

Councilman Mark Conway

Baltimore City Council Fourth District

100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 550 • Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (410) 396-4830 • mark.conway@baltimorecity.gov

June 2, 2025 Tamla Olivier President and CEO Baltimore Gas and Electric Company

Dear Ms. Olivier,

I write with deep concern following troubling allegations raised by former BGE employees that include falsified inspection records corroborated by the PSC's redacted report, the significant internal oversight failures they reveal, and the retaliatory practices against whistleblowers these employees allege. The Baltimore City Council must note with alarm what the PSC's engineering staff has described as a "non-trivial violation of inspection integrity and safety protocols, increasing the potential for risks to the gas distribution system and public safety."

While the Public Service Commission does hold regulatory authority over utility rates, the Baltimore City Council, which grants BGE its franchise to operate within our jurisdiction, has a parallel obligation to protect public safety, monitor the local impact of utility operations, and ensure that ratepayer dollars are spent in alignment with the public interest. That includes examining infrastructure risk, reviewing oversight systems, and protecting our constituents.

At a time when Baltimore residents face rising energy costs, eroding confidence in the integrity of systems intended to protect the public, and growing concern about our ability to ensure accountability to ratepayers, the Council has both the duty to seek clear answers from those entrusted with operating our utilities.

I look forward to your response and working together toward greater accountability and a utility system that truly serves the public interest.

When Baltimore residents have been asked to shoulder rising gas and electric delivery costs year after year, they are now left wondering whether the infrastructure beneath their homes,

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^{1 253} Office of Staff Counsel - Engineering Division's Investigation Report Case No. 9645 (ML 317951)

businesses, and schools was ever properly inspected, and whether the utility's internal systems functioned as advertised.

I am sure you share our interest in clarifying the facts and restoring public confidence in the safety of our infrastructure and the prudence of any investments made towards it. To this end, I request your response to the following:

- 1. Will BGE provide the Council with a version of the PSC Engineering Division's report that redacts only individual personnel details, while disclosing all other findings related to safety, oversight, and infrastructure integrity?
- 2. What steps has BGE taken to reinspect pipeline segments associated with the falsified reports? Will the company provide a list of affected locations or projects within Baltimore City?
- 3. Please provide records or summaries of any internal audit findings, including GPS-based discrepancies tied to the inspector in question. What internal controls were in place at the time, and why did they fail to detect the misconduct?
- 4. What criteria did BGE use to determine that only one inspector was at fault? Has an independent review validated that conclusion? Please share the details of any audit of the inspection process and any supporting data.
- 5. Has BGE charged customers for inspection or safety work that is now known to have been falsified or improperly completed? If so, what is the total value of those charges? What refund or disallowance mechanisms are under consideration?
- 6. How is BGE addressing the risk that discriminatory practices or retaliation, such as those alleged by whistleblowers, may have compromised safety oversight? What specific policies or procedures have been implemented to strengthen internal reporting channels, particularly for subcontractors and frontline workers?
- 7. What changes, if any, has BGE made to its capital planning process in light of these failures? How is the company ensuring that future infrastructure investment is tied to verified performance and safety standards?
- How does BGE make a determination as to whether to do maintenance or replacement of a pipe? Please articulate the policy and process the utility uses to make these determinations.

As I'm certain you agree, when ratepayers are being asked to absorb rate increases to support large-scale infrastructure investments, those dollars must translate into verified, tangible public benefits and guarantee basic assurances of safety.

Your response will help inform the Council's next steps as we consider how best to safeguard public safety and restore public confidence.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Mark Conway Chair, Public Safety Committee Baltimore City Council

Sincerely,

Mark S. Conway, Jr.