars. This situation is utterly unacceptable, particularly since my consumption habits have not changed. The delivery charges remain especially alarming and contribute significantly to the overall cost.

We are already facing a struggling economy, and the average pay in Delaware is low, making it incredibly difficult for families to cope with these rising costs. As a monopoly provider in our region, Delmarva Power's pricing practices must be scrutinized. There is no excuse for what is happening. The burden of these unjust charges needs to be placed on the appropriate parties, not on innocent families who are simply trying to survive. It is troubling to see the disparity between the financial pressures faced by consumers and the benefits enjoyed by employees of the company. This situation raises serious ethical concerns about the fairness of their pricing structure.

Regardless of what Delmarva Power needs to do to rectify this situation, it must be done immediately. Our community deserves transparency regarding how rates are determined, particularly concerning delivery fees. Families should not be disproportionately affected by these excessive charges.

I hope my concerns will be taken seriously at this meeting, and I look forward to collaborating with our community to find a fair resolution for all residents.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Cherilyn Harmon

Milford, Delaware

Anne Hill

Dear Senator Hansen,

I am writing concerning the rising cost of electricity in the State of Delaware. I realize this is a complex issue and costs are determined by many, many factors. Among them are classic supply and demand forces, individual customer usage and how meters are read or not read. On top of these in 2025, customers of Delmarva Power are also paying increased distribution charges, green energy surcharges and higher rates. I have a unique perspective; our church receives calls weekly from people seeking assistance.

We have helped numerous families pay Delmarva Power. These are single mothers, unemployed people, underemployed people and those working two jobs just to stay afloat. The choices being made are heartbreaking - pay the electric bill or buy food; sit in the dark and cold or lose my house. Medicine or electricity? This is not hyperbole. Real people facing real hardships are all around us. Why? Two words: greed and green.

Exelon Corporation posted their earnings today. From the press release, " Exelon (EXC.O) forecast annual profit above Wall Street estimates on Wednesday, as the U.S. utility expects to benefit from higher rates for electricity and natural gas. U.S. utilities have been seeking to raise customer power bills to fund infrastructure upgrades, as the country's electrical grids face extreme weather events and growing demand from industry electrification and data center expansions." Sounds to me like a major corporation with a monopoly is breaking the backs of the little guy to fund other major corporations' data centers all the while generating record profits for its shareholders. Why are consumers footing the bill for huge data centers and industry electrification? Isn't infrastructure improvement on Exelon as a corporate cost? Where are the consumer protections?

Where are our state elected officials? Oh wait, they are passing pie-in-the-sky legislation mandating impossible green technology solutions while closing coal-fired plants whose capacity is not replaced. They are courting huge new users of electricity while not dealing with decreased local generating capacity. They are allowing a huge court decision to be passed onto the backs of consumers. It is no wonder there is outrage.

Back to our little church. Even as we help those who we can help, I ask why is our little church feeding a greedy corporation? Because we care about the single moms, the kids, the elderly and those who have need. Shouldn't you care, too? Every single customer of Delmarva Power needs relief and they need it now. They do not need to be referred to programs and social service organizations who tell them they can't help because funds are depleted. Delmarva must be held accountable for the rampant greed and mismanagement of billing and collections. Please do something effective, efficient and SOON.

With respect,

Anne Hill

Harrington Baptist Church

Harrington, DE

Nicole Nelson

Nicole sent an email first to Anna Shields' inbox:

My name is Nicole Nelson and I live in Snow Hill Md. our electric is through Delmarva Power. Our electric in the last 3 months has more than doubled each month. We leave our heat on 62 degrees or lower in the winter. There is no excuse for what our electric is now costing us and the excuses on why it's been raised . And of course there are no other choices for electric companies anywhere for us to leave and get electric at a good rate. There is no way we can stay in our home if something doesn't change. We have lived here for over 8 years and had not planned on leaving.

Our children attend schools here and have since they were little. Everything we know and love is here. We have had to take our house payment along with other bill money to pay the electric. We cannot afford our electric staying like this and surely can't afford the past 3 months either. And there's no where we can go because everyone else is having the same problem with the cost of their electric costing double or triple the amount. Delmarva Power, Fix our bills and give us back the money you have stolen from us for the last 3 months! You are robbing people blind!

Nicole sent a second email, this time to the committee inbox:

My name is Nicole Nelson and I am the Pastors wife of Eagle Apostolic Church in Snow Hill, Md located at 104 S Washington St. our bill for our church tripled each month over the last 3 months. Our main heating source for heat is gas not electric. Our bills in the winter are normally 175 for electric. Our bills the last 3 months each month were almost 800 every month . We don't have auxiliary heat or anything burning more electricity. You have raised our rates so high we will have to close our church doors if you don't do something to fix it. We live in a small town with a congregation of about 60 people including youth and children. We can't afford the heat for our Sunday service anymore . We will have no where for our people to go for church. If that happens we will have you to thank. What you have done to everyone with these electric rate hikes is robbery and is wrong. You should be required to put our rates back to what they were and return the money you have monopolized and taken. This is wrong.

Nicole Nelson

Melinda and Geoff

I'd like to enter the below comment for the 2/14 Senate, Environment & Energy Transportation committee meeting:

What other energy options are available for residents of New Castle county? For residents who oppose Del Marva's business practices and who feel largely abandoned by the agencies and elected officials responsible for protecting citizens from price gouging and unfair business practices, there seems to be no viable alternatives for meeting our energy needs.

Seemingly, Del Marva operates and exemplifies the definition of a monopoly: a market structure with a single seller or producer that assumes a dominant position in an industry or a sector. Monopolies are discouraged in free-market economies because they stifle competition, limit consumer substitutes, and thus, limit consumer choice.

With no competition, costs cannot be, and are not, effectively controlled, and consumers have no choice but to accept unfair and poorly-governed services from profit-driven establishments.

Melinda and Geoff

J.R. Burns

Public Comment for Delaware Senate Committee Meeting 2/14

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

My name is JR Burns, and I am here today as a concerned Delaware resident deeply troubled by the financial burden that Senate Bill 33 (SB33) has placed on hardworking families across our state.

While I support responsible efforts to transition to renewable energy over time, SB33 has resulted in skyrocketing electricity costs that many Delawareans simply cannot afford. At a time when families are already struggling with inflation and rising living expenses, this law has made an essential utility—electricity—even more expensive and unsustainable for everyday residents.

