

DORCHESTER CITIZENS FOR SAFE ENERGY

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February 9, 2009

William H. Gausman
Senior Vice-President
Pepco Holdings, Inc.
701 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20068

Dear Mr. Gausman:

We invested a considerable amount of time and money into informing our neighbors of the meeting held by the Dorchester County Council last Tuesday. We had anticipated that Pepco Holdings, Inc., would address the many questions raised by County residents and the Council in the past. We also anticipated that Pepco would give a serious response to the various alternatives suggested at community meetings and on other occasions. We were deeply disappointed that neither was addressed at the February 3rd meeting. Many of our 800+ supporters who attended the meeting have expressed disappointment as well. It is for this reason that we ask Pepco to postpone further community meetings until you are ready to fully address our questions and alternatives.

Additionally, rather than holding the three community meetings announced on Tuesday, we suggest another large meeting at Cambridge-South Dorchester High School. As you saw from the massive turnout, County residents do not have difficulty attending an evening meeting at this location. Furthermore, we doubt the smaller meeting places would accommodate the large turnout each will likely generate.

Nine questions and alternatives are presented below. We ask that Pepco address all nine in detail at the next large gathering. However, should Pepco decide to proceed with additional community meetings without being prepared to fully address our questions and alternatives, then we will be obligated to alert our supporters that these meetings will likely be as uninformative as that held last Tuesday.

1. 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.

2. We have seen a variety of credible reports showing wide variation in the cost to place a transmission line below ground. Some of these reports show that the cost differential between an above-ground and underground installation may be small for the DC current MAPP would carry on the lower Eastern Shore. Please address these cost differences and the factors affecting cost in detail.
3. In addition to addressing installation cost, please present an assessment of the cumulative, long term cost of a 27-mile above-ground transmission line as compared to an underground line. This assessment should address: installation cost, maintenance cost as well as cost in terms of cropfields taken out of production, forests no longer available to support the commercial lumber industry, loss of tourism revenue, decline in property value, etc. With respect to maintenance please factor in the increases in sea-level and water table elevations predicted to occur over the next century due to climate change. For example, a recent article in the *Choptank Electric Live Wire* describes how a mile-long section of transmission line passed over an area that was dry 30 years ago but is now wetland. Choptank Electric had so much difficulty maintaining this section of line that they opted to bury the 5,200 feet of cable.
4. We believe the cumulative environmental effects of running the line beneath the Nanticoke River will be less than that of an above-ground line slashing across 27-miles of our County. The Nanticoke River option eliminates adverse effects to the County's agriculture, forestry, and tourism industries while protecting people living in a fourth of Dorchester County from viewshed impacts, property value loss, adverse health effects, and other negative consequences. Please present your analysis of the pros and cons of the Nanticoke River alternative.
5. The County Council had previously asked Pepco to describe how the MAPP project would benefit Dorchester County. This question was not addressed last Tuesday which prompted the Council to repeat their request. Please explain how the benefits of the MAPP project will outweigh the many negative effects of a 140-foot tall, above-ground transmission line slashing across 27 miles of Dorchester County.
6. Last Tuesday Councilmember Elzey asked 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.

Please explain why the State of Maryland believes children are at risk but Pepco does not.

7. The project poses some very significant impacts to the Harriet Tubman National Park, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway, and the County's many other cultural resources. Please describe in detail how the various alternatives, including the Nanticoke River alignment, would impact these cultural resources.
8. The MAPP project poses some very substantial threats to minority and low-income populations in Dorchester County. Please describe in detail the environmental justice implications of the various alternatives, including the Nanticoke River alignment.
9. According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources *SmartSiting* program, Dorchester County has an unusually high abundance of sensitive environmental areas. Your proposed transmission line clearly bisects one of the most environmentally sensitive and important areas in the State of Maryland yet Pepco has not indicated how this serious set of issues will be addressed.

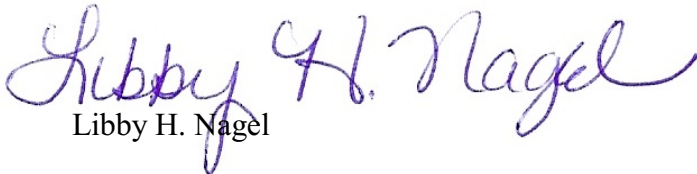
Environmentally sensitive forested wetlands, which are the habitat of many endangered species, make up a significant part of the area to be traversed by the transmission line in eastern Dorchester County.

How do you plan to avoid destruction of habitat of the Delmarva Fox Squirrel in these areas?

How do you plan to avoid clearing forested wetlands in Natural Heritage Areas which are mapped and identified by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources? A good example of this is Natural Heritage Area # 23 which is referred to by DNR as "*one of the best examples of a complex of tidal freshwater wetlands.*"

In closing, I repeat our request that you hold another large meeting at Cambridge-South Dorchester High School once you are fully prepared to address in detail the questions and alternatives posed above. If I do not hear that you are prepared to do this by February 13, 2009 then we will inform our supporters that the three community meetings will likely be as uninformative as that held last Tuesday.

Sincerely,



Libby H. Nagel

cc: Honorable William V. Nichols, Dorchester County Council
Honorable Jay Newcomb, Dorchester County Council

Honorable Ricky Travers, Dorchester County Council
Honorable Rick Price, Dorchester County Council
Honorable Effie M. Elzey, Dorchester County Council
Honorable Martin O'Malley
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 Kratovil, 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 Malcolm D. Wolf, Maryland Energy Administration
Honorable Douglas R.M. Nazarian, Chairman - Maryland Public Service Commission
Honorable Russell Brinsfield, Mayor - Town of Vienna
Honorable Bobby Herbert, Mayor - Town of Church Creek
Honorable Caroline Cline, Mayor - East New Market
Ms. Amanda Fenstermaker, Director - Department of Tourism
Mr. Allen Nelson, Dorchester Chamber of Commerce
Mr. John W.S. Foster, President - Maryland Forests Association
Mr. Bill Miles, Association of Forest Industries
Mr. Jeff Crane, President - Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Mr. William R. Miles, Vice-Chair - Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation
Ms. Kim Coble, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Ms. Meredith Lathbury, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
Mr. N. Wesley Messick, Dorchester County Soil Conservation District
Mr. Vincent O. Leggett, African-American Land Trust
Ms. Diana Y. Thompson, Harriett Tubman Underground Railroad Byway
Mr. Fred Pomeroy, Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth
Mr. David O'Leary, Maryland Chapter Sierra Club
Ms. Susan Baird, Manager - Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge