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Phase II of the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway 03-22-2011

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
SCOPING MEETING FOR PHASE II OF THE
MID-ATLANTIC POWER PATHWAY (MAPP) TRANSMISSION

MARCH 22, 2011

Location:

Holiday Inn Express

355 Merrimac Court

Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (BEGAN AT 7:00 P.M.)

3 MR. BOREN: Good evening. On behalf of the
4 Department of Energy, DOE, Loan Programs Office, I
5 would like to welcome all of you tonight. This is the
6 Environmental Scoping Meeting for Phase II of the
7 proposed Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) transmission
8 line project. The project is being proposed by Pepco
9 Holdings, Inc. (PHI).

10 Let the record show that the public scoping
11 meeting began at 7:00 on March 22, 2011.

12 My name is Doug Boren and I am the DOE
13 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document
14 Manager for Phase II of the MAPP project. Greg Netti,
15 sitting beside me, is from Ecology and Environment,
16 which is DOE's third-party contractor assisting with
17 the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement,
18 EIS. Sharon Thomas, also from DOE, is at the sign-in
19 table where you came in. And there is a team from
20 Ecology and Environment here tonight also.

21 We are here tonight because the Department of
22 Energy Loan Programs Office is considering a federal

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1 loan guarantee to PHI for Phase II of the proposed MAPP
2 transmission line project. The loan guarantee program
3 was established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
4 Title 17 of the Act identified discrete categories of
5 projects that are eligible for loan guarantees. These
6 categories include advanced transmission and
7 distribution technologies that constitute new or
8 significantly improved technologies.

9 In order to receive a loan guarantee from the
10 Loan Programs Office, the applicants and projects need
11 to meet certain financial and technical criteria. The
12 financial criteria help us meet our statutory
13 requirement that the federal government have a
14 reasonable assurance of repayments. These are loans
15 guarantees. These are not grants.

16 There are also criteria that ensure that the
17 technology is not only new or significantly improved,
18 but that it is also commercially viable. Phase II of
19 the MAPP project would incorporate new smart grid
20 technology that includes a high-voltage, direct-current
21 system; microprocessor-based relays; digital fault
22 recorders and phasor measurement units. The smart grid

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1 technology to be incorporated into the MAPP project
2 would promote the transmission of energy over the line
3 more efficiently.

4 DOE is the lead federal agency for the NEPA
5 review of the project and lead agency for the
6 preparation of the EIS. We have requested the U.S.
7 Army Corps of Engineers to participate in the
8 preparation of the EIS to satisfy their NEPA
9 responsibilities under Section 404 of the Clean Water
10 Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. We
11 also expect the Environmental Protection Agency to be a
12 cooperating agency.

13 The purpose of tonight's meeting is to
14 provide each of you with an opportunity to give us your
15 environmental comments on Phase II of the proposed MAPP
16 transmission line project. We are here tonight to
17 learn from you. It will help us the most if your
18 comments are as specific as possible regarding the
19 potential environmental impacts and reasonable
20 alternatives of the proposed project. Your comments
21 will be used to help determine what issues we need to
22 cover in the EIS.

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1 If you wish to speak tonight, please be sure
2 to sign the speakers' list at the sign-in table. If you
3 do not wish to speak tonight but would like to make a
4 written comment, you can pick up one of the handouts at
5 the sign-in table and write your comments and submit
6 them this evening or send written comments to us.

7 On March 4, 2011, we issued a Notice of
8 Intent to prepare an EIS for this project. The scoping
9 comment period officially ends on April 4, 2011. We
10 will take comments throughout our review of the
11 project; however, we ask that you provide comments as
12 soon as possible in order to give us time to analyze
13 and research the issues.

14 During our review of the project, we will
15 assemble information from a variety of sources
16 including the applicant; you, the public; other state,
17 local, and federal agencies; and our own independent
18 analysis. We will analyze this information and prepare
19 a draft EIS that will be distributed to the public for
20 comments.

21 If you want a copy of the draft EIS, you can
22 send a written comment to DOE requesting a copy. It is

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1 very important that any comments you send include the
2 DOE/EIS number for the project. The EIS number is in
3 the Notice of Intent, but let me also give it to you
4 now so you can write it down. It's

5 DOE/EIS-0465. One more time: That's
6 DOE/EIS-0465.

7 If you decide to send us a comment letter,
8 please put the EIS number on it. This will ensure that
9 I will get your comments.

10 After the draft EIS is issued, you will have
11 45 days to review and comment on it. We will schedule
12 a public comment meeting similar in format to this one
13 sometime within the 45-day comment period on the draft
14 EIS. At that meeting you can give us your comments on
15 the draft EIS orally. Alternatively, you may provide
16 comments in writing. At the end of the 45-day comment
17 period, we will use your comments and any new
18 information that we've been able to gather to finalize
19 the EIS.

20 After the final EIS is issued, DOE will use
21 the information in the EIS to issue a Record of
22 Decision. The Record of Decision announces and

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1 explains DOE's decision and describes any commitments
2 for mitigation -- for mitigating potential
3 environmental impacts.

4 Before we start taking comments from you this
5 evening, I will give you a brief presentation about the
6 NEPA process, and Mr. Jubic, the applicant, will make a
7 short presentation about the proposed project.

8 A copy of the NEPA process presentation is
9 available on the sign-in table. This is just a quick
10 outline of the presentation, a NEPA overview and some
11 additional information. This is a NEPA overview
12 specific to the EIS process.

13 The first step in the EIS process is the
14 Notice of Intent. The Notice of Intent was published
15 March 4. The Notice of Intent states the need for the
16 action and provides preliminary information on the EIS
17 scope, including the alternative actions to be
18 evaluated and the environmental impacts to be analyzed.
19 Once the NOI goes out, it starts the scoping process,
20 the period in which DOE requests comments from the
21 public on the scope of the EIS; for example,
22 alternatives to be evaluated, environmental impacts to

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1 be analyzed, resource areas to consider, project
2 components, and possible issues. It's important now to
3 identify the issues before we draft the EIS. This
4 scoping process lasts 30 days with at least one public
5 meeting.

6 The next step in the NEPA process for an
7 EIS is the draft EIS. DOE considers scoping comments
8 in preparing a draft EIS. The EIS includes a
9 comparison of various alternatives, including the no-
10 action alternative. The next step, when the draft EIS
11 is completed, we will put the draft EIS out for public
12 comment. Here the public may comment on the draft EIS.
13 The comment period lasts at least 45 days. As
14 previously stated, we will have a meeting similar to
15 this one to take comments on the draft
16 EIS.

17 The next step: The final EIS. DOE considers
18 all timely public comments on the draft EIS and
19 incorporates responses into the final EIS. At that
20 time DOE will identify the preferred alternative.

21 The final step in the NEPA process for an EIS
22 is the Record of Decision. In the Record of Decision,

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1 DOE will announce and explain DOE's decision and
2 describe any commitments for mitigating potential
3 environmental impacts. The time between the final EIS
4 and the Record of Decision is at least 30 days.

5 This is just an overview illustrating
6 the EIS process, highlighting the opportunities for
7 public input. We are at the beginning of this chart
8 now, receiving public input during the scoping period.
9 This is simply a preliminary list of some of the
10 resources we plan to include in the scope of the
11 EIS.

12 Aquatic resources: We will look at water
13 quality impacts, oyster impacts, wetlands, floodplains;
14 DOE will conduct a floodplain assessment in accordance
15 with our regulations; biological resources to include
16 threatened and endangered species and forested areas;
17 coastal zone management; cultural and socioeconomic
18 resources; land use; and cumulative impacts.

19 As previously stated, comments are due April
20 4, 2011. You may submit oral comments or written
21 comments today. You may e-mail comments to MAPP-
22 EIS@hq.doe.gov and mail your written comments to me at

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1 the address listed. Here's just a slide with some
2 additional information. Here's some websites where you
3 can find information on the DOE NEPA process. And
4 that's also my contact information to include my phone
5 number and my e-mail address.

6 Now I'd like for Mr. Jubic to give a brief
7 presentation on the proposed project.

8 Before Bob starts -- there's more seats up
9 front if you guys want to move up instead of standing
10 in the back. There's a whole row up here.

