NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

SCOPING MEETING FOR PHASE II OF THE

MID-ATLANTIC POWER PATHWAY (MAPP)

TRANSMISSION PROJECT

DOE/EIS-0465

Thursday, March 24, 2011

Reported by:
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1	PROCEEDINGS	
2	MR. BOREN: Good evening. On behalf of the	
3	Department of Energy, DOE, Loan Programs Office, I	
4	would like to welcome all of you tonight. This is the	
5	Environmental Scoping Meeting for Phase II of the	
6	proposed Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway, MAPP, Transmission	
7	Line Project. The project is being proposed by PEPCO	
8	Holdings Incorporation, PHI.	
9	Let the record show that the public meeting	
10	began at 7:00 on March 24th, 2011. My name is Doug	
11	Boren. I'm the DOE National Environmental Policy Act,	
12	NEPA, document manager for Phase II of the MAPP	
13	project. Greg Netti, sitting beside me, is from	
14	Ecology and Environment which is DOE's third-party	
15	contractor assisting with preparation of the	
16	Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS. Sharon Thomas	
17	also with DOE is at the sign-in table where you came	
18	in. There is also a team from Ecology Environment here	
19	with us tonight.	
20	We're here tonight because the Department of	
21	Energy Loan Programs Office is considering a federal	
22	loan guarantee to PHI for Phase II of the proposed MAPP	

- 1 transmission line project. The loan guarantee program
- 2 was established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
- 3 Title 17 of the Act identified discrete categories of
- 4 projects that are eligible for loan guarantees. These
- 5 categories include advanced transmission and
- 6 distribution technologies that constitute new or
- 7 significantly improved technologies. In order to
- 8 receive a loan guarantee from the Loan Programs office,
- 9 applicants and projects need to meet certain financial
- 10 and technical criteria. The financial criteria help us
- 11 meet our statutory requirement that the federal
- 12 government have reasonable assurance of repayments.
- 13 These are loan quarantees, they're not grants. There
- 14 are also criteria that ensure that the technology is
- 15 not only new or significantly improved, but that it is
- 16 also commercially viable.
- 17 Phase II of the MAPP project would
- 18 incorporate new smart grid technology that includes a
- 19 high-voltage direct current system, microprocessor
- 20 based relays, digital fault records and phaser
- 21 measurement units. The smart grid technology to be
- 22 incorporated into the MAPP Project would promote the

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transmission of energy over the line more efficiently. 2 DOE is the lead federal agency for the NEPA review for the project and the lead agency for the preparation of the EIS. We have requested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to participate in the 5 preparation of the EIS to satisfy their NEPA responsibilities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. also expect the Environmental Protection Agency to be a 10 cooperating agency. 11 The purpose of tonight's meeting is to 12 provide each of you with an opportunity to give us your environmental comments on Phase II of the proposed MAPP 13 Transmission Line Project. We are here tonight to 14 15 learn from you. It will help us the most if your 16 comments are as specific as possible regarding the 17 potential environmental impacts and reasonable 18 alternatives of the proposed project. Your comments 19 will help us determine what issues we need to cover in 20 If you wish to speak tonight, please be sure 21 to sign the speakers' list at the sign-in table. 22 you do not wish to speak tonight, but would like to

- 1 make a written comment, you can pick up one of the
- 2 handouts at the sign-in table and write your comments
- 3 and submit them this evening or send the written
- 4 comments in to us.
- 5 On March 4th, 2011, we issued the notice of
- 6 intent to prepare an EIS for this project. The scoping
- 7 comment period officially ends on April 4th, 2011. We
- 8 will take comments throughout the review of our
- 9 project; however, we ask that you provide comments as
- 10 soon as possible in order to give us time to analyze
- 11 and research the issues.
- During our review of the project, we will
- 13 assemble information from a variety of sources
- 14 including the applicant, you, the public, other states,
- 15 local and federal agencies and our own independent
- 16 analysis. We will analyze this information and prepare
- 17 a draft EIS that will be distributed to the public for
- 18 comment. If you want a copy of the draft EIS, you can
- 19 send a written comment to DOE requesting a copy. It is
- 20 very important that any comments you send include the
- 21 DOE EIS number for the project. The EIS number is in
- 22 the notice of intent, but let me also give it to you