The people of Delaware should not have to choose between keeping the lights on and paying for other basic necessities. The implementation of SB33 has shown that its financial impact was either underestimated or ignored, and it is now your responsibility to correct this mistake. I urge this committee to take immediate action to reverse, amend, or provide relief from SB33 before even more families are pushed into financial hardship.

We elected you to represent the people, not to burden us with higher bills in the name of policy goals that were not properly planned. I respectfully ask this committee to listen to your constituents and prioritize affordable energy solutions that work for all Delawareans.

Thank you.

J.R. Burns

Monica Hill

Given that the increase in the delivery charges was allowed by the state, can that be reversed?

Given that there is an increasing amount of legislation aimed at increasing not only our dependence on electricity but also mandating against gas appliances, gas vehicles, etc., where is the long-term vision for what the actual costs are, both to the state and ultimately to the residents of the state? The state will be losing revenue from the loss of gas, the consumers will have much higher costs to retrofit houses to electric, other states that have done this have had brownouts, and none of it feels like long-term thinking has been applied.

Monica Hill

Elizabeth Stewart

Hello,

I have been a resident of North Wilmington Delaware for 59 of my 61 years of life. I am well aware of the impact of weather etc to household electric and gas use and associated billing, and budget accordingly.

I am frankly shocked by the excessive charges on recent bills noted as “delivery fees” . Having required utility costs double, triple, or worse is inappropriate and not sustainable.

I am hopeful that you will be able to work with Delmarva to cap the amount they can charge for delivery fees or some other arrangement to bring the cost of this utility back down to a reasonable level.

Prepared by Mercy Walelgne and Anna Shields

Thank you,

Beth Stewart 19803

Linda Ng

My name is Linda Ng, and I am speaking today as a concerned Delaware resident who is deeply troubled by the financial strain Senate Bill 33 (SB33) has placed on hardworking families across our state.

While I fully support the transition to renewable energy, the implementation of SB33 has led to soaring electricity costs that many Delawareans simply cannot afford. In a time when families are already grappling with inflation and rising living expenses, this law has made a basic necessity—electricity—far more expensive and unsustainable for everyday residents.

No Delawarean should have to choose between keeping the lights on and covering other essential needs. The financial impact of SB33 appears to have been either underestimated or overlooked, and it is now incumbent upon this committee to address and correct this issue. I urge you to take swift action to either reverse, amend, or offer relief from SB33 before more families are pushed further into financial hardship.

We elected you to serve and represent us, not to burden us with higher bills under the guise of policy goals that were not carefully thought through. I respectfully request that this committee listen to the voices of your constituents and prioritize affordable energy solutions that benefit all Delawareans.

Thank you.

Linda Ng

Lindsay Burns

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lindsay Burns and I am writing as a concerned Delaware resident deeply troubled by the financial burden that Senate Bill 33 (SB33) has placed on hardworking families across our state.

While I support responsible efforts to transition to renewable energy, SB33 has resulted in skyrocketing electricity costs that many Delawareans simply cannot afford. At a time when families are already struggling with inflation and rising living expenses, this law has made an essential utility—electricity—even more expensive and unsustainable for everyday residents.

The people of Delaware should not have to choose between keeping the lights on and paying for other basic necessities. The implementation of SB33 has shown that its financial impact was either underestimated or ignored, and it is now your responsibility to correct this mistake. I urge this committee to take immediate action to reverse, amend, or provide relief from SB33 before even more families are pushed into financial hardship.

Prepared by Mercy Walelgne and Anna Shields

We elected you to represent the people, not to burden us with higher bills in the name of policy goals that were not properly planned. I respectfully ask this committee to listen to your constituents and prioritize affordable energy solutions that work for all Delawareans.

Thank you,

Lindsay Burns

Marie Collins

The Delaware Legislature is directly responsible for the increase in the electric cost, and it has the primary ability and responsibility to reduce them immediately. The Delaware Legislature passed a series of laws to address renewable energy, including Senate Bill 33* and a number of other related Acts and supports the Delaware Renewable Portfolio Standards^.

A stated goal in the Delaware Renewable Portfolio Standard was to lower cost for consumers, which is laughable since it had the inverse effect to exponentially increase costs. It is also irrational to pay more for renewable energy when we have adequate energy without seeking outside sources. We don't need to pay more for electricity just because it's from a renewable source.

There is no excuse. There is no one else to blame. There is no passing the buck; the buck stops with the legislature.

The legislature needs to take immediate action today, to repeal every law, regulation, and standard, that caused this price increase and refund the delivery fee increase that it caused or give a dollar-for-dollar credit on the next energy bill.

*Senate Bill 33 Passed with bipartisan support, Senate Bill 33 extended Delaware's landmark Renewable Portfolio Standards and gradually expanded the volume of energy that must be generated from renewable sources until it reaches 40 percent by 2035.

^Delaware's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires that a percentage of the state's electricity comes from renewable sources. The RPS aims to increase the use of renewable energy and lower costs for consumers.

Marie Collins

Jonathan Nacchio

My names Jonathan nacchio and have been a resident for over 30 years in this state and have never seen more people upset scared and just all around confused as I am right now. It is just sickening and all the while we get nothing but parroted responses from the very people we elected to have our backs, and at that very same moment the new governor who has addressed nothing is spending tax payer money on flat screen TV's for the Superbowl party he's having and some of us can't even afford to watch the Superbowl.

I'm truly disgusted with all of this and I truly hope someone in office will have the decency to to what's right, I have gas heat the cold is no excuse for my electric bill to double due to a bogus delivery charge

Prepared by Mercy Walelgne and Anna Shields

because someone decided to shut down out powerplants without proper planning or preparations, people are in danger of losing everything including their lives , starving, kids freezing , elderly unable to eat, so what you do at this point is a direct result of what happens next and then it's going to be on your hands that includes loss of life, I'm convinced your not going to help so much so I've even messaged the president out of desperation because I feel like help from him is more likely then my own local lawmakers and that's a sad statement in itself,so I hope you do the right thing prove me wrong and stand up for the people who keep this state going, this is Maryland has found solutions so we know it can be done and a payment plan and extensions are off the table in case you haven't noticed people don't want a bandaid that's just going to leave us with deeper wounds in a month it's a simple as lowering delivery costs, just like any other business(oddly enough they are having to do it right now because of these rediculous energy costs) I guess Delmarva has to eat the loss of the mistake it made sourcing our power from ohio, instead of throwing it on the backs of people that are all ready mentally exhausted from living in survival mode for almost ten years, this is wrong you know it, I know it and everyone else is going to know it, so do the right thing, be the voice of reason, be someone's hero, not everyone gets the chance to be a hero but we all get chances to be the villain.

Jonathan Nacchio

Brandi Houck

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brandi Houck, and I am writing as a concerned Delaware resident deeply troubled by the financial burden that Senate Bill 33 (SB33) has placed on hardworking families across our state.

While I support responsible efforts to transition to renewable energy, SB33 has resulted in skyrocketing electricity costs that many Delawareans simply cannot afford. At a time when families are already struggling with inflation and rising living expenses, this law has made an essential utility—electricity—even more expensive and unsustainable for everyday residents.

The people of Delaware should not have to choose between keeping the lights on and paying for other basic necessities. The implementation of SB33 has shown that its financial impact was either underestimated or ignored, and it is now your responsibility to correct this mistake. I urge this committee to take immediate action to reverse, amend, or provide relief from SB33 before even more families are pushed into financial hardship.

We elected you to represent the people, not to burden us with higher bills in the name of policy goals that were not properly planned. I respectfully ask this committee to listen to your constituents and prioritize affordable energy solutions that work for all Delawareans.

Thank you.

Brandi Houck

Mary Wolfe

Why is the government in Delaware not taking advantage of Trump's Executive Orders regarding "Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost of Living Crisis?" It includes the cost of fuel, food, housing, automobiles, medical care, utilities, and insurance. It also addresses the assault on plentiful and reliable American energy. Using climate change and net zero emission goals to make life unbearable for the constituents of Delaware when there is documented federal relief available through this Executive Order seems thoughtless and irresponsible. Please explain why the Executive Order is being ignored.

Mary Wolfe BSN RN Ret.

James Adel

Electric Bill way too high,

I have a small house and my bill was over 330 dollars,

From James Adel

Christy Ferguson

Hello,

My name is Christy Ferguson and I'm 50 years old and permanently disabled raising an 8 yr old that's disabled. I homeschool due to lack of proper education for autistic children within Delaware already having to pay out of pocket to educate my child to ensure his future, we are on a very tight budget, without any assistance from government and recently had my secondary insurance cancelled due to me supposedly making too much 23 dollars to be exact, which now costs me 185.00 extra a month to acquire the monthly infusions I need that still only covers 80%. Last year I did receive assistance through assistance but my gas increased 300% costing me 600.00 for one month I couldn't afford. Until that day I paid every month on time, I spoke with many people and always same answer, just going up due to more use in winter, but this is untrue.

Many other factors are involved including extra service fees and I noticed additional doubling of fees for service costing me more than double the amount of energy I actually use. At night I unplug every thing in my house including washer and dryer . Keep my house at 65 degrees and we have to bundle up to keep warm causing my disabilities to require additional treatments. Basically even with all I'm doing my bill was still very high . My body cannot regulate body temperature correctly and my son as well , this is actually causing the system more money for medical treatments for not just me but many disabled and elderly individuals. How can someone live on roughly 2500 a month when rent is 1750. Utility Delmarva 500. Car insurance 140 insurance medical 185.00 water 60 and this doesn't even include food which I have to visit multiple food banks to get the specified diet my son and I need . This doesn't include Internet to use platform for education and all other out of pocket expenses needed for special needs assistance for my son. This all needs to be looked at to help people live, instead I saw there was increase in pay for upper level administrative of Delmarva and their hiding that with bull crap about

seasonal increase. Something needs to be done before people actually suffer and possible die because of companies neglect. Funny that Everytime I got emergency assistance for my bill suddenly more money was needed to keep service on like they were just pocketing and taking advantage of the assistance requiring more money. How is this LEGAL !! Praying someone cuts the costs to the pockets of higher up with these lies and fees and embellished usage . Do we need to call Elon Musk in to go through all the data and expenses letting people go? Lol just ridiculous causing so much pain to people already suffering. Please help

Christy Ferguson

Nadine Chance

Just write in to talk about the cost of electric we have had colder winters and not paid the amounts that they are telling us we need to pay today. How are we supposed to feed our families? Keep them warm and pay these amounts and electric.and then they have all these fees. It hard out here and this is making it harder on family's

Nadine Chance

Samantha Dello Buono

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Samantha Dello Buono, and I am writing as a concerned Delaware resident deeply troubled by the financial burden that Senate Bill 33 (SB33) has placed on hardworking families across our state.

While I support responsible efforts to transition to renewable energy, SB33 has resulted in skyrocketing electricity costs that many Delawareans simply cannot afford. At a time when families are already struggling with inflation and rising living expenses, this law has made an essential utility—electricity—even more expensive and unsustainable for everyday residents.

The people of Delaware should not have to choose between keeping the lights on and paying for other basic necessities. The implementation of SB33 has shown that its financial impact was either underestimated or ignored, and it is now your responsibility to correct this mistake. I urge this committee to take immediate action to reverse, amend, or provide relief from SB33 before even more families are pushed into financial hardship.

We elected you to represent the people, not to burden us with higher bills in the name of policy goals that were not properly planned. I respectfully ask this committee to listen to your constituents and prioritize affordable energy solutions that work for all Delawareans.

Thank you

Samantha Dello Buono

Mark Durbano

What is required, what is the procedure to initiate Anti-trust proceedings against the Delaware Monopoly Delmarva Power ?

Yes, Delmarva Power is a monopoly in Delaware for electricity supply, though some have proposed policies to introduce competition.

As a monopoly operating in our area, Delmarva Power has imposed unreasonable costs and failed to provide equitable and transparent services to its customers.

In recent weeks, Delaware residents have expressed growing frustration over rising utility bills, with many taking to social media, particularly First State Update's Facebook page, to voice concerns and speculate about possible causes. Among the theories circulating is that Senate Bill 33, signed into law in 2021, may be driving the higher costs due to its emphasis on renewable energy requirements. Why are we being lied to ?

Renewable energy mandates do play a role in the overall cost of energy. Under Delaware law, Delmarva Power is required to meet the state's renewable energy standards by integrating clean energy sources, such as solar and wind, into the energy delivered to customers. By 2035, the company must ensure that 40 percent of its total energy supply comes from renewable sources added Chizar.

One challenge in meeting these renewable energy targets is the cost associated with renewable energy credits (RECs). These credits serve as proof that energy has been generated from renewable sources. At present, renewable energy credits are not available in Delaware according to Chizar. He explained that many states within PJM's regional power grid have also increased their renewable energy targets, leading to higher demand for these credits. The result has been rising prices for RECs, which can contribute to overall energy costs.