11 MR. JUBIC: Good evening, everyone. Thanks
12 for coming out tonight. My name is Bob Jubic. I'm the
13 project manager for the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway
14 transmission line project. And as Mr. Boren indicated,
15 I'm going to be giving a very brief overview of the
16 project and the project components.

17 The overall project begins at Chalk Point, at
18 a substation in Chalk Point in Prince George's County.
19 It crosses the Patuxent River and goes to a converter
20 station in Calvert County. Actually there's two
21 converter stations in Calvert County. At the converter
22 station, the lines go from alternating current to

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1 direct current, and each converter station in Calvert
2 connects to one converter station on the Eastern Shore.
3 So one converter station has a direct connection to a
4 converter station over in Wicomico County. Another
5 converter station has a direct connection to another
6 converter station over in Sussex County in Delaware.
7 There's no interconnection between those two separate
8 DC systems.

9 So after the converter station in Calvert
10 County, we go across the bay and up the Choptank River
11 into a converter station in Wicomico, and then the
12 other line continues on. It does not connect into the
13 Wicomico converter. It continues on to a separate
14 converter station over in Sussex County.

15 Outside of these converter stations, we re-
16 interconnect into the local alternating current system,
17 into the system that supplies power to the local
18 communities. There's about a six-mile line of AC
19 connection between the last converter station over in
20 Sussex County until we get into the Indian River
21 Substation. There's some distances here.

22 We have some handouts outside the meeting

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1 room if you're interested in gathering that
2 information. This whole slide is out there; you can
3 take it with you.

4 As far as the need for the project, what's
5 driving the need for the transmission line: PJM, which
6 does the regional transmission planning on the grid,
7 identified that there were five different scenarios.
8 It shows the lines that would have failed and what the
9 resulting outages could occur from that line of
10 failure. And in this case, the hatched-in yellow area
11 is the area that indicates where a blackout or a
12 brownout would occur if these lines would fail during a
13 peak period of energy use. MAPP going in it would
14 resolve that potential deficiency on the transmission
15 system.

16 I'm just going to step through each one of
17 the counties of very high level and walk through what
18 the components are.

19 In Calvert County we have 500 kV AC aerial
20 line in an existing right-of-way. What we have to do
21 is take the poles down that are in that right-of-way
22 and replace them with larger poles. No additional

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1 clearing on the right-of-way. We have a converter
2 station site -- and I'll talk a little bit about that
3 more -- but in that converter station site, we'll have
4 a switch yard as well as two converter stations.

5 After the converter station site, we go
6 underground about two miles within the existing
7 Baltimore Gas & Electric right-of-way, and then about
8 three-quarters of a mile down Western Shores Boulevard
9 until we get to the bay and take-off point. This is
10 just a map showing the route.

11 This is Chalk Point Substation starting up in
12 Chalk Point, coming along the existing right-of-way to
13 the converter station site. This is the portion where
14 we'd be replacing existing poles and putting up larger
15 poles to hold two circuits. We go into the proposed
16 converter station location, convert to DC, and come out
17 and go down the right-of-way -- existing BG&E right-of-
18 way, underground, and then turn towards the bay and go
19 down Western Shores underground as well, and then we go
20 into the bay from there.

21 This is the proposed converter station
22 location, and I put a note at the top that we are in

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1 discussions with the county. We have gotten quite a
2 bit of feedback about concerns about this particular
3 location being used as a converter station site, and we
4 are continuing those discussions, and you may hear more
5 about that later tonight as well. But this is the one
6 that you'll see in the permit applications that are
7 going to be submitted and the application that has been
8 submitted to the Public Service Commission.

9 We then cross the Chesapeake Bay and go up
10 the Choptank River. Just gives you an idea. This is
11 with the DC submarine cable. Sixteen miles across
12 Chesapeake Bay and 23 miles up the Choptank River.
13 We'll have two three-foot-wide trenches that are
14 installed in the bay, and they're about 80 feet apart
15 and about six feet deep in terms of burial depth.

16 This may be hard to see with the lights on,
17 but we leave Western Shores, go across Chesapeake Bay,
18 up the Choptank River and we land at Goose Creek at
19 Dorchester County. In Dorchester County, we go about
20 one mile underground until we cross past Route 16 and
21 under a transmission line that runs along Route 16.
22 Once we cross that roadway, we go to what we call the

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1 Choptank River Station where we transition from
2 underground to overhead. And then we go for 12 miles
3 on new right-of-way within Dorchester County across the
4 Nanticoke River into Wicomico County. This is an
5 outline of the route.

6 Here's Goose Creek River Landing. We go
7 underground until we're on the east side of Route 16.
8 This is Route 16 right here (indicating). This is
9 Route 50 (indicating), to get your bearings. This is
10 the Nanticoke River right here (indicating). And then
11 this dashed line is the overhead -- the DC line going
12 through Dorchester County.

13 We then enter Wicomico County, and in
14 Wicomico it's two miles of new right-of-way to get
15 across the Nanticoke River and into the converter
16 station. Again, it's only one converter station in
17 Wicomico. It's about a five- to eight-acre switching
18 station and then a six- to nine-and-a-half-acre
19 converter station. From there, once we go past the DC
20 converter station, the other line continues on and
21 connects into an existing right-of-way for five miles
22 through Wicomico.

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1 And what we're doing there is, again, taking
2 down the existing structures in that right-of-way,
3 putting new structures up, and double-circuiting,
4 putting both the existing 230 kV AC line there that
5 already exists up with the new DC line, attaching with
6 it.

7 Here's a picture of going through Wicomico.
8 Here's the two miles that's new right-of-way to get
9 into the converter station, and then we follow an
10 existing right-of-way to the Delaware state line. This
11 is just an example of the converter station location.
12 Again, this is Route 50. This is where 50 curves, and
13 then it curves again and goes over the Nanticoke River.
14 You could see there's other -- one of the reasons we
15 picked this location, this is an intersection of
16 multiple other transmission lines. So for future
17 connections, we'll be able to make those connections
18 there. And then we leave with the second DC line that
19 connects into the existing right-of-way.

20 And then finally in Sussex County, it's about
21 20 miles of existing right-of-way. It's all cleared.
22 We just have to take the existing structures down and

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1 put larger structures up so we can double-circuit those
2 structures. We go to one converter station. Again, we
3 have an AC switch yard, and then about a nine-and-a-
4 half-acre converter station. And then after we convert
5 back into AC, we have six miles to get to the Indian
6 River Substation. And then we're also tying into
7 another transmission line near that location with a new
8 1-mile piece of right-of-way with another 230 kV line,
9 again, to tie into the local grid. And this is just a
10 picture of going through Sussex County in Delaware.

11 Come up across from Wicomico into Delaware,
12 head up to the converter station, make the conversion,
13 six miles up to the Indian River Substation, and then
14 another connection -- that one-mile connection into
15 this existing transmission line. So we make that
16 interconnect. And then this is the converter station
17 in Sussex County that's showing the interconnection.
18 This is coming up from the Wicomico facility into the
19 converter station location. This is the AC line
20 heading up to Indian River (indicating). This is
21 another AC line connecting into the other transmission
22 line (indicating).

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1 And that's all I have.

2 MR. BOREN: I would like to point out to the
3 audience that there will be PHI representatives here,
4 that there are PHI representatives here as well, and
5 that they will be available after the meeting to answer
6 any questions you may have about the project specifics.

7 We will now begin the important part of the
8 meeting tonight: Receiving your comments. When your
9 name is called, please step up to the microphone and
10 state your name for the record. Your comments will be
11 transcribed by a court reporter to ensure that we get
12 an accurate record of your comments. We will initially
13 limit comments to five minutes to ensure that everyone
14 that would like to speak has the opportunity. If,
15 after all commenters who want to speak have spoken and
16 there is additional time available, we will allow
17 additional time for speakers that were not finished in
18 their initial five-minute window.

19 Now, Greg, if you would please read out the
20 names from the speaker list?

21 What we'll do is we'll call the first name
22 and then he will call the second name just to let the

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1 person know that they're on deck and they're going to
2 go. And then step up to the podium and state your name
3 so the court reporter can get it for the record.