- 1 now so you can write it down. It's DOE/EIS-0465. One
- 2 more time. That's DOE/EIS-0465. If you decide to send
- 3 a comment letter, please put the EIS number on it.
- 4 This will ensure that I get your comments.
- 5 After the draft EIS is issued, you will have
- 6 45 days to review and comment on it. We will schedule
- 7 a public comment meeting similar in format to this one
- 8 sometime within the 45-day comment period on the draft
- 9 EIS. At that meeting you can give us your comments on
- 10 the draft EIS. Alternatively you may provide comments
- 11 in writing. At the end of the 45-day comment period, we
- 12 will use your comments and any new information that we
- 13 have been able to gather to finalize the EIS.
- 14 After the final EIS is issued, DOE will use
- 15 the information in the EIS to issue a record of
- 16 decision. The record of decision announces and
- 17 explains DOE's decision and describes any commitments
- 18 for mitigating potential environmental impacts.
- 19 Before we start taking comments from you this
- 20 evening, I will give you a brief presentation about the
- 21 NEPA process, and the applicant will make a short
- 22 presentation about the proposed project. A copy of the

7 NEPA process presentation is available on the sign-in 2 table. 3 Here's a quick outline of the presentation. I will give you a brief NEPA overview of the EIS process, and then I've included some additional 5 information with my contact information. The first step in the EIS process is the notice of intent. The notice of intent was published on March 4th, 2011. The notice of intent states the 10 need for action and provides preliminary information on 11 the EIS scope including the alternative actions to be 12 evaluated and environmental impacts to be analyzed. The NOI starts the scoping process. 13 scoping process is the period in which DOE requests 15 comments from the public and on the scope of the EIS. For example, alternatives to be evaluated, 17 environmental impacts to be analyzed, resource areas to 18 consider, project components, and possible issues. 19 is important to identify the issues now before we draft 20 the EIS. This process lasts 30 days with at least one 21 public meeting. 22 The next step in the NEPA EIS process is the

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draft EIS. DOE considers scoping comments to prepare the draft EIS. The EIS includes a comparison of various alternatives including the no action alternative. The next step in the NEPA process is the 5 public comment on the draft EIS. The public may comment on the draft EIS. The comment period lasts at least 45 days. As previously stated, we will have a meeting similar to this one to take comments on the 10 draft EIS. 11 After we receive comments on the draft EIS, we will finalize the EIS. We will consider all timely 12 public comments on the draft EIS and incorporate 13 responses into the final EIS. At that time, DOE will 15 identify the preferred alternative. The final step in the NEPA process for an EIS 16 17 is the record of decision. DOE announces and explains 18 DOE's decision and describes any commitments for 19 mitigating potential environmental impacts. The period 20 between the final EIS and the record of decision is at 21 least 30 days. 22 This is just an overview illustrating the EIS

- 1 process, highlighting the opportunities for public
- 2 input. As you can see, we're in the first opportunity
- 3 at the beginning of the process to hear public input on
- 4 the project.
- 5 This is a preliminary list of some of the
- 6 resources we plan to include in the scope of the EIS.
- 7 We plan to evaluate the project's impacts on aquatic
- 8 resources including water quality in oysters, impacts
- 9 to wetlands, floodplains. DOE will conduct a
- 10 floodplain assessment in accordance with DOE
- 11 regulations. We will evaluate the project's potential
- 12 impacts on biological resources to threatened and
- 13 endangered species and forested areas, coastal zone
- 14 management, cultural and socioeconomic resources, land
- 15 use resources, and cumulative impacts.
- 16 As previously stated, comments are due April
- 17 4th, 2011. You may submit oral or written comments
- 18 today, email written comments to MAPP-EIS@hq.doe.gov,
- 19 or you may mail written comments to the address listed
- 20 in the NOI which will get to me.
- This is just a slide with some additional
- 22 information and websites where you may reach

