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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1325 G STREET, N.W., SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

ORDER

January 15, 2026

GD2025-01-M-1, PETITION OF THE OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH AN ENERGY AFFORDABILITY PROCEEDING TO PERFORM A HOLISTIC EVALUATION OF ENERGY AFFORDABILITY TO PROTECT RATEPAYERS, and

FORMAL CASE NO. 1186, IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO ENERGY AFFORDABILITY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, Order No. 22774

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By this Order, the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia ("Commission") hereby grants the Petition of the Office of the People's Counsel ("OPC") to Establish an Energy Affordability Proceeding to Perform a Holistic Evaluation of Energy Affordability to Protect Ratepayers ("OPC's Petition") and opens *Formal Case No. 1186* to investigate energy affordability in the District of Columbia ("District").[1] The Commission also invites public and stakeholder comment on OPC's Petition and other issues set forth in this Order to define the scope and topics of the investigation, workgroups and prospective timeline. Initial comments shall be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order with reply comments due fifteen (15) days thereafter.

II. BACKGROUND

2. On November 25, 2025, OPC filed its Petition requesting that the Commission open an investigation into energy affordability in the District, accompanied by an affordability study. As OPC points out, D.C. Code § 1-204.93 states that the charges by a public utility must be "just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory." D.C. Code 34-908 allows the Commission to initiate an investigation into a utility's charges/rates to examine their reasonableness. Although examining the reasonableness of rates typically occurs when the Commission reviews a utility rate case application, nothing prevents the Commission from examining the reasonableness of rates and ratepayers' ability to pay established rates outside of a rate case proceeding. However, any such examination or investigation into ratepayers' ability to pay must be balanced against the utility's need to attract the necessary capital to provide safe and reliable service.

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[1] *GD2025-01-M-1, Petition of the Office of the People's Counsel for the Commission to Establish an Energy Affordability Proceeding to Perform a Holistic Evaluation of Energy Affordability to Protect Ratepayers*, filed November 25, 2026 ("OPC's Petition").

III. DISCUSSION

3. In response to OPC's petition, the Commission received public comment from Harrison Pyros representing We Power DC.[2] We Power DC supports OPC's position and requests additional information to be included in the utilities' Arrearages and Disconnections Reports.

4. No other comments were filed.

5. With this background in mind, the Commission grants OPC's request for an investigation and invites the public and stakeholders to comment on OPC's Petition and We Power DC's public comment. In addition, the Commission solicits specific feedback on the following, related topics:

a. The Commission's authority (and limitations thereto) over "affordability" measures;

b. Existing programs and proceedings impacting affordability; including opportunities for and challenges to program expansion, issue consolidation, and or the creation of new programs);

c. Affordability metrics, measures, and programs implemented by Commissions in other jurisdictions;

d. Creation of targeted and specialized rate design for large loads such as data centers being built in the region that impact District ratepayers energy costs;

e. Alternative recommendations (and supporting authority) to address energy affordability in the District, including, but not limited to: best practices to improve energy assistance programs and consumer protections, and the proposition of new legislation to address energy affordability; and

f. Proposed investigation structure, procedure, and processes.

6. Once comments are received, the Commission will issue an order detailing the investigative process including the scope and topics to be addressed.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

7. The Commission **GRANTS** the Petition of the Office of the People's Counsel for the Commission to Establish an Energy Affordability Proceeding to Perform a Holistic Evaluation of Energy Affordability to Protect Ratepayers;

8. The Commission **OPENS** Formal Case No. 1186, In the Matter of the Investigation into Energy Affordability in the District of Columbia, and

[2] *GD2025-01-M-3, We Power Dc, Harrison Pyros's Comments regarding GD2025-01*, filed December 8, 2025.

9. The Commission **DIRECTS** that comments on the Office of the People's Counsel's Petition and other issues set forth in this Order be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order with reply comments due fifteen (15) days thereafter.

A TRUE COPY:

CHIEF CLERK:

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

BRINDA WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK
COMMISSION SECRETARY

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FORMAL CASE NO. 1186, IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO ENERGY AFFORDABILITY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

PARTIAL CONCURRENCE OF COMMISSIONER BEVERLY TO ORDER NO. 22774

I agree with the majority in opening this investigation, but I don't think the six questions posed in the Order are helpful. OPC attached to its Petition, over 1400 pages of information, including three affordability studies (the most recent of which was completed in September of 2025) and testimony from the most recent electric and gas cases. Much of this voluminous filing appears to already address at least some of the questions in the Order and I see little point in asking for more information to churn when the scope of the investigation is clear on the face of the petition, and its purpose is to design a useful affordability metric. To me, the best way to proceed on a question like this is to stand up an affordability metric working group now to examine the question in a free-flowing and fluid manner but with specific goals and timelines. The goals and timelines should be recommended by staff with input from the parties and approved by the Commission.

COMMISSION ACTION

GD2025-01-M-1, PETITION OF THE OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH AN ENERGY AFFORDABILITY PROCEEDING TO PERFORM A HOLISTIC EVALUATION OF ENERGY AFFORDABILITY TO PROTECT RATEPAYERS, and

FORMAL CASE NO. 1186, IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO ENERGY AFFORDABILITY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

Date 1/15/26 **Formal Case No.** 1186/GD2025-01-M-1 **Tariff No.** _____ **Order No.** 22774

	Approve Initial & Date	Partially Concurs Initial & Date	Abstain Initial & Date
Chairman Emile Thompson	ET/DJ 1/15/26		
Commissioner Richard A. Beverly		RB/DJ 1/15/26	
Commissioner Ted Trabue	TT/DJ 1/15/26		

Certification of Action

Dionne Joemah
General/Deputy General Counsel

Naza Shelley
OGC Counsel/Staff