4 MR. NETTI: Our first speaker will be Susan
5 Shaw, and she'll be followed by Doug Legum.

6 MS. SHAW: Good evening. I am Susan Shaw,
7 the President of the Board of Commissioners of Calvert
8 County, and I welcome -- on behalf of all the Calvert
9 County Board of County Commissioners and citizens of
10 Calvert County, we welcome you, the Department of
11 Energy, and the speakers here tonight.

12 I want to thank the Department of Energy for
13 the open and transparent process for reviewing the Mid-
14 Atlantic Power Pathway, or MAPP, project. We certainly
15 welcome public input from all parties and appreciate
16 your efforts to let all opinions be heard.

17 The Department of Energy is here tonight to
18 provide information and to receive public comment
19 regarding its proposed action of issuing a federal loan
20 guarantee to Pepco Holdings, Inc. to support
21 construction of Phase II of the proposed MAPP
22 transmission line project. We understand that the

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1 Department of Energy will use these public comments to
2 define the scope of a required Environmental Impact
3 Statement that will address the project's potential
4 environmental impacts and consider reasonable
5 alternatives.

6 As you are aware, Pepco proposes to develop
7 Phase II of the MAPP project, an approximately 100-mile
8 electric transmission line from the Chalk Point
9 Substation in Prince George's County, Maryland, to the
10 Indian River Substation in Sussex County, Delaware,
11 using a high-voltage transmission line.

12 I am here this evening to present Calvert
13 County's position regarding the MAPP project, with
14 particular focus on the proposed converter station that
15 Pepco currently has plans to locate on the headwaters
16 of the Parkers Creek Watershed near land protected by
17 the American Chestnut Land Trust. This proposed
18 converter station is designated in the Pepco proposal
19 as the Chestnut Converter.

20 The commissioners are generally supportive of
21 energy projects and infrastructure upgrades and
22 improvements. We are no strangers to utility projects,

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1 having just recently cooperated in the completion of a
2 major natural gas pipeline expansion. With this
3 experience comes substantial knowledge on how these
4 projects should balance energy and reliability needs
5 with environmental and other factors essential to
6 maintain vibrant communities.

7 Unfortunately, based on our experience, we
8 oppose the MAPP project as it is currently planned with
9 the Chestnut Converter. We participate here to urge
10 the Department of Energy to ensure that any
11 Environmental Impact Statement very carefully considers
12 the impact of the Chestnut Converter site along with
13 the alternative sites.

14 The Chestnut Converter Station would consist
15 of three substantial structures: Two converter
16 stations and a switching station. These facilities
17 will each occupy 12 to 18 acres and stand up to 65 feet
18 in height. The facilities will be accommodated by
19 other structures that are -- they will be accompanied
20 by other structures that are approximately 125 feet
21 tall. The Chestnut Converter is sited to be located at
22 the headwaters of Parkers Creek, one of the largest and

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1 most environmentally sensitive creeks in Calvert
2 County. Much of the land surrounding Parkers Creek has
3 been preserved from development as part of an effort to
4 maintain the creek and the surrounding area in their
5 natural condition and to protect the creek's water
6 quality.

7 The site is located along a portion of Route
8 2 and 4 that the State of Maryland has designated as
9 the Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway. There is no
10 structure visible along this scenic byway that is
11 anything like the converter station. It would
12 transform a rural landscape into an industrial zone.
13 Maintaining the beauty of that landscape is critical to
14 our local economy, which depends heavily on tourism.

15 The commissioners believe that construction
16 of the Chesapeake Converter Station at the proposed
17 site would create a blight on our landscape. It would
18 violate the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and the
19 Calvert County Zoning Ordinance, have a deleterious
20 effect on the county's natural and cultural heritage
21 and burden our tourism economy. The facility would also
22 have a significant environmental impact on the

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1 headwaters of Parkers Creek that may be impossible to
2 mitigate. These impacts can and, indeed, must be
3 avoided.

4 While it may not be obvious from the
5 application, Pepco had identified another site west of
6 Solomons Island Road near Route 2 and 4 in Prince
7 Frederick where it could place the converter. It is
8 only relatively recently in the life of this project
9 that the converter site was shifted to the Chestnut
10 site. While placement of the converter station at the
11 Prince Frederick site would have some environmental
12 impacts, it would not have the same adverse impacts on
13 aesthetics, local economies, or on the headwaters in
14 Parkers Creek. The proposed Chestnut site
15 unnecessarily complicates the EIS and necessarily
16 requires close examination as compared to the
17 alternative sites.

18 I'm trying to wrap up here.

19 The Board of County Commissioners understands
20 the need for reliable power and improvements to our
21 nation's infrastructure. However, we cannot accept the
22 MAPP project's currently proposed and unnecessary

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1 impacts on our community. Should Pepco not relocate
2 the converter station from the Chestnut site to the
3 alternative property that it owns in Prince Frederick,
4 the county will oppose the entire MAPP project in an
5 appropriate form.

6 The Calvert County Board of Commissioners has
7 filed a petition to intervene in a Maryland Public
8 Service Commission proceeding addressing the MAPP
9 project. However, here our focus is the scope of the
10 Environmental Impact Statement and ensuring that it
11 carefully examines all aspects of the project,
12 including the impact of the placement of the converter
13 station, especially on the headwaters of Parkers Creek.
14 Loss of trees and wetlands can be mitigated, while
15 stream headwater mitigation may be impossible.

16 The EIS should also address the proposed
17 Patuxent River crossing and any effects of the
18 Chesapeake Bay crossing point from Calvert County. We
19 encourage the Department of Energy to closely analyze
20 the environmental, visual, and economic impacts of the
21 proposed Chestnut Converter Station and to weigh
22 heavily the implications of developing this site

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1 instead of the less disruptive alternative site in
2 Prince Frederick.

3 And, again, we thank you very much for this
4 process. And I apologize for the time.

5 Thank you.

6 (APPLAUSE)

7 MR. NETTI: Our next speaker is Doug Legum.
8 He'll be followed by Marie Bundy.

9 MR. LEGUM: My name is Doug Legum. I'm
10 Commissioner of the Maryland Oyster Commission. I'm
11 also a former board member of Friends of the Arts, and
12 I've been involved in issues with the bay and
13 specifically with the oysters.

14 The bay is arguably the largest asset of the
15 people of the State of Maryland. It's been estimated
16 as a \$120 billion asset for its production and for its
17 ability to draw tourism. And at the bottom sit the
18 oysters, filtering the water for everybody. Former
19 Governor Ehrlich felt that the oysters were unsavable.
20 Under this administration we've been able to work
21 together to bring the oysters back. The oyster
22 population is actually increasing over the past couple

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1 of years.

2 This project may have a value. I understand
3 that it's based on projections for 2015, which may or
4 may not come true. But they are disturbing an existing
5 15-acre -- 15 acres of producing oyster beds, and
6 they're putting a line up the Choptank River, which the
7 Corps of Engineers has identified as a potential oyster
8 restoration site, which they would possibly spend a
9 couple million dollars on.

10 The guys from the MAPP project seem like nice
11 guys, but the line is made by human beings, and no
12 matter what they represent, it's eventually going to
13 break. When it breaks, you're going to have to dig up
14 the Choptank River, you're going to have to dig up the
15 Chesapeake Bay and repair it.

16 As far as mitigation, the oysters are --
17 they're not listed as an endangered species, but
18 they're effectively -- the virginicas oyster is
19 effectively endangered, which is why Former Governor
20 Ehrlich wanted to give up on them and just bring in an
21 Asian oyster species.

22 Again, through a lot of hard work and money,

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1 we've been able to get the oyster population coming
2 back a little bit. I was part of a public private
3 partnership that brought in oyster shell from Louisiana
4 to rebuild oyster beds.

5 There really isn't any significant oyster
6 shell in the State of Maryland to rebuild oyster beds.
7 And if you destroy the oyster bed, there's no
8 guarantee, even if you use best practices, that you're
9 going to come up with something where you have living
10 oysters.

11 And the oysters are only a part of it. You
12 have other shellfish. You have other marine life which
13 are going to be destroyed by the cable.

14 No one's really addressing any possible
15 electromagnetic effect on the bay, which hasn't been
16 studied. But I'm going to confine what I'm saying to
17 what I know for a fact. You're going to have to dig up
18 oyster beds, which are going to be almost impossible to
19 replace. If you want to try to replace them, you're
20 going to have to go buy shell and --

21 Unfortunately, years ago people thought they
22 were being ecologically prudent by using shell for

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1 roadbed, by using it for chicken feed, and it's largely
2 gone. So I don't think that the environmental impact
3 would allow you to build this project as it's currently
4 configured.