- 1 information about the Loan Programs Office and DOE's
- 2 NEPA process. It also has my contact information and
- 3 email address.
- 4 At this time I would like to turn it over to
- 5 Mr. Konowitz to give a brief presentation on the
- 6 proposed project.
- 7 MR. KONOWITZ: Thank you all for attending
- 8 tonight. I'm going to give you an overview on the
- 9 project. We primarily focus by accounting as we move
- 10 through this.
- 11 The MAPP Project in its entirety is
- 12 approximately a hundred miles, and that's for the
- 13 portion of the project between Chalk Point and Indian
- 14 River which is the subject of the meeting tonight. The
- 15 line originates at Chalk Point at a substation, that
- 16 location. It travels on existing right-of-way into
- 17 Calvert County to a parcel where there will be two
- 18 converter stations. At that location the power will be
- 19 converted from alternating current to direct current.
- 20 From there the direct current lines continue
- 21 to a departure point in Calvert County where the line
- 22 will travel approximately 39 miles through submarine

- 1 cable across the Chesapeake Bay and the Choptank River.
- 2 The line will continue through Dorchester
- 3 County on a new right-of-way for approximately 14 miles
- 4 into Wicomico County. There is a converter station
- 5 sited in Wicomico County where one of those direct
- 6 current circuits will be converted back to alternating
- 7 current which will tie back into the Vienna substation
- 8 to distribute the power within the regional area.
- 9 The other direct current line will continue
- 10 through Wicomico County into Sussex County, Delaware,
- 11 all along an existing right-of-way to a converter
- 12 station where the line -- where the direct current will
- 13 be converted back to alternating current. And then it
- 14 will be six miles of existing right-of-way on
- 15 alternating current to the Indian River substation
- 16 which will tie back into the original infrastructure.
- 17 One of the main reasons for the MAPP Project
- 18 is to address a potential voltage violation that was
- 19 identified by PJM. And that's represented here on this
- 20 map. These three lines shown here in black, if there
- 21 is an issue to occur on one of those lines, this
- 22 hatched area here that includes Southern Maryland,

- 1 Washington, D.C., Baltimore, the Delmarva Peninsula,
- 2 Delaware, New Jersey and portions of Pennsylvania would
- 3 all suffer a loss of power through there as brownouts
- 4 or blackouts. The MAPP line addresses that through the
- 5 installation of this project.
- 6 Some of the keys to this, Calvert County is
- 7 the 500Kv line. There is another crossing of the
- 8 Patuxent River in Calvert County which will be located
- 9 adjacent to and upstream of the existing crossing.
- 10 At the converter site those facilities will
- 11 consist of an AC substation which will occupy between
- 12 12 and 16 acres, and then the converter stations which
- 13 will occupy up to approximately 18 acres. Then the
- 14 line will continue underground through the remainder of
- 15 the county for approximately three miles.
- 16 This is another closeup of Calvert County
- 17 with the line on the existing right-of-way to the
- 18 existing converter station, and then underground, an
- 19 existing right-of-way to its departure point out into
- 20 the Chesapeake Bay.
- 21 This is an overview of that converter
- 22 location in Calvert County. The substation will be

- 1 sited to the northern part of the property with the
- 2 converter stations located in the southern portion of
- 3 the property.
- 4 The crossing of the Bay will consist of
- 5 approximately 16 miles within the Chesapeake Bay and 23
- 6 miles in the Choptank River. There will be two
- 7 circuits crossing the Bay. Each circuit's separated by
- 8 approximately eight feet. Each circuit will be in its
- 9 own trench with a target buried depth of six feet, and
- 10 each trench will be approximately three feet wide
- 11 during the installation of that project.
- This map represents the crossing of the Bay
- 13 and the Choptank River. It's a line that continues up
- 14 through the Bay into the Choptank. And some of the
- 15 features represented on this map are oyster beds,
- 16 oyster repletion sites, areas of vegetation. And you
- 17 can -- after the meeting there's other maps that show
- 18 the Bay crossing if you want to see how the route
- 19 navigates around some of these features.
- 20 Through Dorchester County, the direct current
- 21 line at landfall, it makes landfall for approximately
- 22 one mile of underground construction where we