Who has the authority to pursue Anti_trust proceedings against the Delaware Monopoly Delmarva Power ?

Mark Durbano

Matt Smith

Thanks for the reply.

I do have one question..... the bills from Delmarva and quite complex and charges are split into multiple categories, therefore on average what is the approximate TOTAL percentage increase which Delmarva have applied to bills? So if I used the same amount of power this year as I did last year how much will my bill have increased, as a percentage?

Cheers

Matt Smith

Jeannie Forgie

I'm sure you are getting tons of emails regarding the Delivery charges, but I have just a couple of questions and things to say. I am a retired senior living on a fixed income also.

I live in a 1100 sq ft brick ranch and unfortunately my heat is a heat pump. I would love to have gas, but there isn't any gas in this development. To switch over to oil, I would have to replace all the duct work.

Yes I do know when it gets really cold it switches over to emergency heat, which is nothing but electric. I keep my house on 64 during the day and 63 at night. So when it gets really cold I walk around the house with sweats and a bath robe to stay somewhat warm. Delmarva sends out the Home Energy reports and mine says that I was lower then efficient homes by 29%and I used less that similar homes.

For the month of Jan 2025 by bill was 231.76 to be exact but the larger part of that was the delivery charge! I have read that Delmarva is waiving some of the fees or low income families. But that is like a catch 22 for them, they still have to pay it at some point. But what about the middle class people and the seniors living on a fixed income? Nothing!

Instead of increasing the delivery fees why doesn't the board and higher up's just take a pay cut to fix the old equipment instead of upping the rates. Why put it on all the people who has Delmarva and help us out? We are stuck with paying what ever they charge due to there isn't another Electric company around. The politicians voted for this not all theirs customers. I honestly believe it has nothing to due with renewable energy it's just away to get more money in their pockets and take it from us.

They need to lower the delivery charges and start to give back to all of us, low income, middle class and seniors!

Thank you,

Jeannie

Martha Audet

Good Afternoon,

I am sending my reconciliation attached showing the comparison of the months from 2023 /2024 & 2024/2025 for the same account.

As you can see that the amount has increased by over \$5.00 per day amounting to approximately \$ 200.00 per month increase.

I purchased my home and have put a brand-new AC system, full blown foam insulation costing over \$10,000.00 to curb this and I am still paying on this purchase.

My house is less then 2,000 sqft. And to top all of this off I am only making \$19.00 per hour.

Can someone please address this as a serious problem / Monopoly and why are there Double Distribution Charge, Standard Office Service Charge, Why in Gods name

Am I paying for the Wind & Solar – Once that get up and running, they will be billing for that to the consumer if that is what the consumer wants when it is available?

We are no colder this winter then last or the winter before that.

Thank you,

Martha Audet

DELMARVA POWER COMPARISON:

MONTH	11/30	11/27	CHANGE	12/28	12/28	CHANGE
	12/27 (28)	12/27 (31)	PER MTH	1/29 (33)	1/30 (34)	PER MTH
	23-Dec	24-Dec		24-Jan	25-Jan	
CUSTOMER CHARGE	\$ 15.04	\$ 13.50	\$ (1.54)	\$ 15.04	\$ 13.50	\$ (1.54)
DISTRIBUTION CHARGE	\$ 22.10	\$ 21.80	\$ (0.30)	\$ 22.10	\$ 21.80	\$ (0.30)
DISTRIBUTION CHARGE	\$ 45.36	\$ 101.17	\$ 55.81	\$ 85.45	\$ 141.24	\$ 55.79
LOW INCOME CHARGE	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.13
GREENENERGY FUND	\$ 0.54	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.87	\$ 1.33	\$ 0.46
RENEWABLE COMPLIANCE CHARGE:			\$ -			\$ -
WIND & SOLAR	\$ 7.43	\$ 17.95	\$ 10.52	\$ 11.85	\$ 23.81	\$ 11.96
QUALIFIED FUEL CELLS	\$ 5.48	\$ 11.81	\$ 6.33	\$ 8.21	\$ 10.45	\$ 2.24
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT CHARGE	\$ -	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.88	\$ 1.45	\$ 7.47	\$ 6.02
ENERGY EFFICIENCY SURCHARGE	\$ 0.56	\$ 1.14	\$ 0.58	\$ 0.06	\$ 1.77	\$ 1.71
EDIT cREDIT 6 yEAR - kwh	\$ (2.69)	\$ -	\$ 2.69	\$ (1.42)	\$ -	\$ 1.42
TRANSMISSION CAPACITY CHARGE	\$ 11.71	\$ 26.53	\$ 14.82	\$ 27.36	\$ 28.34	\$ 0.98
STANDARD OFFICE SERVICE CHARGE	\$ 91.27	\$ 94.37	\$ 3.10	\$ 91.35	\$ 94.37	\$ 3.02
STANDARD OFFICE SERVICE CHARGE	\$ 24.79	\$ 127.39	\$ 102.60	\$ 93.87	\$ 199.66	\$ 105.79
	\$ 221.73	\$ 420.81	\$ 199.08	\$ 356.42	\$ 544.10	\$ 187.68
			CHANGE			CHANGE
			PER DAY			PER DAY
PER DAY CHARGE	\$ 7.92	\$ 13.57	\$ 5.66	\$ 10.80	\$ 16.00	\$ 5.20