5 There's another configuration which was
6 studied which was going up the route -- up 95 and
7 around the bay. Perhaps that would work, but the bay
8 crossing isn't a viable alternative. And in addition,
9 you haven't really shown a public need. You're based on
10 somebody's estimate of what they might need in 2015 if
11 you have certain growth.

12 So that's what I have to say. Thank you very
13 much.

14 I'd like to see the government study
15 electromagnetic effects as well as the obvious effects
16 of digging up beds.

17 Thank you.

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 MR. NETTI: Marie Bundy. She'll be followed
20 by Karen Edgecombe.

21 MS. BUNDY: I just wanted to thank you for
22 providing this opportunity for comment, and I wanted to

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1 tell you a little bit about why I'm here.

2 I'm a card-carrying ecologist, but I live
3 here. I live in Calvert County. I live close to the
4 headwaters of Parkers Creek. I've been involved for
5 many years in supporting the protection of land that
6 provides resources and ecological services for the
7 community. That being said, I echo and strongly
8 support the comments of the Calvert County Board of
9 Commissioners.

10 There's been a long and thoughtful process
11 with planning and zoning. We've established areas in
12 our county that provide economic, recreational, and
13 environmental services. And to place this converter
14 station in its current planned location is, to me, a
15 huge miscalculation of benefits. And unless these
16 alternative sites are closely examined for exactly what
17 they can provide as an alternative, I think you'd be
18 doing a tremendous disservice to the county itself.

19 So I just want to run through a couple of
20 things that I think are very important to consider when
21 you're looking at alternative sites. I'm not trying to
22 argue for or against the benefit of the project in

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1 general. I think there are other people in the room
2 who can talk about the bay crossing, who can talk about
3 other aspects of it. But this converter station placed
4 where it is, I urge you, in comparison with alternative
5 sites, to strongly consider the impacts of lighting,
6 both nighttime lighting on migratory birds and on
7 communities.

8 What is the impact of a plant this size on
9 the socioeconomic side of things? We've mentioned the
10 1812 Pathway there, the viewshed. There are long-term
11 impacts that I think have to be considered as well as
12 short-term, and there are close-by impacts as well as
13 impacts that are removed from the site itself.

14 This is a very complex habitat. I use the
15 word "habitat" to mean the complexity of the organisms,
16 the plants, the landscape that are in this site.
17 Certainly there'll be environmental impacts at other
18 sites, but please do a strong comparison between the
19 complexity of this site and the complexity of any
20 alternatives.

21 I also urge you to consider that mitigation
22 and restoration is never returning things back to the

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1 way they were. It's costly and the success rate of
2 restoration projects, both in the literature and
3 anecdotally -- if anybody here's done mitigation in the
4 county -- it's very, very difficult to replace pound-
5 for-pound what you lose in something like this.

6 So I'd like to see a very thoughtful and
7 quantifiable assessment of the cost, both ecological
8 and financial, for doing any kind of mitigation or
9 restoration compared to that of an alternative site.
10 And I'll leave this up to the rest of the crowd here to
11 add their comment, but again, I strongly echo what Ms.
12 Shaw has said for the County Commissioners.

13 Thank you.

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 MR. NETTI: Karen Edgecombe will be our next
16 speaker, followed by Gary Sydnor, Jr.

17 MS. EDGECOMBE: Good evening. My name is
18 Karen Edgecombe. I'm the Executive Director of the
19 American Chestnut Land Trust, and I thank you for this
20 opportunity to comment on the scope of your
21 Environmental Impact Statement.

22 The American Chestnut Land Trust, otherwise

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1 referred to locally as the ACLT, is a not-for-profit
2 corporation organized to promote the preservation and
3 improvement of the natural and cultural resources of
4 the Parkers Creek and the Governors Run watersheds in
5 Calvert County, Maryland, for the benefit of the
6 public. ACLT owns several parcels of protected land
7 through which or adjoining which Pepco plans to
8 construct the MAPP transmission line project. The
9 primary concern of the ACLT at this time is the
10 location selected by Pepco for the AC-to-DC converter
11 station that they are calling the Chestnut Converter
12 Station in Port Republic, Maryland.

13 We request that DOE conduct a thorough
14 analysis of alternative locations for the AC-to-DC
15 converter station and that you consider and compare
16 impacts on this location with the other alternatives
17 that you consider. And we would refer to several of
18 the issues that I think need to be addressed in that
19 comparison.

20 First, water resources. The property
21 selected by Pepco for the converter station sits at the
22 headwaters of Parkers Creek, one of the most pristine,

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1 undeveloped watersheds on Maryland's western shore of
2 the Chesapeake Bay. ACLT and its partners, the Nature
3 Conservancy, the Maryland Department of Natural
4 Resources, and numerous private individuals have
5 invested 25 years and many millions of dollars of both
6 private and public resources to protect Parkers Creek,
7 resulting in over 4,000 acres within the Parkers Creek
8 and adjoining Governors Run watersheds that are
9 permanently preserved. This investment in Parkers
10 Creek represents a significant contribution to the
11 national effort to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. The
12 magnitude of the size of the proposed converter
13 station, substation, and any other associated
14 structures make it impossible for Pepco to avoid stream
15 impacts at the location that they have selected.

16 In my comments, I have attached a map
17 prepared by ACLT using our GIS system and data provided
18 by Calvert County. It is a close-up of the proposed
19 Chestnut Converter site showing the headwaters of the
20 longest tributary of Parkers Creek that will be
21 unavoidably impacted by the converter station.
22 Attachment B to my comments prepared by Pepco is a

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1 closeup of the Chestnut Converter site layout. A
2 comparison of these two images clearly shows that the
3 Chestnut Converter will have a direct and unavoidable
4 impact on the environmentally sensitive headwaters of
5 this regionally significant watershed.

6 Secondly, I'd like to speak to the issue of
7 ecological resources. The Maryland Department of
8 Natural Resources has identified a portion of this site
9 as a Targeted Ecological Area within Maryland DNR's
10 GreenPrint Program. Targeted Ecological Areas are
11 described by DNR as "Lands and watersheds of high
12 ecological value that have been identified as
13 conservation priorities. These represent the most
14 ecologically valuable areas in the State -- they are
15 the 'best of the best.'" The Parkers Creek Watershed is
16 also a designated GreenPrint hub because of the large
17 contiguous forested areas that have been protected
18 there.

19 Thirdly, I'd like to address cultural
20 resources and visual resources and aesthetics. Pepco
21 has downplayed the presence of cultural resources at
22 its proposed Chestnut Converter Station site; however,

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1 Port Republic, together with its surrounding area, is
2 still largely composed of late-19th and early-20th
3 century buildings situated within a traditional
4 landscape of forests and fields. Pepco admitted in its
5 presentation to the Board of County Commissioners in
6 November of 2010 that the converter station would be
7 visible from Routes 2 and 4. The visual impact of the
8 massive size of these proposed structures and the
9 associated fencing and lighting will mar the rural
10 charm of Port Republic, which includes Old Christ
11 Church, the One-Room Schoolhouse, the historic Dorsey
12 Gray farmhouse and other notable buildings that
13 contribute to the rural character of Calvert County.

14 Finally, I'd like to raise one more topic and
15 that is land use. The construction of large-scale
16 industrial buildings in the location proposed by Pepco
17 severely conflicts with the Calvert County
18 Comprehensive Plan and the Calvert County Zoning
19 Ordinance and set a very dangerous precedent. The
20 Comprehensive Plan designates this site as a Priority
21 Preservation Area. The site is zoned Farm and Forest
22 District. The purpose of this zoning, according to the

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1 Comprehensive Plan, is to preserve the rural character
2 of the county, its prime farmland, its contiguous
3 forests, its historic resources, and its
4 environmentally sensitive areas. Only minor structures
5 accessory to transmission lines are permitted by the
6 Zoning Ordinance in the Farm and Forest District.
7 Rezoning or disregarding the local zoning to
8 accommodate a facility of this size and scope blatantly
9 ignores the local land-use designation.

