

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

ORDER

September 12, 2019

**FORMAL CASE NO. 1125, IN THE MATTER OF THE PROMOTION OF THE
UTILITY DISCOUNT PROGRAMS, Order No. 20218**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By this Order, the District of Columbia Public Service Commission (“Commission”) approves the District Department of Energy and Environment’s (“DOEE”) Invoices for the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019 (“Third Quarter FY 2019”) for the payment of Utility Discount Program (“UDP”) administrative expenses¹ as amended in the Errata to the Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices (“Errata”).² The District of Columbia Universal Service Trust Fund (“DC USTF”) is directed to pay \$22,820.77; Potomac Electric Power Company (“Pepco”) is directed to pay \$64,553.19; Washington Gas Light Company (“WGL”) is directed to pay \$39,437.39; and DC Water is directed to pay \$64,533.19 to DOEE within 15 days of the date of this Order.

II. BACKGROUND

2. In Order No. 17246,³ the Commission changed the process for reimbursement of UDP⁴ expenses incurred by DOEE as the administrator of the UDP and Consumer Education Program (“CEP”).⁵ On July 31, 2019, DOEE filed its Third Quarter

¹ *Formal Case No. 1125, In the Matter of the Promotion of the Utility Discount Programs (“Formal Case No. 1125”)*, The District Department of Energy and Environment’s Third Quarter Invoices for FY 2019 (“DOEE Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices”), filed July 31, 2019.

² *Formal Case No. 1125* Errata to the Department of Energy and Environment’s Third Quarter Invoices for FY 2019, filed August 16, 2019 (“Errata”).

³ *Formal Case No. 813, In the Matter of the Application of Potomac Electric Power Company for an Increase in its Retail Rates for the Sale of Electrical Energy* and *Formal Case No. 988, In the Matter of the Development of Universal Service Standards and the Universal Service Trust Fund for the District of Columbia*, Order No. 17246, rel. September 19, 2013.

⁴ The four Utility Discount Programs (“UDP”) in the District of Columbia are the Customer Assistance Program (“CAP”) for water customers; Lifeline, for telephone customers; Residential Aid Discount (“RAD”), for electric customers; and Residential Essential Service (“RES”) for gas customers.

⁵ The Commission notes that as of October 1, 2013, DOEE is no longer performing administrative functions for the Lifeline telephone service program.

FY 2019 Invoices, seeking reimbursement for expenses to perform administrative functions for the UDP. On August 16, 2019, DOEE filed an Errata to its Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices.

3. In its Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices, DOEE includes the Invoices for the Third Quarter FY 2019 and several tables that provide details on the expenses incurred by DOEE in the Third Quarter FY 2019. The first table is the UDP expenditures summary, which breaks down UDP expenditures by line item.⁶ The second table provides detail regarding the expenses incurred for the UDP administrative budget.⁷ DOEE's next table breaks down the advertising expenses for the CEP, itemizing the amounts spent on the various outreach programs.⁸ The next four (4) pages are separate Invoices for the Third Quarter FY 2019 for DC USTF, Pepco, WGL, and DC Water, itemizing the expenses by line item. DOEE seeks reimbursement of the following amounts from the funds or utilities: \$22,820.77 from the DC USTF; \$64,553.19 from Pepco; \$39,437.39 from WGL; and \$64,533.19 from DC Water.⁹

4. In its Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices, DOEE includes information on Third Quarter advertising. DOEE indicates that UDP flyers were delivered to District of Columbia residents in nine (9) zip codes through the Washington Post Print and Deliver Campaign. DOEE updated the UDP flyer and other materials to take into account the changes in the Lifeline program that occurred on May 7, 2019.¹⁰ Since the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority ("WMATA") bus signage had already been printed before May 7, 2019, the WMATA signage had to be reprinted with the new Lifeline information at a cost of \$2,212.50. DOEE charged that amount to the DC USTF. DOEE indicates that total outreach expenditures totaled \$38,236.76 for the Third Quarter of FY 2019.¹¹ DOEE also indicates that its UDP administrative expenses were \$177,354.69, which takes into account adjustments made to the first and second quarter expenses as a result of the loading of the FY 2019 approved budget into the District of Columbia Government's financial system in February 2019.¹² As additional UDP expenses, DOEE

⁶ DOEE Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices, Attachment at 1. The Commission notes that the tables are not paginated, so the page numbers are the Commission's additions.