- 1 transition to overhead at a transition station. That
- 2 will occupy approximately two to four acres where the
- 3 lines will come in from underground, transition to
- 4 overhead, and they continue for 12 miles through -- on
- 5 new right-of-way through Dorchester County.
- Again, this map represents that location
- 7 coming up through the Choptank River, through the
- 8 landfall location, continuing underground to the
- 9 Choptank River station, the transition to overhead, and
- 10 then continue an aerial across the county and into
- 11 Wicomico County.
- In Wicomico County, that's across from the
- 13 Nanticoke River between Dorchester and Wicomico County.
- 14 Approximately two miles of overhead line until it
- 15 reaches the gateway converter station. This is the
- 16 first location where the line will transition from
- 17 direct current back to alternating current. The one
- 18 converter sited there will occupy approximately eight
- 19 acres for the substation and another six and a half,
- 20 nine and a half acres for the converter station.
- 21 As I mentioned before, the other direct
- 22 current line will continue on existing right-of-way for

- 1 approximately five miles through the rest of Wicomico
- 2 County until we reach Sussex County.
- 3 This map represents that crossing of the
- 4 Nanticoke, the gateway converter site, continuing on
- 5 existing right-of-way, through the Delaware/Maryland
- 6 state line.
- 7 This represents the gateway converter site,
- 8 the line coming into the site, and the other line
- 9 continuing on beyond into the existing right-of-way.
- 10 For Sussex County, the line will travel from
- 11 the Delaware/Maryland state line for 21 miles on
- 12 existing right-of-way. It will consist of taking down
- 13 existing structures that are currently in the right-of-
- 14 way and replacing those structures with structures that
- 15 will accommodate the 500 line and the 230 line. And we
- 16 have some renderings of what that will look like back
- 17 with the materials.
- 18 At the Mission Converter station, it will
- 19 occupy the same type of footprint as the Gateway
- 20 Converter station for the facilities there. The line
- 21 will continue for six miles with the 230 line between
- 22 the Mission Converter station and the Indian River

- 1 substation. And there also will be a one mile
- 2 connection south of the Mission Converter station on
- 3 new right-of-way on property that Delmarva has acquired
- 4 for a connection with the Pines Grove to the Indian
- 5 River line which is an existing right-of-way directly
- 6 south.
- 7 This map represents the existing right-of-way
- 8 for the 500 and 220 line for the first 21 miles to the
- 9 Mission Converter site, then the six miles of the 230
- 10 line to Indian River. And then here's the one mile
- 11 connection to the other transmission line located to
- 12 the south.
- 13 Again, this is the Mission Converter site.
- 14 There's currently a transmission line right-of-way that
- 15 runs through this parcel. The lines would tie in there
- 16 and then continue to the east and then directly to the
- 17 south.
- 18 That's all the information. Thank you for
- 19 coming tonight.
- 20 MR. BOREN: I would like to point out to the
- 21 audience that there are PHI representatives here
- 22 tonight and they will be available after the meeting to

- 1 answer any questions you may have.
- 2 We will now begin the important part of the
- 3 meeting, receiving your comments. When your name is
- 4 called, please step up to the microphone and state your
- 5 name for the record. Your comments will be transcribed
- 6 by a court reporter to ensure that we get an accurate
- 7 record of your comments.
- 8 Greg, if you would please read off the names
- 9 from the speaker list.
- 10 MR. NETTI: We have three speakers on the
- 11 list. The first speaker is Rick Johnstone, and he'll
- 12 be followed by Mark Neilson.
- 13 MR. JOHNSTONE: My name is Rick Johnstone. I
- 14 reside at 912 Baylor Drive, Newark, Delaware.
- 15 My comments have to do with how the right-of-
- 16 way will be maintained after it is built. My biggest
- 17 concern has to do with the managing of the vegetation.
- 18 Once you do some disturbance in a right-of-way, you
- 19 open it up for invasive plants, nonnative species that
- 20 will come in and take over.
- 21 To give you some background. I've got 34
- 22 years experience as a forester for utilities, 25 for