10 In conclusion, construction of the AC-to-DC
11 converter station at the Port Republic site proposed by
12 Pepco would irreversibly alter the rural nature of
13 Calvert County, changing the landscape forever. It
14 would have direct and indirect impacts on the Parkers
15 Creek Watershed, causing irreparable harm to its water
16 resources, its wetlands, its ecological resources, and
17 its cultural resources.

18 The American Chestnut Land Trust, it's almost
19 700-member households and private landowners who have
20 voluntarily preserved their land in order to protect
21 this sensitive and ecologically valuable resource urge
22 DOE to consider alternative sites thoroughly in the

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1 Environmental Impact Statement.

2 Thank you very much for your consideration.

3 (APPLAUSE)

4 MR. NETTI: Gary Sydnor, Jr. He'll be
5 followed by Caroline Ebel.

6 MR. SYDNOR: Good afternoon. I'm a small
7 business owner in Calvert County. I've lived in
8 Calvert County almost all my life. I have sat in a
9 meeting with these gentlemen about two months ago and
10 learned of this thing and I've done a little homework.
11 Probably not as good as some of these other people. But
12 I employ -- almost 85 percent of my guys are Southern
13 Maryland-based. These gentlemen want to do it per
14 county; they want to use county residents in Southern
15 Maryland.

16 If you read through their information,
17 they've done so much research that is unreal. I'm 38
18 years old, but this stuff that they've come up with, if
19 you sit down and actually physically read everything
20 that they're going to do and they want to do, it's
21 phenomenal. They've been doing this for years of
22 studying of going across the Chesapeake Bay. They've

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1 gone to Maryland University and had them even look at
2 what they were doing. In the short time that I sat
3 down and talked to these guys -- and they did their
4 presentation to a small group of businessmen to get
5 their input on things, and it was phenomenal. And it
6 just --

7 I see the pros and cons that everybody is
8 coming out with and I understand it completely. I have
9 never seen the second site. I do not know where that
10 is. But I have been -- from the time I was 12, I've
11 worked on farms in this county. And if some of the
12 stuff that happened then still happened, we'd probably
13 have better watersheds than we ever did, because we
14 didn't stop it then. I understand that. But we also
15 got to look at growth.

16 Everybody right now is paying in the pocket
17 from what's happening overseas. They're trying to go
18 green. We're trying to use Mother Nature for what
19 she's going to give us, and this is one way of reducing
20 it. It's something that this group in here might stop
21 for a while, might not stop at all. It's something
22 that's going to happen, because it's got to happen.

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1 Fuel, oil, electricity is going by the
2 wayside, so we've got to use what the good Lord gave
3 us, and that's the air. And they're going to be
4 putting these windmills up and down West Virginia -- I
5 own a farm in West Virginia -- and the whole
6 mountainsides, all across in Hardy County, Grand County
7 is full of these windmills, because that's what they've
8 gone to now to produce electricity to help everybody
9 keep their rates down. And you know

10 --

11 And, yes, ma'am, you know exactly what I'm
12 talking about. It's expensive.

13 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's not going to keep
14 the rates down.

15 MR. SYDNOR: It's going to help to a point.
16 You've got to go with the times, and we're running out
17 of fuel, coal, oil.

18 You know, the Middle East -- we're not --
19 it's going to be coming to the point that -- I'm 38 and
20 I know some of you ladies and gentlemen are retired,
21 and your grandchildren and everybody, we're going to be
22 paying for it at the end.

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1 Where are the ones trying to help find other
2 alternatives to let our kids go through? And that's
3 what I see these gentlemen are doing, and I think it's
4 a good thing of what they're trying to do. They're
5 trying to keep up -- and they said that over in Europe
6 there's another project just like this trying to get
7 off in the running, and they've almost done it.
8 They're in the process of ordering their materials-type
9 stuff. But the cable that they're putting underneath
10 is phenomenal.

11 I'm a union electrician. I have operating
12 engineers. I'm all -- 100 percent union company. I'm a
13 small guy. Like I said, I'm only 38. So I'm doing
14 everything I can in the world to not have to go to
15 Fredericksburg, Virginia or Frederick, Maryland to go
16 to work.

17 But, you know, it's nice to see something in
18 your backyard that you can look at and have a chance
19 that it's something -- one, to help out in this economy
20 that we have right now; two, for our future; three, for
21 what we're trying to do.

22 I mean, it will put a lot of people in

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1 Southern Maryland to work, grandkids, sons, daughters,
2 whatever you have that are laid off, been laid off for
3 a year, losing their house. There's a lot of people
4 out here, ladies and gentlemen, that are doing that
5 right now.

6 But that's -- I'm sorry, that's all I have.
7 Thank you very much.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 MR. NETTI: Our next speaker is Caroline
10 Ebel, and Richard Klein is on deck.

11 MS. EBEL: My name is Caroline Ebel and I'm a
12 resident of Southern Maryland, about 10 miles south of
13 here. I've lived here for 11 years.

14 I first became acquainted with the expansive
15 lands preserved by the ACLT through its hiking trails.
16 I had come from the Smoky Mountains, where I've lived
17 for 10 years. They have 900 miles of trails there that
18 one dare not touch with even a power saw.

19 Here in the Parkers Creek Watershed, when I
20 arrived, I found the open bay, the creeks, the marshes,
21 the wetlands and woods, all still in a natural state.
22 I couldn't believe it, right along the coast. I found

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1 a watershed that is 76 percent forested, primarily
2 second-growth hardwood forest. I found the Calvert
3 Cliffs ranging from 11 million years old to 16 million
4 years old. Those same cliffs remarked upon by Captain
5 John Smith in his voyages of 1607 to 1609.

6 I live about 10 miles south of the proposed
7 facility, and I have to come up Route 2/4. I can't
8 believe I might have to drive right next to a 65-foot
9 facility -- in fact, two buildings -- to get to this
10 highly sensitive land preserved through great effort
11 and at considerable expense by the American Chestnut
12 Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Calvert County
13 Commissioners, and the State of Maryland, to say
14 nothing of the private owners who have granted
15 easements to preserve another thousand acres.

16 So if you intrude on this almost sacred
17 environment, how many private citizens do you think
18 would be willing to continue giving money and land in
19 the future? You would be constructing the Chestnut
20 Converter on land adjacent to the existing right-of-way
21 on a parcel of land approximately 120 preserved acres
22 in size.

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1 My suggestion: Change the site to what you
2 originally proposed, move the 30-acre-or-plus converter
3 station to the 2,000-acre Calvert Cliffs nuclear
4 facility, well out of range of public view and very
5 secure, and there certainly is plenty of land. Please
6 consider it.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 MR. NETTI: Richard Klein. He'll be followed
9 by Kenneth Spring.

10 MR. KLEIN: Good evening. My name is Richard
11 Klein. I'm president of Community & Environmental
12 Defense Services.

13 My company was hired by Calvert Citizens for
14 Safe Energy to resolve their concerns about the MAPP
15 project. Neither Calvert Citizens nor I are opposed to
16 the MAPP project, per se. Frankly, I've been
17 investigating the MAPP project for two and a half
18 years, and I'm still trying to figure out whether or
19 not the project is truly needed. So until I figure
20 that out, I can't take a position one way or the
21 another.

22 I can tell you that both me and Calvert

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1 Citizens are deeply concerned about the proposed
2 Chestnut Converter and the 20 miles of transmission
3 line within Calvert County as well. To put the
4 converter station in perspective, the proposed
5 converter station would be anywhere from 10 to 25 times
6 bigger than a Walmart building; 10 times bigger than a
7 Supercenter, or 20 times bigger than the Prince
8 Frederick Smallmart. And it's also going to be 70 feet
9 high. A typical Walmart is about 40 feet high. And as
10 Commissioner Shaw said, some of the structures
11 associated with the facility would be 125 feet high.

12 Other people have spoken about why the
13 Chestnut Converter is at an inappropriate location, why
14 Parkers Creek is an inappropriate watershed for such a
15 facility. I'm not going to repeat what they said.