Nadia Townsend

Hello All,

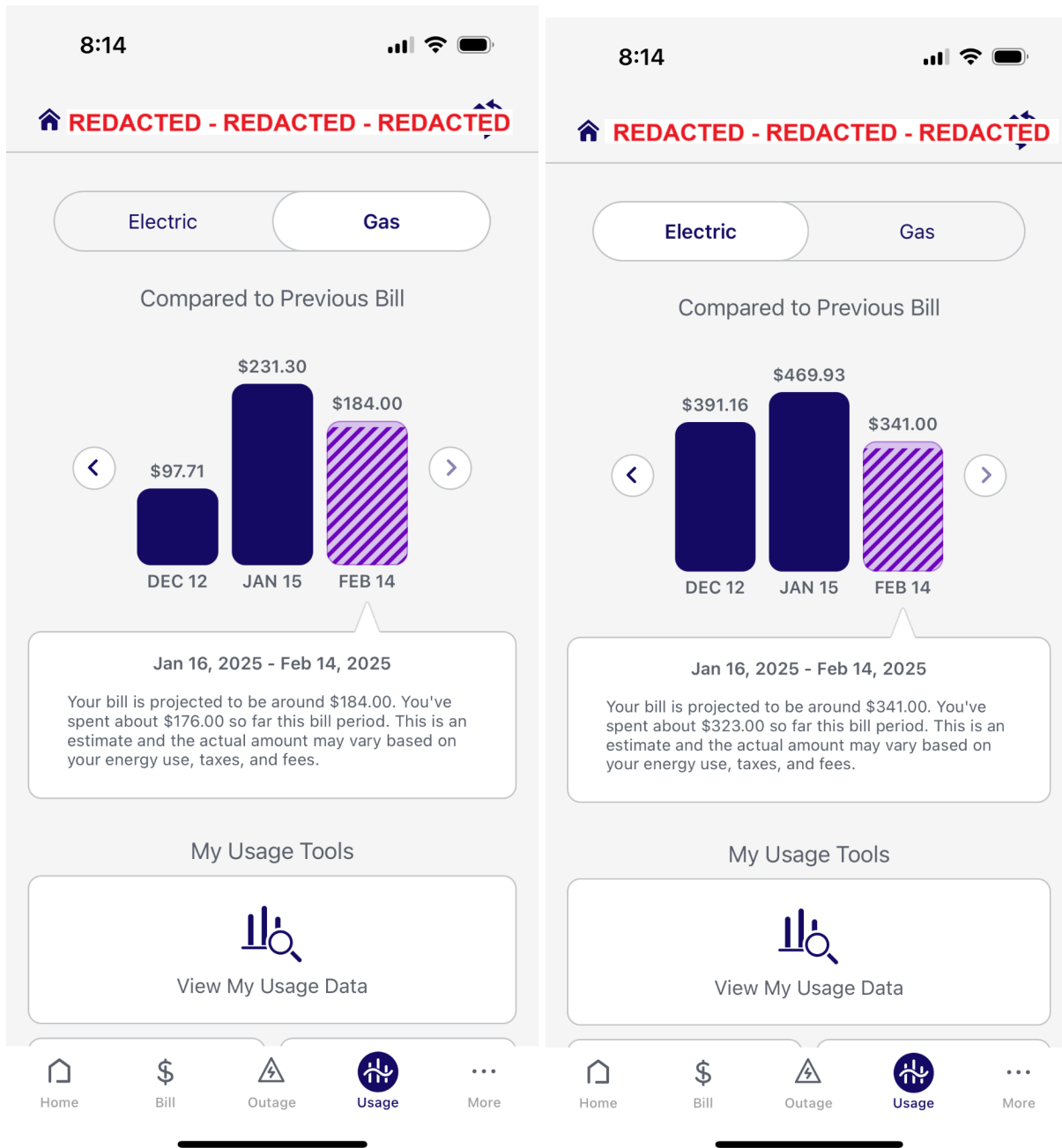
The delivery charge (cost of bringing the electricity to the customer) shouldn't be 66.8% of the supply charge (cost of producing the electricity for the customer) and on the gas side, it is 51.2% of the supply charge. If Delmarva doesn't produce electricity/gas, it can't supply it.

The delivery charge shouldn't be based on my consumption. My neighbors delivery charge shouldn't be lower or higher than mine, as we live on the same block/street. The delivery charge perhaps should be a flat rate or if it must be calculated by consumption, than NO more than 10% of the supply charge.

We are located at [REDACTED] this home in October 2024 and within the 1st 45 days; we've replaced all HVAC systems in the home with Hybrid High efficiency systems, had a Delaware Energy Home

inspection completed, and replaced doors and windows as needed. Since then, we have received extremely high bills. We have our heat on a programmed schedule that does not surpass 73.

Below are screen shots of our bills over the last 3 months.



Brian & Nadia Townsend

Middletown, DE

Brian McGowan

I was just wondering with Petco making RECORD PROFITS why would the prices have to jump so high?

Thank you Brian McGowan

Jennifer Comer

Good afternoon,

I appreciate the Senate's efforts to address long-term energy solutions through both alternative and traditional sources. However, I cannot stress enough that these initiatives do nothing to help people in the short term, and immediate relief is desperately needed.

This morning, I had the opportunity to speak via Zoom at the committee hearing, and I want to reiterate my concerns. I am a resident of Sussex County, and in addition to managing my own household expenses, I also handle the bills for my 80-year-old grandfather, who is on a fixed Social Security income of \$2,200 per month. His most recent Delmarva Power bill exceeded \$700—nearly as much as his mortgage payment, which is less than \$900. This is unsustainable.

The skyrocketing Delmarva Power bills have put an immense strain on the limited assistance programs available, such as those through Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army. From my understanding, there is a 60-day waiting period just to find out if one qualifies for aid. The promise not to shut off electricity in February does not alleviate this crisis, as many people are still struggling to pay for January's bill.

Additionally, Delmarva Power customers have no choice in their provider. Years ago, I inquired about switching to the Delaware Electric Cooperative (DEC) and was told that because Delmarva Power owns the lines and poles to my home, DEC could not provide service. When I asked how we could access the co-op, I was informed that it would require an act of the Delaware Legislature.

You are the Legislature. You have the power to change this. Laws have been implemented quickly in the past to force investments in new energy sources, which have contributed to rising rates. If change can happen that swiftly in one direction, why can't it happen just as quickly to allow consumers the ability to choose a nonprofit energy supplier? Delmarva Power is beholden to its shareholders—I am not. I should have the right to decide where my dollars go, not just for kilowatt hours, but also for the delivery service.

I urge you to take immediate action to provide relief for Delaware residents who are being crushed by these excessive energy costs.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Comer

Janelle Caruano

To Whom It May Concern:

Plain and simple, while we sit here and debate alternative electric opportunities like wind and solar, we are missing the elephant in the room.

While Delmarva electric customers have seen increased substantial bill costs, consumers at DEC have not are generally not represented here for these comments today (because they don't feel the need to without substantial increases in their bills). That being said, with the difference between Delmarva and DEC, it becomes clear that the difference comes down to the supplier and how they operate either with price gouging or not and/or efficiency of the company.

There is no free market opportunity here for Delawareans to create good competitive pricing when I am not able to switch out of Delmarva to DEC. I cannot get DEC even if I wanted. This is called a monopoly and any smart person who sat in on their high school education should know the repercussions of a monopoly.

Thank you for your time.

