

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

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February 17, 2009

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

Re: Mid Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) Project

Dear Mr. Gausman:

Thank you for your presentation of the MAPP project at Cambridge-South Dorchester High School on February 3, 2009. You heard loud and clear that evening the questions and concerns on the minds and in the hearts of Dorchester County residents, property owners, businesses, parents, tourism experts, farmers, foresters, preservationists, municipal officials and members of the County Council. The meeting was attended by more than 800 residents and, of all the public comment received, only one individual, a non-Dorchester County resident, indicated support of the project. Correspondence, telephone calls and emails to the Council show an equal lack of support for the project.

As the MAPP project is presently proposed with respect to the approximately 27-mile above-ground stretch through Dorchester County, and without further information about the considered alternatives, the County Council is unanimously opposed and will resist efforts to advance the project. At the same time, we will keep an open mind as we gather more information.

At this time, we do not take issue with the electricity need assessment by PJM with respect to the Delmarva Peninsula; however Dorchester County is a small fraction of the geographic area known as the Delmarva Peninsula and the direct benefits to the residents of Dorchester County from the MAPP project are insignificant, if any. Putting need aside, the obvious adverse environmental and socioeconomic impacts resulting from a project like MAPP, as proposed, far outweigh any perceived benefits to Dorchester County. Additionally, we have concerns about potential interference with our County wide public safety communications system. Historically, the integrity of this system has been jeopardized by such high tension lines, affecting not only our radio systems but paging and siren systems as well.

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In June 2008, we wrote to Mr. Thomas H. Graham, PHI Region President, expressing concerns about the proposed placement of high-voltage transmission lines and urging consideration of underground installation whenever possible in order to diminish the impact on the County's landscape and private property. In December 2008, we articulated to PHI additional concerns on behalf of the Chesapeake Country Heritage Area Management Board and the Soil Conservation District; including: (i) opposition to any path that disturbs or fragments contiguous blocks of cropland and forestland; (ii) avoidance of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and other sensitive areas; and (iii) preservation of the underdeveloped "viewsheds" throughout the County. The presentation on February 3rd failed to adequately address these concerns.

Missing from the information being presented about MAPP is more about PHI's evaluation of alternative systems and transmission line routes either through the County (particularly the underground approach) or underwater along the Nanticoke River, the estimated capital and annual cost of the alternatives (above ground vs. underground or underwater), and the reasons why the underground alternative or the Nanticoke River option are not being seriously considered. Your letter to us dated February 5 suggests that you are considering these options.

The use of high voltage direct current (HVDC) along portions of the proposed pathway is laudable, given the understood advantages of HVDC; including increased reliability, market efficiency and power flow; reduction of electrical and magnetic fields (compared to high voltage alternating current(AC) lines), reduced rights-of-ways and overall project footprint and underground and underwater capabilities. The MAPP project footprint, and thus many of the adverse impacts, would be significantly reduced by an underground system or the Nanticoke River option. Related to these alternatives, we have been made aware of HVDC Light® - a system designed to transmit power underground and underwater and over long distances, with environmental benefits including "invisible" power lines, neutral electromagnetic fields, oil-free cables and compact converter stations. Has PHI considered HVDC Light® as part of an underground or underwater system in the context of MAPP?

While it is often being said that this is a "very complicated multi-year process," some things are really quite simple: this project, as we know it, will hurt Dorchester County more than any jurisdiction, local economy or community along the 230-mile pathway.

We request, as a courtesy, that PHI provide notice to the County when it files any application or information regarding the MAPP project with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Maryland Public Service Commission, the Maryland Power Plant Research Program, or other agency with jurisdiction over the MAPP project – regardless of whether the application or information specifically includes that portion leading to or within Dorchester County.

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We are intrigued by your suggestion of a broad-based advisory group comprised of Dorchester County stakeholders to foster a "more structured dialogue." In the meantime, we look forward to your consideration and response to our comments, concerns and questions.

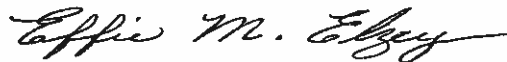
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cc: The Honorable Martin J. O'Malley
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The Honorable Frank M. Kratovil, Jr.
The Honorable Richard F. Colburn
The Honorable Rudolf C. Cane
The Honorable Adelaide C. Eckardt
The Honorable Jeanne Haddaway-Riccio
Douglas R.M. Nazarian, Chairman, PSC
Public Service Commission Board
Secretary John R. Griffin, Department of Natural Resources

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Secretary Roger L. Richardson, Department of Agriculture
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Dorchester County Forestry Board
The Honorable Richard Sullivan, Mayor, Town of Brookview
The Honorable Victoria Jackson-Stanley, Mayor, City of Cambridge
The Honorable Robert L. Herbert, Mayor, Town of Church Creek
The Honorable Caroline S. Cline, Mayor, Town of East New Market
The Honorable Helen A. McAllister, Mayor, Town of Eldorado
The Honorable Deanna Smith, Mayor, Town of Galestown
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