- 1 Delmarva Power. I left as assistant forester here in
- 2 2005. I now do consulting under VMES, and I formed a
- 3 nonprofit corporation, IVM Partners. I do training for
- 4 the federal agencies.
- 5 I received a call from the Army Corps of
- 6 Engineers concerned about the plan for maintaining the
- 7 vegetation by mowing, primarily mowing, and their
- 8 biggest concern had to do with the wetland areas. The
- 9 mowers will do a lot of rutting of the soils. They
- 10 leak hydraulic fluid and oils. They burn hydrocarbons,
- 11 so it's constant pollution. And the proper way would
- 12 be to use selective herbicide treatments with water
- 13 approved herbicides from EPA that will take out the
- 14 tall grown species and allow the low grown vegetation
- 15 to occupy the right-of-way.
- 16 If -- I invite you to go to our website,
- 17 ivnpartners.org. We have case studies showing where
- 18 rare plants have come back where we've controlled the
- 19 trees and the invasive shrubs that would be a problem
- 20 for the utilities.
- 21 I've left information for DOE. We have
- 22 training that was done with U.S. Fish and Wildlife

- 1 Service primarily at Patuxent, some of it here on the
- 2 Eastern Shore, showing what the best ways are for
- 3 managing a right-of-way for wildlife habitat. I'm doing
- 4 judging for DOD right now for all their environmental
- 5 projects at the military bases.
- 6 So what we're talking about that they can do
- 7 here for this particular project is no different than
- 8 what U.S. Fish and Wildlife is asking, what Army Corps
- 9 is and EPA and DOD. So I would like to encourage the
- 10 MAPP Project to be managed in that fashion, and try to
- 11 get away from just routine mowing which is an easy way
- 12 to do it because you don't have to plan. You just say
- 13 it's 2011 and it's time to cut everything. But it
- 14 doesn't bring back the habitat that we really need.
- 15 And the Delmarva Peninsula is a very environmentally
- 16 sensitive area. It's very important for hunting, for
- 17 bird watching, for tourism, and these right-of-ways can
- 18 really provide some good habitat, and I would like to
- 19 see them managed that way. Thank you.
- MR. NETTI: The next speaker is Mark Neilson,
- 21 and he'll be followed by Jennifer Coombs.
- 22 MR. NEILSON: Good afternoon. My name is

- 1 Mark Neilson, I'm representing Delaware Electric
- 2 Cooperative.
- 3 The Cooperative is an electric utility that
- 4 serves about 83,000 accounts in Kent and Sussex
- 5 Counties in Delaware. The Cooperative has fully
- 6 endorsed the MAPP Project since its inception. We have
- 7 filed letters in support of the project with PJM, and
- 8 we continue to endorse the project.
- 9 The Cooperative and its wholesale power,
- 10 Cooperative -- Dominion Electric Cooperative, which is
- 11 also a transmission owner on the Delmarva Peninsula,
- 12 have conducted a number of studies, and we believe that
- 13 the peninsula -- or the MAPP Project will provide
- 14 reduced costs in the form of reduced congestion costs
- 15 to our members and save our members money as well as
- 16 provide an enhanced level of reliability to the -- to
- 17 our members in the peninsula in general. We look
- 18 forward to completion of the project. Thank you.
- 19 MR. NETTI: The final speaker on the list is
- 20 Jennifer Coombs.
- 21 MS. COOMBS: My name is Jennifer Coombs, and
- 22 I just have I guess more of a statement that I would

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