Kindest regards,

Janelle Caruano

Geri Larson

Good morning,

I'm sorry I missed the meeting this morning, but I want to register my input regarding the huge increase in my energy bill over the past month. Previously, my energy bill in the winter never eclipsed the \$314 mark, regardless of usage/weather. This winter my bill jumped from \$324 (an all-time high) in January to my latest bill in February at a whopping \$418, with the gas portion alone jumping up by \$91.20 from the previous month and \$85.31 from the previous period in the prior year. My understanding is that this is an unintended consequence of introducing wind turbine energy offshore in Delaware. I'm not happy with either the prospect of wind turbines cluttering up the ocean nor am I happy with the drastic increase in my energy bill all in the name of energy savings?? Please reverse whatever decisions have been made by the legislature that have resulted in this drastic increase. This is on the legislature to resolve. As a state employee, I can barely afford to keep up with the rising cost of groceries and this energy cost increase is unsustainable.

Thank you,

Geri C. Larson

Eileen

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eileen Cusack and I am writing as a concerned Delaware resident deeply troubled by the financial burden that Senate Bill 33 (SB33) has placed on hardworking families across our state.

While I support responsible efforts to transition to renewable energy, SB33 has resulted in skyrocketing electricity costs that many Delawareans simply cannot afford. At a time when families are already struggling with inflation and rising living expenses, this law has made an essential utility—electricity—even more expensive and unsustainable for everyday residents.

The people of Delaware should not have to choose between keeping the lights on and paying for other basic necessities. The implementation of SB33 has shown that its financial impact was either underestimated or ignored, and it is now your responsibility to correct this mistake. I urge this committee to take immediate action to reverse, amend, or provide relief from SB33 before even more families are pushed into financial hardship.

We elected you to represent the people, not to burden us with higher bills in the name of policy goals that were not properly planned. I respectfully ask this committee to listen to your constituents and prioritize affordable energy solutions that work for all Delawareans.

Thank you.

Joseph Butera

I attended this session but was unable to make these comments. This is simply to add to the data collected regarding the increased costs that Delmarva customers have recently been subjected to.

I shared these data with my State Representative Sophie Phillips.

I maintain budget records that date back into the 1990's. I have lived at my current residence since December 2002 and looked back at my January energy bill records from 2017 to current. As Senator Hansen discussed that one of her constituents saw a 24% year on year increase in their utility bill, my year on year utility (Gas and Electric) bill from January 2024 and January 2025 saw an increase of 23.6%. The bigger picture is that my utility bills for the month of January has increased 67% from 2017 to 2025; that increase eclipses any inflationary indicators in the time period.

The reason I looked back to 2017 is as follows. I have invested over \$20,000 to make my home that was built in 1998 more energy efficient. I had new energy efficient windows installed in 2017, a new energy efficient HVAC system installed in 2021, and new exterior doors installed in 2024.

I do not know how much Kilowatts or cubic feet of gas my home uses as I do not maintain those records.

Sincerely

Joe Butera

Christopher Sukosky

Dear Senate Environment and Energy Staff,

The rising cost of energy, combined with the need for a cleaner environment, is a significant issue in Delaware. How can we tackle both challenges while meeting the needs of residents and businesses alike?

There are two key problems to address:

1. Delaware's electricity prices are 23% higher than the national average.

2. The state consumes more energy than it produces, importing about one-third of its electricity.

The solution is clear: Delaware must generate its own energy in a clean and responsible manner. The only viable option to achieve this is nuclear power, modeled after the Salem nuclear power plant, built along the banks of the Delaware River. Producing our own energy will keep costs down and consistent. Once our supply outstrips demand, we can then begin investing in more renewable sources like wind and solar to further subsidize our electricity grid.

Delmarva Power customers have been subsidizing Bloom Energy for years, yet the primary beneficiaries have been industries, not residential households. It would be more equitable for industries to bear the cost of Bloom Energy subsidies while redirecting those funds toward developing a nuclear power station. Until Delaware can produce its own power, Delmarva Power will remain at the mercy of fluctuating market prices—leading to locking in at high costs, and getting stuck when energy prices eventually decline.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Sukosky

Ann Savina

Concerns Over Antitrust Violations, ESG Policy Influence, and Energy Charges**

Dear Senator Hansen and esteemed colleagues,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the potential misuse of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) policies which, when coordinated among organizations and supported by state-mandated laws, might violate antitrust laws and harm consumers.

We strongly suggest Regulatory Oversight to ensure that ESG commitments genuinely benefit the environment and society without unfairly burdening consumers.

Sen. Hansen repeated several times we need more renewables like Wind and Solar.. even though that may help many, many years in the future. This does not address the immediate concerns of extreme electric bills Delmarva Power customers are receiving. Especially compared to competitors. They should not be running these cables through our fragile bay.

As a long-term customer of Delmarva, for 32 years, residing in beach property built in 2012, where it is suggested weather conditions significantly affect energy usage, I have made substantial investments in energy efficiency:

- **Tankless water heater** for energy conservation.

- **Top Tier Energy Star appliances**

-**top home insulation**

Despite exceeding EPA energy efficiency guidelines with huge investments, I've noticed a \$370 increase in my electricity bill in 2024 compared to 2023, even though I used less electricity. This raises several questions and concerns:

1. **Low Income Charge**: There seems to be an imbalance in how low-income charges are applied. Proof of income isn't required for service, yet the 19yr olds renting together, are charged despite qualifying as low income. How can this be justified, and what measures are in place to ensure equity in billing? When I was unemployed, there was no help. They told me there was no help yet. I was low income.

2. **Donation Breakdown**: Can Delmarva/Exelon provide a detailed breakdown of how much of our contributions directly benefit Delaware constituents versus how much leaves the state?

3. **Green Energy Fund** (HB 10 from 1999):

According to DNREC website this fund has collected \$55 million dollars of rate payers money for renewable projects.

- Is there an equitable system ensuring that Delaware money benefits Delaware residents, regardless of income?

- What specific measures ensure that funds are used locally for the benefit of all constituents?

4. **Renewable Compliance Charge**:

- how this charge is broken down between actual procurement, support for renewable energy, Vs. administrative costs and fees?

5. **Energy Efficiency Surcharge**:

- I'm charged \$1.84 for being efficient! I received the comparable home efficiency letter and tips from Delmarva with my monthly bill. It suggests my home isn't as efficient as comparable sized homes. Without knowledge of any energy efficient either home has to offer.

- How much of this surcharge supports- "Empower Maryland Programs"? Is this charge equitable across all customers regardless of one's efficient home?

