

# DORCHESTER CITIZENS FOR SAFE ENERGY

---

Libby Nagel, Chair  
4762 Ravenwood Road  
Vienna, Maryland 21869

410-221-1325  
lnagel1930@hughes.net

May 4, 2009

Mr. John J. Allen  
Vice-President  
Pepco Holdings, Inc.  
701 Ninth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20068

Dear Mr. Allen:

We received your April 24, 2009 letter to Dorchester County Council president Jay Newcomb regarding the MAPP Community Advisory Council.

DCSE has gone on record repeatedly as not being opposed to the MAPP project per se. But before supporting MAPP we want to see proof that:

1. The concern regarding the reliability of electric service is genuine;
2. All reasonable solutions have been identified;
3. Each solution has been thoroughly evaluated in a process allowing full public participation; and
4. The proposed MAPP transmission line is best solution.

It is our hope that the Advisory Council will become a forum through which this proof is provided promptly in a clear, understandable fashion to the public. However, the overall tone of your April 24<sup>th</sup> letter, as well as some of the specifics, give us cause for concern.

To illustrate this concern I will use our request for further detail on the 30 alternatives Pepco considered to the MAPP project. In our February 9<sup>th</sup> letter to Pepco we posed nine questions, the first of which was:

*We remain unconvinced that the 500 kilovolt transmission line must cross the Chesapeake Bay. We understand that more than 30 alternatives were considered for meeting the purpose of MAPP, some of which did not require an impact to the Chesapeake Bay. Please provide a description of these alternatives and why they were rejected in favor of impacting the Bay.*

With respect to our question regarding the 30 alternatives, your April 24<sup>th</sup> letter states:

*Those questions for which we have answers were addressed in a letter we sent to DCSE on February 11, 2009. For example, Ms. Nagel was interested in other alternative transmission lines that were considered by PJM before the MAPP line was selected. Our letter directed her to the report on PJM's Web site that discusses the criteria for selection and the benefits of this decision for the electrical grid.*

Actually, I was not interested in just alternative transmission lines but was hoping the 30 alternatives covered a broader range of options such as increased energy efficiency, new generating facilities, etc. Nevertheless, you cited the following portion of Pepco's February 11<sup>th</sup> letter as directing me to where I could find a description of the 30 alternatives:

*You mention that you were interested in learning more about the alternatives that PJM considered before approving the MAPP line. The best place to get this information is from PJM. Their Web site however, is full of information and can be a little overwhelming. I would suggest going to this link to see how they evaluated options: <http://www.pjm.com/documents/reports/rtep-report.aspx>. They discuss criteria for selection as well as the benefits of their decision for the electrical grid.*

On April 23, 2009 the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) posed essentially the same question to Pepco. DNR's question cited the RTEP report indicating they were familiar with this document yet did not find a clear description of the 30 alternatives to MAPP. If the professionals at DNR did not find that the RTEP report provided sufficient detail for the 30 alternatives, then I'm not certain why Pepco would expect that us lay-citizens would find it responsive to our first of nine questions.

Furthermore, your response to DNR's question directed the reader to a document posted at <http://www.pjm.com/committees-and-groups/committees/teac.aspx> under "Past Meeting Material." Several of us have visited this site but cannot find anything labeled "Past Meeting Material."

The point of this is that if the Advisory Council is to serve the intended purpose then Pepco must remove the obstacles which make it difficult for the public to first gain access to information and then to understand it. Perhaps another example would help.

How about spending the first or second Advisory Committee meeting going through each of the nine questions posed in our February 9<sup>th</sup> letter. With respect to our first question, maps could be used to give the location of each reliability problem MAPP is intended to correct followed by an explanation of why each of the 30 alternatives was less effective in resolving each problem when contrasted with MAPP. Perhaps this presentation could begin with the reliability problems most relevant to the lower Eastern Shore and other areas on the Delmarva peninsula.

Before bringing this letter to a close I'd like to offer an example of how the tone of your April 24<sup>th</sup> letter misses one of the core concerns regarding the MAPP project.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> Dorchester County Councilmember Elzey asked Pepco Vice-President Gausman why Pepco literature says electromagnetic fields do not pose an adverse health effect yet various studies do show a negative effect. For example, the State of Maryland concluded in a study entitled *Status Report on Investigations of Potential Human Health Effects Associated with Power Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)* that:

*Research on ELF fields has been performed for more than two decades, and the methodology and quality of studies have improved over time. Studies have consistently shown increased risk for childhood leukemia associated with ELF magnetic fields, whereas ELF fields most likely are not a risk factor for breast cancer and cardiovascular disease. There are still inadequate data for other outcomes.*

In our February 9<sup>th</sup> letter we asked Mr. Gausman to explain why the State of Maryland believes children are at risk but Pepco does not.

