

# **Buy America – Utility Company Operations Compliance Perspective - Implementation**

**AASHTO Subcommittee on R/W & Utilities  
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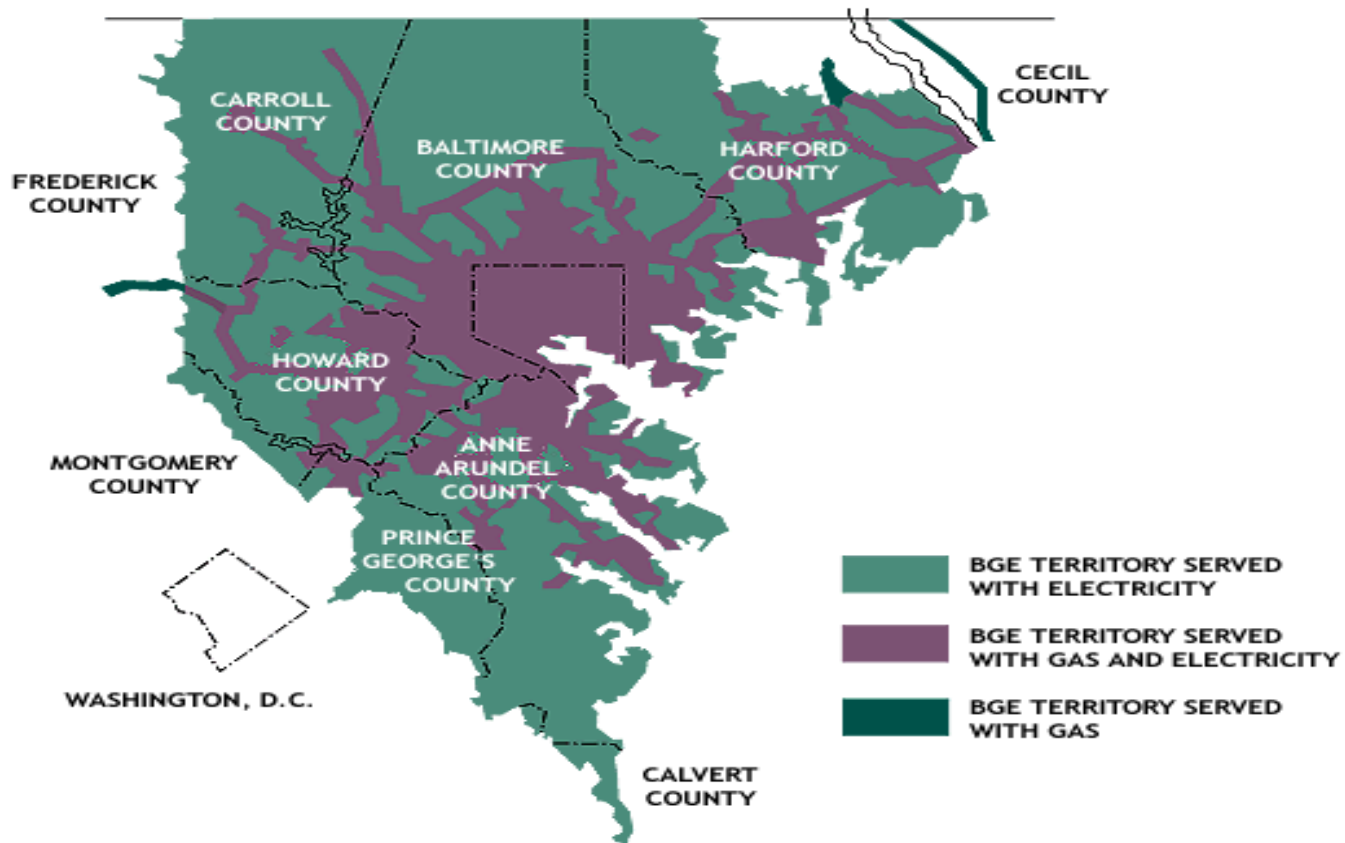


## Buy America – Utility Perspective

- ▶ BGE is an investor owned electric and natural gas public utility serving 2M natural gas and electric customers in central Maryland
- ▶ Coordinates with the Maryland State Highway Administration
- ▶ Member of the American Gas Association
- ▶ Gas operations are under the regulation of the U.S. Department of Transportation – PHMSA and the Maryland Public Service Commission



# BGE – Service Territory in Central Maryland



## Buy America – Gas & Electric Utility Scope

- ▶ Utility work associated with highway projects is now covered by statute
- ▶ Typical impact is relocation of existing facilities (pipelines, electric OH/UG lines)
- ▶ Work is performed by utility company crews, utility company contractors, or within the highway contract by the general contractor
- ▶ Many utilities operate across several states



## Buy America – Implementation

- ▶ Individual project focus
  - ▶ Look at each situation individually – what is affected??
  - ▶ State determines application
  - ▶ Who will be involved – utility coordination
- ▶ Preliminary cost estimates
  - ▶ Basis for evaluation
  - ▶ Submittals to agency
- ▶ Required forms for participation – intent
  - ▶ Preliminary evaluation – early in the process
  - ▶ Aligned as much as possible with existing process



## Buy America – Implementation

- Outreach to educate industry suppliers on the application of Buy America – new information
- Inclusion of supply chain –
  - Original source
  - Manufacturer
  - Distributor
- Education of involved personnel
  - Project managers
  - Designers
  - Purchasing – contract issues
  - Field construction
- Legal review of documents, company commitments



## Buy America – Utility Approach

- Develop typical materials listings – associated with typical (past experience) highway projects
- Highway agency pre-acceptance of manufacturers/suppliers certification (on-file)
- Individual project job requirement certification by exception basis (materials certifications not on file)
- Joint company approach to materials (common – shared listings)



## Buy America – Considerations for AASHTO

- ▶ Industry certifications - database
- ▶ Advance notifications and identification of scope earlier in planning
- ▶ Guidance on cost reimbursement for additional materials acquisition
- ▶ Utility industry waivers – potential for support with FHA
- ▶ Finding issues before they “hit the field”





## Buy America – Utilities Compliance

- ▶ Thank you
  
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- Examples of Industry organizations:
  - AGA
  - INGAA
  - APGA
  - IEEE
  - PHMSA
  - State Public Service Commissions