⁷ DOEE Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices, Attachment at 2.

⁸ DOEE Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices, Attachment at 3.

⁹ DOEE Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices, Attachment at 4-7. In its invoices, DOEE indicates that WGL is only to pay \$39,437.39 due to a credit, while DC Water has not paid its invoices for First and Second Quarters FY 2019.

¹⁰ As of May 7, 2019, customers applying for Lifeline service must do so through the National Verifier, which is a national database administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company. Due to this change, the contact information on UDP materials needed to be changed.

¹¹ DOEE Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices at 1.

¹² DOEE Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices at 1-2.

indicates that there was a paper supply order of \$629.91 and translation costs for the UDP flyer of \$198.96.¹³

5. In the Errata, DOEE indicates that the table itemizing the expenses for the CEP that was included in the Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices is incorrect, since this table had a row for web-based advertisements, which are not part of the FY 2019 CEP. DOEE represents that in its Errata, it filed a new CEP Advertising Detail table, which removes the web-based advertising row and lists expenditures of \$3,900 for advertisements on broadcasting station WDCW 50 and \$7,019.76 for advertisements on Comcast Spotlight. DOEE asserts that its total UDP and CEP administrative expenses as well as the individual invoices remain unchanged.¹⁴

6. Pursuant to the process for approving DOEE Invoices outlined in Order No. 17246, the Commission issued a Public Notice seeking comments on the Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices and the Errata.¹⁵ No comments were filed. On August 1, 2019, Solix, Inc., the DC USTF Administrator, filed a Recommendation pursuant to 15 DCMR § 2817.3,¹⁶ recommending payment of the DC USTF charges for the Third Quarter FY 2019 CEP expenses.¹⁷

III. DISCUSSION

7. After reviewing the Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices and the Errata, the Commission finds that they provide sufficient detail for the Commission to track DOEE's UDP expenses. The expenses are within the approved FY 2019 budget for the CEP and UDP administrative expenses. No one has objected to the invoices. Thus, the Commission approves the Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices for CEP and UDP administrative expenses. The DC USTF is directed to pay \$22,820.77; Pepco is directed to pay \$64,553.19; WGL is directed to pay \$39,437.39; and DC Water is directed to pay \$64,533.19 to DOEE within 15 days of the date of this Order.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

8. The District Department of Energy and Environment's Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices as amended by the Errata to the Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices are **APPROVED** as described in this Order; and

¹³ DOEE Third Quarter FY 2019 Invoices at 2.

¹⁴ Errata at 1.

¹⁵ *Formal Case No. 1125*, Public Notice, rel. August 23, 2019.

¹⁶ 15 DCMR § 2817.3 (2011).

¹⁷ *Formal Case No. 1125*, Letter to Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick, Commission Secretary, from Salvatore Cooper, Customer Relations Manager, Solix, Inc. at 1-2, filed August 1, 2019.

9. The District of Columbia Universal Service Trust Fund is **DIRECTED** to pay \$22,820.77; the Potomac Electric Power Company is **DIRECTED** to pay \$64,553.19; Washington Gas Light Company is **DIRECTED** to pay \$39,437.39; and DC Water is **DIRECTED** to pay \$64,533.19 to the District Department of Energy and Environment within 15 days of the date of this Order.

A TRUE COPY:

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CHIEF CLERK:

**BRINDA WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK
COMMISSION SECRETARY**