



Calvert County NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of County Commissioners, Calvert County, Maryland, Files Petition to Intervene in Maryland Public Service Commission Proceedings on Pepco MAPP Project

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – January 27, 2011 – The Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, announced today that it has petitioned the Public Service Commission (PSC) to intervene in PSC proceedings on the Pepco Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway project due to its potential impact on the county.

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) asserts that none of the current parties in the case adequately represent the Board's interest in protecting the Parkers Creek watershed or in seeking compliance with the county's comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance. Through this action the BOCC becomes a party to the proceedings.

The Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway project – or MAPP – is a transmission line that would increase the ability to transport power across three mid-Atlantic states and would purportedly bring reliable and more economical power to the region.

The BOCC filed to intervene due to the environmental and aesthetic concerns related to the location and construction of a proposed converter station in Calvert County. The station is planned to be a massive, 65-foot-tall industrial facility occupying 34 acres in close proximity to Route 4. The BOCC contends that construction of the facility on Pepco's preferred site in Port Republic, Md., would create a blight on the landscape and would be in violation of the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. If built at this location, the facility would also have a significant impact on Parkers Creek.

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“The BOCC understands the need for reliable power and improvements to our nation’s infrastructure,” said BOCC President Susan Shaw. “Unfortunately the land upon which Pepco intends to construct the improvements is located at the headwaters of Parkers Creek, one of the largest and most environmentally sensitive creeks in Calvert County. Much of the land surrounding Parkers Creek has been preserved from development as part of an effort to maintain the creek and the surrounding area in their natural condition and to protect the water quality of the creek.

“The BOCC has regularly communicated its concerns about the Port Republic site with Pepco. We hope Pepco will work with us to identify a site for the converter station that is mutually beneficial to both Pepco and Calvert County residents,” Shaw added. “The BOCC has also communicated its concerns regarding the lack of Pepco outreach and communication with our constituency.”

The MAPP project is being considered by the PSC under Case Number 9179. For more information, please contact Linda Vassallo, director of Calvert County Department of Economic Development, at 410.535.4583.

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