16 What I am concerned about, in addition to the
17 converter station, is the transmission line corridor as
18 well. At first glance one would assume they're using
19 an existing transmission line corridor, putting up new
20 structures in the corridor; what could the impact be?
21 Well, I just completed an evaluation of the first 52
22 miles of the MAPP project in Charles and Prince Georges

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1 County where they're just adding a new circuit to
2 existing towers in Charles and Prince Georges. That
3 project would result in 118 acres of permanent impacts
4 to wetlands from one project.

5 To put that in perspective, since 1991, the
6 largest single wetland impact from any single project
7 was 34 acres. So this one MAPP project in Charles and
8 Prince Georges would be three-and-a-half times larger
9 in terms of wetland impact than any other project for
10 the last 20 years. It would be 25 percent of all the
11 wetlands loss that occurred in 1990s. In addition, for
12 every mile of the project in that first 52 miles, six
13 acres of forest was lost.

14 So in Calvert County, there's even going to
15 be more work within the existing corridors, so the
16 potential is there for a lot more wetlands impact and
17 forest loss than anyone might have considered.

18 In my report -- which I'll give you a copy of
19 when I'm finished -- I identified a number of specific
20 impacts that should be addressed in the

21 Environmental Impact Statement: Visual
22 impacts, which you've heard about already; conflicts

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1 with the Calvert County zoning regulations, which
2 clearly prohibit the Chestnut Converter Station. The
3 fact that once the converter station is there, it could
4 be served as a basis for rezoning, and the Calvert
5 County Commissioners may not have any choice but to
6 upzone adjoining properties for industrial or
7 commercial uses, further exacerbating the impact.

8 Stormwater pollution: The facility would
9 generate 19 million gallons a year of polluted runoff.
10 No one knows what the composition is of runoff from a
11 converter station, much less a substation. Also,
12 there's a good chance that it would be designated a
13 stormwater hotspot by the State of Maryland, which
14 would eliminate the use of the most effective practices
15 for protecting Parkers Creek.

16 I mentioned forest loss as well as wetland
17 impacts. There would also be a significant wildlife
18 habitat impact. There's a good chance that the unnamed
19 tributary that drains the site would no longer -- cease
20 to function as a living resource.

21 Additionally, there are a couple of pretty
22 significant human health effects as well. You hear

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1 about electromagnetic Fields, EMF, and a lot of people
2 say, "Oh, that's poppycock. No science to it." Well,
3 in 2006 the State of Maryland, the Power Plant Research
4 Program concluded that there was sufficient scientific
5 evidence to raise a legitimate concern about the health
6 effects of electromagnetic fields. There's not proof
7 positive that if you live near a transmission line that
8 you're going to get sick; however, there is a
9 substantial amount of evidence out there indicating
10 that childhood leukemia rates could be eight times
11 higher within 1,000 feet of a transmission line. One
12 of the things that MAPP will do is to increase EMF from
13 the existing transmission line corridor. That's
14 something that I think you should address in the EIS as
15 well.

16 Additionally, this project could increase
17 production at coal-fired power plants in the Ohio
18 Valley. There was analysis done of the PATH project in
19 Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia where they found
20 that one single transmission line, similar to MAPP,
21 would increase air pollution emissions from the 13-
22 state PJM region by two to five percent. A two- to

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1 five-percent increase from a 13-state area; that's a
2 pretty dramatic increase. So that should be addressed
3 as well.

4 The northern route was mentioned. That is a
5 viable alternative, taking back around the head of the
6 bay, if turns out that there is a legitimate need for
7 the project.

8 In addition, I think you ought to consider
9 having only one AC-DC circuit instead of two of them.
10 That would cut the converter station impact in half. In
11 addition, there are other alternative sites that ought
12 to be considered. The Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power
13 Plant site should be closely examined in the EIS.
14 There is an employment center located along MAPP
15 corridor just to the west of Prince Frederick. There's
16 a lot of vacant space in that employment center. It's
17 conceivable that there might be a location there to
18 install the converter station. In addition, I think
19 you ought to consider Chalk Point, the Burches Hill
20 Substation. There's a lot of vacant mining land in the
21 vicinity of Burches Hill where such a facility might be
22 put. And finally the Possum Point Plant in Virginia.

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1 Thank you.

2 (APPLAUSE)

3 MR. NETTI: The next speaker is Kenneth
4 Spring. He'll be followed by Ella Ennis.

5 MR. SPRING: I'm Kenneth Spring. I'm the
6 secretary of the Southern Calvert Land Trust, and we're
7 a small land trust here in Calvert County that has
8 worked together with the American Chestnut Land Trust.
9 We own a large number of properties in the county. As
10 a matter of fact, we own more properties in the State
11 of Maryland than any other land trust. None of the
12 transmission lines or stations are going through our
13 properties, but they are going close to them, and we
14 share the American Chestnut Land Trust's concerns about
15 the effects of these.

16 We also would like to see the project in
17 Calvert County. We'd like to see the jobs. We'd like
18 to see the tax revenue. So we'd like to see a better
19 location for the converter station. And we've said in
20 print that we think it makes sense to consolidate our
21 energy sources in the same place.

22 Put it in the Calvert Cliffs area so that we

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1 have all of our facilities in one concentrated area.
2 And that's our concern. Otherwise, we're very much in
3 favor of the upgrading of the transmission lines if
4 they are really necessary, and we'd like to see the
5 jobs stay here in the county.

6 Thank you.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 MR. NETTI: The next speaker is Ella Ennis.
9 She'll be followed by Paul Dennett.

10 MS. ENNIS: Good evening. Thank you for the
11 opportunity to be here this evening. I am Ella Ennis
12 and I live at 2440 Vern Road in Port Republic in
13 Western Shores Subdivision.

14 I certainly agree with the comments that
15 people have said about the converter station: That a
16 65-foot tall, 15-acre, two buildings in rural Port
17 Republic would change the character of our community
18 and our county forever and would certainly harm the
19 rural nature of the community. But I want to address
20 my comments tonight to the impact on the Western Shores
21 Estate subdivision. It is a small subdivision in a
22 rural community of single-family homes, and it is where

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1 I live.

2 This project is scheduled to come down
3 Western Shores Boulevard, to tear up the road -- you
4 know, it has to be excavated -- 20 feet wide and six
5 feet deep for a mile. And I think that it would cause
6 a number of environmental concerns, including runoff.
7 Would it affect the ground waters, the wells, the
8 community water system? And then it would come past a
9 number of houses, within 30 feet of some of these
10 houses, and I wonder what the impact of either the
11 electromagnetic or other signals that would be given
12 off by this direct -- high-voltage direct current line
13 might have on cable television, on Internet services.
14 Comcast cables go down that same right-of-way.

15 And then I would also be concerned about --
16 in your EIS statement, it says what issues you're
17 concerned about -- about geological impacts that this
18 project might have.

19 Now, when it gets to the property or the site
20 that has been discussed by Pepco for the crossing of
21 the Chesapeake Bay, that is directly adjacent to my
22 property, to my home and to -- on one side and on the

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1 community's beach where all the children and all the
2 families come. And we feel -- I feel that this would
3 have an impact on our community. This lot is a flat
4 lot. And as I understand this project, there would be
5 four lines that would come down the road in two, and
6 then it would be separated into four lines. They have
7 to be at least 33 feet across. I'm not sure that the
8 flat section of that property would accommodate four
9 lines that far apart. Maybe it would. I haven't
10 measured it. But it starts -- on the edge of that
11 property, it starts up the cliffs. The Calvert Cliffs
12 rise on both sides of this location of the crossing and
13 then our community beach. So it's flat there and then
14 it goes up. The property has a revetment that only
15 covers the front edge of that particular property. And
16 what is happening is that as we have some of these
17 severe storms, the waves are coming in behind that
18 revetment. So it seems to me that a concern has to be
19 that in the future, if it was allowed to stay the way
20 it is, that it could cut into the land where you're
21 going to bury these cables and could easily go down six
22 feet.

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1 So I think that what I -- I think in
2 fairness to our community, if Pepco is going to be a
3 landowner in our community, that we need to have
4 protection for our cliffs and for our bayfront access
5 to the water; that as a part of this, if this project
6 is to go forward, that there needs to be fast tracking
7 of approvals for a revetment that would run from the
8 north end of our subdivision to the south end and would
9 include the community beach and this property so that
10 properties wouldn't get unevenness of impact of the
11 waves coming in the side and eroding our property. And
12 I would be glad to submit photographs if you need
13 those, but I think this is a major concern to our
14 community.