6. My elderly mother on a fixed income should not have to pay these fees.

I urge the this board and Delaware Public Service Commission to have strong regulatory review.

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues. I look forward to your response and to seeing actions that address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Ann Savina

Andrea Caggiano

****Subject: Concerns Over Antitrust Violations, ESG Policy Influence, and Energy Charges****

Prepared by Mercy Walelgne and Anna Shields

Dear Senator Hansen and esteemed colleagues,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the potential misuse of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) policies which, when coordinated among organizations and supported by state-mandated laws, might violate antitrust laws and harm consumers.

We strongly suggest Regulatory Oversight to ensure that ESG commitments genuinely benefit the environment and society without unfairly burdening consumers.

Sen. Hansen repeated several times we need more renewables like Wind and Solar.. even though those solutions are intermittent and not reliable forms of electric and may help help many, many years in the future when they are built and established. This does not address the immediate concerns of extreme electric bills Delmarva Power customers are receiving. Especially compared to competitors.

As a long-term customer of Delmarva, for 32 years, residing in beach property built in 2012, where it is suggested weather conditions significantly affect energy usage, I have made substantial investments in energy efficiency:

- **Insulation** with a significant budget, including brick veneer.
- **Tankless water heater** for energy conservation.
- **Geothermal heat and air conditioning**.
- **Top Tier Energy Star appliances**

Despite exceeding EPA energy efficiency guidelines with huge investments, I've noticed a \$370 increase in my electricity bill in 2024 compared to 2023, even though I used less electricity. This raises several questions and concerns:

1. **Low Income Charge**: There seems to be an imbalance in how low-income charges are applied. Proof of income isn't required for service, yet the 19yr olds renting together, are charged despite qualifying as low income. How can this be justified, and what measures are in place to ensure equity in billing?

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- How much of this surcharge supports- "Empower Maryland Programs"? Is this charge equitable across all customers regardless of one's efficient home?

I urge the this board and Delaware Public Service Commission to have strong regulatory review.

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues. I look forward to your response and to seeing actions that address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Andrea Caggiano

Sharon Toohey

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sharon Toohey, and I am writing as a concerned Delaware resident deeply troubled by the financial burden that Senate Bill 33 (SB33) has placed on hardworking families across our state.

While I support responsible efforts to transition to renewable energy, SB33 has resulted in skyrocketing electricity costs that many Delawareans simply cannot afford. At a time when families are already struggling with inflation and rising living expenses, this law has made an essential utility—electricity—even more expensive and unsustainable for everyday residents.

The people of Delaware should not have to choose between keeping the lights on and paying for other basic necessities. The implementation of SB33 has shown that its financial impact was either underestimated or ignored, and it is now your responsibility to correct this mistake. I urge this committee to take immediate action to reverse, amend, or provide relief from SB33 before even more families are pushed into financial hardship.

We elected you to represent the people, not to burden us with higher bills in the name of policy goals that were not properly planned. I respectfully ask this committee to listen to your constituents and prioritize affordable energy solutions that work for all Delawareans.

Thank you.

Sharon Toohey

David Legates

[Attached comment document](#)

Ellen Vogel

I am angry about the rate increases implemented by Delmarva without prior regulatory approval. Because energy costs are relatively low, the increases are for delivery and distribution charges and to pass the costs of providing the mandated energy from renewable sources to the consumers. Customers of Delmarva do not have a choice of companies for their electricity.

I installed a solar energy system on my home and received permission to operate in late August. Delmarva provides green energy grants of approved solar systems of a maximum of \$6000.00 which is a lower incentive than in many other states. The system can be only large enough to produce 110 % of the maximum annual usage. My electric bill for January was \$444.73. I have an energy efficient all electric home and I had almost no solar production in January. However, \$252.82 (56%) of this bill was for distribution and delivery charges. I am also paying a Renewable Compliance Charge and Energy Efficiency Surcharge. That is nonsense since Delmarva only credits the amount of kWh that my system produces. These charges are a disincentive for people to install alternative energy systems for their homes and businesses.

I believe that Delmarva is purposely raising these various distribution and delivery charges to cause public outcry and blame it on the renewable energy goals in Delaware. They do not see an opportunity to be at the forefront of using renewable energy sources and help combat climate change. Instead they want to maximize profits. This is very short sighted. When Texas had people freezing because the electric and gas systems were not upgraded or protected, it was the renewable energy sources that kept Texas energy supplies from totally failing.

Delmarva rate increases should not be approved,(some charges almost doubled), until Delmarva shows that they are investing more in renewable energy sources. Also, I believe that the state regulations can be modified to provide more incentives (perhaps no interest loans) to enable homeowners and small businesses to afford to install solar and other types of practical renewable energy systems on their buildings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ellen Vogel

Denise Clendening

Dear Committee Members,

First, I would like to say I was never called on to speak today, even with my hand raised. It was stated that there was 1 more person virtually, but my hand was raised as well.

Most of us know that SB33 (green energy) started all of these resultant high energy bills. There were no issues prior to that bill being enacted. This is NOT a usage issue as repeatedly stated by Senator Hansen and Delmarva.

It has not been just the December through January bill that was extreme, it has been going on for quite some time in lesser amounts. Everyone understands extreme weather makes for higher energy costs. The consumer is not stupid and don't need that explained.

A simple deduction of supply not meeting demand is the answer. Why? Because those green energy sources are hard to come by, expensive and not set up for use in this State.

Pursuant to SB33, the percentage to meet compliance, the energy providers in this State will have to reach 40% green energy by 2035 with another 20% from solar.

How do we accomplish this when our Government is NOT realistic and seemingly just left the consequences on the consumers?

We have DEC and our energy costs have gone up to 40% higher for over a year now with LESS usage except for the month of January 2025. It is not just Delmarva customers affected.

You need to do what is right for the people of this State and listen to the people who YOU work for. End SB33 until this State has the protections in place for consumers and is actually ready for this energy plan.

I do expect to hear back as to what your plan is since this legislation started this mess.

Denise Clendenning

David Bacher

Following are comments as a **Delaware Resident (not NRG)** based on my 45 years in the energy business with both, a regulated utility and merchant generator. My comments address some of the items presented at the hearing.

Hearing Format – Very good, is it possible to allow public comments 1 minute and 30 seconds, I believe we missed some concluding comments that would have been valuable.