Mr. Gausman's February 11<sup>th</sup> letter included the following statement:

*Finally, and understandably so, you noted that you have concerns about health effects posed by electromagnetic fields. This will be a high-voltage direct current, or DC, line. The advantage of using this technology is the different types of electric and magnetic fields that result. I have attached a fact sheet to this letter that better explains how this works. I am also happy to connect you with a third party expert we have hired to explore this issue further.*

This statement was unresponsive to our question about why Pepco claims there is no health concern yet the State of Maryland believes there is. Furthermore, we are not just concerned about the health effect of the MAPP transmission line. MAPP will bring at least 1,000 additional megawatts of electricity to the lower Eastern Shore. This electricity will be converted from DC back into AC then conveyed along existing and future transmission lines.

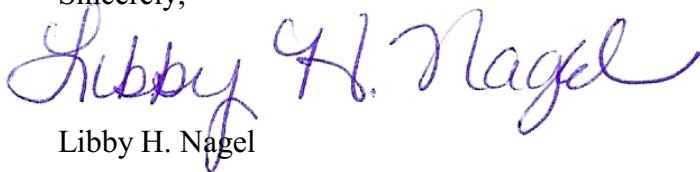
Following is a quote from the State of Maryland study cited above: *Consequently, for a given voltage, the electric field remains relatively constant over time, but the magnetic field increases or decreases depending upon the power that particular electric line is delivering at any given time.* This indicates that as MAPP increases the amount of power carried by existing and future transmission lines the electromagnetic field may increase along with potential adverse health effects.

The point I'm trying to make is this: We are not concerned about the direct effects of the MAPP transmission line but all the potential indirect effects as well. It is our hope that the Advisory Council will be a forum for exploring all potential effects as well as all reasonable alternatives.

Finally, while we appreciate Pepco's offer to connect us with third party experts we have concerns about relying solely upon those hired by Pepco or with other potential conflicts of interest. The Advisory Council must have the freedom to bring in experts in addition to those provided by Pepco.

In closing allow me to reiterate that DCSE is NOT opposed to the MAPP project per se. However, we are deeply troubled by the difficulty citizens and our elected officials have had in gaining answers to our many questions from Pepco. Again, it is our hope that Pepco will utilize the Advisory Council as an opportunity to turn a new leaf.

Sincerely,



Libby H. Nagel

cc: Honorable Jay Newcomb, Dorchester County Council  
 Honorable Effie M. Elzey, Dorchester County Council  
 Honorable William V. Nichols, Dorchester County Council  
 Honorable Rick Price, Dorchester County Council  
 Honorable Ricky Travers, Dorchester County Council  
 Honorable Richard F. Colburn, Maryland Senate  
 Honorable Rudolph C. Cane, Maryland House of Delegates  
 Honorable Adelaide C. Eckardt, Maryland House of Delegates  
 Honorable Jeanne Haddaway, Maryland House of Delegates  
 Honorable Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Senate  
 Honorable Benjamin Cardin, U.S. Senate  
 Honorable Frank Kratochvil, U.S. House of Representatives  
 Honorable John R. Griffin, Secretary - Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
 Honorable Roger L. Richardson, Secretary - Maryland Department of Agriculture  
 Honorable Buddy Hance, Secretary - Maryland Department of Agriculture  
 Honorable Malcolm D. Woolf, Maryland Energy Administration  
 Honorable Douglas R.M. Nazarian, Chairman - Maryland Public Service Commission  
 Honorable Russell Brinsfield, Mayor - Town of Vienna & MAPP CAC appointee  
 Honorable Bobby Herbert, Mayor - Town of Church Creek  
 Honorable Caroline Cline, Mayor - East New Market  
 Ms. Susan Baird, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge & MAPP CAC appointee  
 Mr. Rodney Banks, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
 Mr. Bob Behlke, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
 Mr. Nick Carter, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
 Ms. Kim Coble, Chesapeake Bay Foundation & MAPP CAC appointee  
 Mr. Jeff Crane, President - Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
 Mr. Ralph Dill, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee

Ms. Morgan Ellis, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy & MAPP CAC appointee  
Mr. Danny Ervin, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
Ms. Amanda Fenstermaker, Department of Tourism & MAPP CAC appointee  
Mr. John W.S. Foster, President - Maryland Forests Association  
Mr. Robert Herbert, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
Mr. Mark Hill, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
Mr. Vernon Hurley, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
Mr. Lycurtis Jones, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
Mr. Vincent O. Leggett, African-American Land Trust & MAPP CAC appointee  
Mr. Brinsfield Lowe, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
Mr. Paul Mace, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
Mr. N. Wesley Messick, Dorchester County Soil Conservation District  
Mr. Bill Miles, Association of Forest Industries  
Mr. Pat Mitchell, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
Mr. Allen Nelson, Dorchester Chamber of Commerce & MAPP CAC appointee  
Mr. Martin O'Connor, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
Mr. David O'Leary, Maryland Chapter Sierra Club  
Mr. Ben Parks, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
Mr. Donald Pinder, Harriet Tubman Organization & MAPP CAC appointee  
Mr. Fred Pomeroy, Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth & MAPP CAC appointee  
Dr. Lawrence Sanford, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
Ms. Diana Y. Thompson, Harriett Tubman Underground Railroad Byway  
Chief Sewell Winterhawk Fitzhugh, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee  
Mr. H. Edward Yates, MAPP Community Advisory Council appointee