15 Another concern with regard to the geological
16 and other impacts is that -- because this is a hilly
17 community, and where this is going to come down -- the
18 cable lines will come down Western Shores Boulevard,
19 and when Western Shores Boulevard gets to the flat
20 part, there's another street, Miles Way, that comes in.
21 And all of that converges right in front of this
22 property and the community's beach property, and there

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1 is not sufficient storm drainage even now. I don't
2 know what would happen when you dig it all up and you
3 put in these channels and try to put it back together
4 again. But some attention needs to be given to the
5 curvature of the road and the need for storm drainage,
6 because it pools and even floods into the community's
7 beach lot. And the roads, the beach, all of these are
8 issues that EPA in its concern for the Chesapeake Bay
9 said that the State of Maryland and other states have
10 to reduce the particle swill runoff into the bay. And
11 this is a major opportunity by putting in a stone
12 revetment along that cliff and correcting this roadway
13 into the community's beach that would reduce soil
14 erosion running into the bay.

15 I've submitted some written comments about
16 other issues. When we get to the socioeconomic issues
17 of this project -- and we all recognize we need to have
18 electric power. But the federal government is going to
19 guarantee this loan. So there is some cost to the
20 federal taxpayers for this loan guarantee.

21 Then we get to the state level where the
22 state legislature is currently considering a surtax

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1 that would be placed on every single utility user in
2 the state, or except for major industrial ones, and we
3 would have to pay this fee for 25 years to help pay for
4 this crossing of the Chesapeake Bay by this MAPP
5 project.

6 Then there is another point in which they're
7 going to negotiate a contract that will be set for 25
8 years that will set the rate of the cost of buying this
9 wind power that will eventually be out there in the
10 Atlantic Ocean off of Maryland and Delaware all the way
11 up to me.

12 So the taxpayers are going to have a large
13 economic burden, because the rate that they are
14 planning to have these contracts at is -- my
15 understanding is something like three times the current
16 rate of electricity. So we're talking about major
17 costs for the impact for the citizens of Maryland, not
18 just Calvert County. So I hope that you will take all
19 these issues into consideration when you make your EIS.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 (APPLAUSE)

22 MR. NETTI: The next speaker is Paul Dennett.

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1 He'll be followed by that Vance Ayres.

2 MR. DENNETT: Hi. Thank you. I'm Paul
3 Dennett and I'm a resident and property owner on 2125
4 Bluebell Road in Scientists Cliffs in Port Republic,
5 where my wife and I have owned that property since
6 1988.

7 I'm not here as a scientist or an
8 environmental expert. I'm certainly not here opposed
9 to the MAPP project if, in fact, it's needed. And I'm
10 not opposed to Pepco or certainly opposed to the future
11 of needing an upgraded power grid. I'm certainly not
12 opposed to the idea of bringing more jobs and dollars
13 to Calvert County. But I'm a former member and an
14 active member still -- a former board member of the
15 ACLT and still very active in that organization and a
16 member of the newly formed group called Calvert
17 Citizens for Safe Energy, which was formed largely to
18 try to amplify, in a grass-roots kind of way, the
19 concerns about the particular location of the converter
20 station, the facilities that you've already heard
21 described in the Parkers Creek Watershed.

22 And in particular I think the concern is, as

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1 you've already heard, that the combined efforts of
2 ACLT, of the county, and its elected officials of the
3 State of Maryland, of The Nature Conservancy, and
4 numerous private citizens and landowners have
5 successfully, over more than two decades now, worked
6 collectively to protect and preserve this gem of the
7 Parkers Creek Watershed. And I fully agree with the
8 position that's been taken by our county commissioners
9 and the leadership of the Commission President Susan
10 Shaw, who you heard from at the outset, that it's not
11 incompatible, and it should certainly shouldn't be, for
12 the mission of protecting this small corner of the
13 county with also trying to ensure that we have safe and
14 reliable power in the future.

15 But it's also true -- and I would certainly
16 urge as part of your assessment of this whole project
17 to look at whether this is, in fact, an acceptable site
18 and whether better sites are available. You've heard
19 from the county that there are sites that have been
20 located closer to Prince Frederick that the county is
21 willing to cooperate with Pepco to help them to locate
22 to those areas. There are other sites, as you've

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1 heard, from -- certainly including the large amount of
2 land that's available at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear
3 Power Plant and potentially many more. And we'd urge
4 that Pepco relocate to one of these other proposed
5 sites that are available.

6 Simply put, the Parkers Creek Watershed and
7 this whole area is one of the county's last best
8 places. It's a very small place, but at least in our
9 view, I think it's the crown jewel of the county's
10 entire effort over many, many years to develop this
11 whole county in a sensible and balanced way that
12 accommodates the growth that's coming in to the county
13 and its industrial and residential and conservation
14 needs. So assuring that reliable power and protecting
15 this small part of Calvert County don't have to be
16 incompatible at all.

17 At least in my view, really all it would take
18 would be for Pepco to reach out and fully embrace the
19 offer that's been repeatedly made by our county
20 commissioners to work cooperatively to help them find a
21 more acceptable location for their needs. But if they
22 don't, that's really what we rely on you to do, which

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1 is then to be the backstop to tell them if they're not
2 willing to take that route, then they must find a more
3 acceptable location to meet those needs.

4 Thank you very much.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 MR. NETTI: The next speaker is Vance Ayers,
7 and he will be followed by Gary Stanfer.

8 MR. AYERS: Good evening. I'm here on behalf
9 of 25,000 building and construction trades workers.
10 There's about 18,000 of them that live in Maryland that
11 I represent. There's about 15,000 that live in the
12 three counties that the MAPP project is running
13 through. There's about 2,000 of them that actually
14 live in Calvert County. I'll go so far as to say most
15 of our members are outdoors people. They hunt, fish,
16 boat, do whatever.

17 We're looking forward -- we need -- The
18 bottom line is they need jobs. We have folks in the
19 county, as you heard early, that -- we've got highly
20 skilled construction workers that are out of work
21 because of the economy. And the reason why I gave you
22 the background of our folks are -- is because the folks

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1 that live in this county and/or in these three counties
2 that these projects are going in, they use nature very
3 carefully. They're members of Ducks Unlimited and
4 everything else. They're not going to participate.

5 And I wouldn't be standing here promoting something --

6 I understand the EPA concerns. I've done a
7 lot of research and reading of all the things that MAPP
8 has gone through to develop this. If you sit here and
9 you -- beside the fact we need green baseload
10 electricity, you know, this will be able to transmit
11 anything that can tap into it, wind, nuclear, however
12 you want -- whatever wants to come across it.

13 And I'm sitting here looking. It says

14 (reading): MAPP will provide a new path for
15 power flow protecting against unexpected outages in
16 generation stations or the loss of other power lines.
17 MAPP will increase -- will inject millions of dollars
18 into the local economy and create local jobs during
19 construction. MAPP will increase yearly county tax
20 revenues. MAPP will comply with environmental
21 regulations including being evaluated under the
22 National Environmental Policy Act led by the U.S.

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1 Department of Energy.

2 So, like I said, we have EPA concerns, but
3 everything that's required has been met. It's been
4 researched.

5 (Continues reading.) PHI will conduct
6 migration activities along the route including wetland
7 creation, tree planting, oyster bed creation and land
8 conservation. Annual payments will be made to the
9 Tidal Wetlands Compensation Fund that is dedicated to
10 supporting wetland restoration efforts and
11 environmental projects throughout Maryland. MAPP will
12 deliver new clean energy solutions, such as wind, solar
13 power, and other emission-free sources of power from
14 the west and will be a connection to offshore wind
15 along the Atlantic Coast.

16 I heard a comment earlier that MAPP won't
17 reduce costs. The reality is supply and demand. The
18 more supply you have, it will help control costs, like
19 anything else in nature.

20 But like I said, we have tons of folks right
21 now that are out of work that live in this county and
22 care about this county. So like I said, this is

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1 something that Maryland needs. It's way behind on
2 baseload electricity.

3 I heard the gentleman comment earlier about
4 bringing power down through the Ohio Valley. That's
5 one of the reasons why your rates are so high, because
6 we do bring power down through the Ohio Valley. And
7 they tax on -- and they charge you to use those lines,
8 whereas this would prevent a whole lot of that.

