

For Immediate Release: 2/22/2011

**County Files Response to Public Service Commission's Proposed Revision of State Regulation Re Service Provided by Electric Companies; Comments Address High Level of Reliability; Use of Discretionary Civil Penalties Called "Grossly Inadequate"**

In an eight-page response to the Maryland Public Service Commission's (MPSC) proposed revision of the state regulation regarding service provided by electric companies, Montgomery County has filed a series of comments that define an acceptable level of reliability for the Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and address "inadequate" discretionary civil penalties.

County Executive Ike Leggett said, "This series of comments to the Maryland Public Service Commission – the body that regulates Pepco and other public utilities – reflects the frustration of our residents and clearly presents what we consider to be a level of acceptable reliability by Pepco. We're simply asking the commission to take a step back and commit itself to ensuring that Pepco is held to this standard."

County Council Vice President Roger Berliner said, "Our County has made it clear to the MPSC that we expect nothing less than top-rated service from Pepco, and that any failure to meet that standard should result in a very substantial reduction in Pepco's profits and refunds to residents."

Leggett said, "We are continuing to work hard on a number of fronts to hold Pepco accountable for its unacceptable levels of service and responses. We have had County-sponsored public meetings and forums, plus private meetings with Pepco and local elected officials at all levels. My Pepco Work Group is now compiling recommendations -- to be presented to the MPSC -- that can give us a 'best in class' utility service. We intend to keep the pressure on at all levels and accept nothing less than marked improvement for our residents and businesses."

The other point raised by the County in its comments is that holding Pepco accountable through discretionary civil penalties is "grossly inadequate" and in no way compares to the financial hardships experienced by the community.

Read the full document at

[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/EXEC/pdf/rm\\_43\\_comments.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/EXEC/pdf/rm_43_comments.pdf).

###

Release ID: 11-068

Media Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-6507