Hearing Objective and Rate Paying Consumers

- **Consumer Bills** – To address **Consumer Bills** we need to dig deep into Delmarva Power costs and strategy as well as PJM planning as this is what is at the root of costs and cost increases. While recent bills are the concern, this may be the tip of the iceberg.
- **Customer Relief** – Two Comments; 1) I volunteer in an Outreach Program and being in the trenches, know the burden they face. Appreciate deferral on disconnects and offering longer payment plans with no down payment. 2) Mr. Stevenson suggested funding from RGGI, or other Green Initiative Programs could and should be diverted to assistance as an interim solution in this apparent crisis. I think the legislature and PSC should consider this.

Delmarva Power – Appreciate the transparency, however the conclusion of 1% rate increase and 99% weather seems improbable. We have had various “Polar Vortex” scenarios over the years, without comparable cost increases, suggesting it is not the weather. Recommend detailed analysis of the costs, specifically on transmission upgrades, purchase power, renewable power, and addressing other green mandates. In addition, need to evaluate the expectations for the summer months of 2025 and if Climate policy is or is not root cause.

PJM and Capacity – PJM will testify at the next hearing. I believe their presentation will be brief and generic.

- **PJM Planning** – The committee needs to drill down on PJM criteria for demand forecast, specifically what is considered and what is not, margin, and capacity supply planning. Legislation and Regulation have erased viable fossil capacity which must be a nightmare for PJM, but market structure and how they respond and is what will affect capacity, reliability, and cost to the consumer.
- **Government Intervention** – We should be concerned (and it was noted in the hearing) that **Governors like Shapiro** are focusing blame on capacity pricing. This is dangerous because it will not solve the problem, perhaps it will make the scarcity problem worse. Shapiro's solution appears to reduce capacity payments thus in theory, if we pay less for “those on call” we reduce the cost to the consumer. He is “barking up the wrong tree” as this will only retire more capacity if they cannot clear the market, providing a false political fix to a capacity problem. Note that locally, Indian River is an example as they could not clear the market and opted to decommission Unit 4. This was allowed with no local replacement generation (only transmission) adding to the supply demand conflict. Supply/Demand economics suggests this approach does not reduce cost, it adds scarcity and increases cost. It sounds counterintuitive, but supporting a robust capacity market, will ensure reliability and minimize costs. PJM should address this.

Energy Priority and Reality

- **PJM Obligation** – Reliability and Cost must be the first two obligations of a National, Regional, and State Energy Supply System, the charter of PJM. In contrast, it appears Legislative actions have placed both reliability and cost secondary to Climate Change Policy which is exactly why we are in the position we are in today, very basic, supply does not meet demand and the elephant in the room is that the situation will get worse, perhaps exponentially. PJM must maintain their charter.
- **Data Centers** – Data Centers are coming, and we are not prepared, that is irresponsible governance. In Delaware and regionally, we have focused only on renewable energy expansion regardless of its low-capacity factor downside, a strategy perhaps adequate for zero to 1%-2% load growth and which is dependent on projects that “Don't Happen”. This strategy does not support material load growth (which is expected) or operations that will require consistent and reliable energy resources. The situation will get worse as base load fossil energy options are regulated out of business forcing many generators to retire fossil units while their capacity has not been adequately replaced. This is a perfect storm scenario.
- **Transition from Fossil to Renewable** – The scenario presented in the hearing as “cart before the horse” is correct. As noted, an adequate renewable portfolio to meet current and pending demand is not available and thus legislative targets without guarantees **should not** dictate energy supply resources or increase RPS targets. Transition timelines must be deferred until supply to meet demand is proven reliable.
- **Engineering over Policy** – Engineering has an obligation to maximize the best solution when addressing a problem. In that solution, all factors must be considered, such as reliability, cost to the consumer, constructability, commercial availability, the environment, societal benefit, markets, supply chain, feasibility, cost/benefit, efficiency, end use needs, feasibility, and ability to perform. In contrast, policy solutions do not take a similar holistic approach, rather tend to force a solution to meet one objective, accepting of winners and losers and forcing solutions that may

be obsolete or infeasible and that cause more problems than they fix. This is the conflict between renewable energy (a policy objective) and fossil energy (engineering approach) as a solution. The solution is basic, 1) Utilize existing fossil resources which are proven reliable, available, and most important **already on industrial land** until replacements are established. 2) Support PJM capacity markets and required pricing to incentivize new generation as well as retain existing generation and retain reliability. 3) Expand natural gas transmission to lower Delaware where infrastructure to support new generation already exists. The most practical generation would be natural gas combustion turbines that include HRSG technology.

- **Delaware Position** – The new administration has declared an energy emergency and thus, opportunity will open for fossil resources, specifically natural gas. What Delaware must avoid is energy isolation from a renewable only preference (like California) and trend toward an **energy supply mix** which includes renewables and fossil to provide maximum reliability, lower cost, and a clean environment. Further, while it sounds good to “do our share”, climate has no state lines or borders and reality suggests our contribution to climate change is negligible while **the effect on reliability and cost for real people is material**.

David Bacher
Wilmington, Delaware

Brent Newsome

Energy cost in the state of Delaware will continue to rise because of chasing a narrative of scaring the general public with global warming, and the need to go full steam ahead with windmills and solar panels as a solution to all of the energy needs. It is a narrative that has failed around the world. If we are talking about greenhouse gases and global warming, the greatest threat at this time is the destruction of land for all the housing projects in Sussex county where I live. Also, the land to house solar panels would have to be massive to achieve any demand that would be needed. The earth heals itself by the plants that you will destroy. Also people must understand that the ocean puts out gas 24-7. Wildfires also are putting out massive gassing. I worked 30 years at the Public Service Electric & Gas Nuclear generating station. I do not see any generation in this state. I do not understand that. The Indian River Plant is shutting down and I believe I heard it release its main steam valves for the last time. That plant years ago ordered a mobile skid unit that was mounted on tractor trailer units. It got the stack pollution to a minimal level. The EPA was going to change its emission standards, and the plant was being proactive. The standards stayed in place and the plant canceled the project. This work was by Thiokol in Maryland. My father-in-law was an engineer at the time. They paid for the work, or should I say the ratepayer paid for it. So I believe in Nuclear power because it is safe. It is clean, and it puts out large amounts of power.

Anything can be made to burn clean. We have very bright people that can make it happen. From fossil fuels to automobiles. Maybe you should be focused on this.

Rates are high because you are buying all your power needs from a power grid. It appears the state produces none of its power. Politics in Delaware will most likely further its decline in other aspects of daily life. Being energy independent is not on the list.

Brent Newsome
30434 Gull Point Road
Millsboro, DE
(Long Neck)