9 So that's all I've got to say. Thank you.

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 MR. NETTI: The next speaker is Gary Stanfer.
12 Gary Stanfer?

13 Well, we can come back to Gary if he is still
14 here.

15 The next speaker will be Chuck Erskine. Chuck
16 Erskine?

17 Moving on, the next speaker would be Lora
18 Harris.

19 MS. HARRIS: Hello. I'm Laura Harris. I'm a
20 local resident in Port Republic. I'm also a scientist
21 who works at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and
22 has a research project in the Parkers Creek Watershed.

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1 I'll be speaking tonight as a private citizen, but I do
2 want to make that clear, because I hope that some of my
3 comments in regards to the Parkers Creek Watershed can
4 be read as a scientist who works there.

5 I'd like to express two major concerns that I
6 hope will be incorporated into this scoping meeting.
7 The first is a larger scale comment on EISs in the
8 Chesapeake Bay region. Hopefully you know, and it
9 sounds like many of the people in this room realize,
10 we're undergoing a TMDL process through the EPA for the
11 Chesapeake Bay for both nutrients and sediments. The
12 sediment is being delivered primarily by stormwater,
13 and as part of that process, the states have been
14 required through EPA to come up with watershed
15 implementation plans. And so management in this region
16 happens on a watershed scale.

17 Specifically, the states have handed out
18 requests to the county level or the city level to
19 submit watershed implementation plans at the six-digit
20 HEC code. And I would hope that an EIS in this
21 instance in the Chesapeake Bay region would focus on
22 watersheds and the six-digit HEC code levels of

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1 watershed level.

2 I know Calvert County is ahead of the game in
3 terms of meeting their watershed implementation plans
4 in comparison with other counties in the State of
5 Maryland, and I think that exemplifies the forward-
6 thinking nature of this county in terms of protecting
7 our natural resources through both land use and
8 science-based management. That obviously has
9 percolated up to the BOCC and our elected officials in
10 general.

11 There are many resources in the context of
12 looking at this EIS from the watershed base, perhaps
13 going first to the Chesapeake Bay program and the many
14 numerical models we have for both land-based inputs
15 from watersheds, as well as water-quality models for
16 the bay, as well as oyster-based models if you're
17 heading up into the Choptank.

18 So that's kind of one set of comments in
19 terms of this scoping meeting that I often do not see
20 in EISs in the Chesapeake Bay region, but at this level
21 of development I would hope to see.

22 My second comments have to do with the

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1 Parkers Creed Watershed in particular and the Chestnut
2 Converter Station. We have a research project that has
3 started out this year in the Parkers Creek Watershed as
4 well as other watersheds across the State of Maryland
5 to examine climate change and stream restoration and
6 prioritization of restoration for the Chesapeake Bay.
7 And one of the reasons we chose the Parkers Creek
8 Watershed was because, as you heard from Karen
9 Edgecombe and others, this has been an extremely rarely
10 protected site in the region, especially on the western
11 shore of the Chesapeake. So in order to have a
12 comparison to our developed watersheds in Arundel
13 County across the bay on the eastern shore, where there
14 is much more intense agriculture, the Parker Creek
15 Watershed was a good example to go to for that sort of
16 control data. And obviously the converter site would
17 have an impact on the watershed. There is other
18 development in the Parkers Creek Watershed. Some of it
19 lies within the City of Prince Frederick. However, it
20 just doesn't seem to make sense in the context of both
21 a comprehensive plan or BOCC's stated comments earlier
22 about zoning and meeting those requirements at the

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1 county level to have this site in particular impact
2 such a protected site. And again, it's protected in
3 the context of a watershed.

4 So hopefully that reverberates with my
5 earlier comments. And I will be submitting comments,
6 but that's all I'd like to say orally at this time.
7 Thank you.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 MR. NETTI: We'll go back -- our next speaker
10 is Gregory Waller.

11 MR. WALLER: Good afternoon, panel. Thank
12 you for letting me speak to you on behalf of the MAPP
13 project. My name is Gregory H. Waller. I'm a resident
14 of Charles County. I'm also the vice president of
15 Local 1900 IBW, and we represent about 1,600 members
16 throughout the region. Local 1900, Pepco, Mirant and
17 Frederick Gas, we all support the MAPP project.

18 As we all know, Pepco's infrastructure is a
19 little dated. This is a project that's been needed for
20 some time now. And so what I would like for you guys
21 to do is give passage for the permits that's required
22 so we can get this project on the road.

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1 Thank you.

2 (APPLAUSE)

3 MR. NETTI: That was the last speaker on our
4 list. We'll go back to Gary Stanfer or Chuck Erskine.

5 MR. BOREN: That's all the speakers that we
6 have. Is there anyone else who would like to speak
7 tonight? Come on. Just remember to please state your
8 name for the record for the court reporter.

9 MR. STRAIN: Good evening. My name is Jim
10 Strain. I'm a resident of Western Shores Estates. I'm
11 here representing myself as a resident of the
12 community. I am also the Civic Association President.

13 One of the challenges that we've had in
14 Western Shores is wrapping our heads around the fact
15 that this project has to come through a residential
16 neighborhood. You know, the residents of Western
17 Shores are in the buffer zone. Anytime they deal with
18 any tree mitigation, plants, anything like that, they
19 have to go get a permit. You're required to go through
20 the process that the county has set up. It's a pretty
21 arduous process and, you know, it's difficult to deal
22 with.

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1 We're also -- I'm appointed to the County
2 Cliff Stabilization Committee. We're looking at the
3 erosion issues that the county is dealing with at this
4 time. One of the things that we're dealing with at
5 Western Shores, it's been stated that the Puritan Tiger
6 Beetle that's an endangered species is taking residence
7 on the cliffs of Western Shores which causes challenges
8 to the residents as far as getting revetments
9 constructed, those sorts of things. So that's one of
10 our other challenges.

11 Frankly, as residents, I think that with the
12 recent media blitz about Pepco's issues with
13 reliability, I don't know that the community feels
14 comfortable with Pepco coming through the neighborhood.

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 I guess, what guarantees do the citizens of Western
17 Shores have that if this project goes in and we -- you
18 know, we're, you know, citizens; we understand the need
19 for electricity, those sorts of things, and power. But
20 what happens if down the road, what do we have -- what
21 guarantees do we have that our -- you know, if
22 something comes up, it's going to be met, you know,

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1 whether it's erosion to our beaches as Ella had talked
2 about, those sorts of things? So those are some of the
3 challenges.

4 Erosion mitigation plans -- you know, I don't
5 know that the county necessarily has a -- or the state
6 has an erosion mitigation plan yet. You know, Pepco
7 seems to say that, "Well, we're drilling underneath the
8 beach. We won't be going through the beach." But I
9 just -- I find it hard to believe that there's not
10 going to be some kind of impact drilling a hole under
11 the area. You know, certainly in the Western Shores
12 area we have American Eagle nestings in the area that
13 would be an impact. You know, I don't know what the
14 impact would be, but I can't believe there would be
15 none.

16 Certainly there's other things that I haven't
17 thought about, but I certainly would hope that people
18 would consider the -- you know, the citizens of Western
19 Shores in considering this project.

20 Thank you.

21 (APPLAUSE)

22 MR. BOREN: Is there anyone else who would

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1 like to speak? Last chance.

2 All right, without any more speakers, the
3 formal part of this meeting will conclude.

4 On behalf of the Department of Energy, I
5 would like to thank all of you for coming here tonight.

6 Let the record show that the MAPP
7 Transmission Line Project Public Scoping Meeting
8 concluded at 8:32 p.m. Thank you again.

9 (CONCLUDED AT 8:32 P.M.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

2 I, BETTYE KEYES, do hereby certify that the
3 foregoing meeting was recorded and transcribed by me,
4 via realtime voice-to-text translations utilizing the
5 voice writing method, and thereafter proofread to
6 accurately reflect the content of words spoken during
7 the proceeding.

8 I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed
9 by any of the parties representing the action in which
10 this meeting was held, nor financially or otherwise
11 interested in the outcome of this action.

12

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BETTYE KEYES

20

Notary Public in and for the

21

State of Maryland

22 My commission expires: April 1, 2015

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