

Testimony of Mayor David Lublin
Town of Chevy Chase, Maryland
September 30, 2010

Good evening. I am David Lublin, Mayor of the Town of Chevy Chase. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today regarding the reliability and quality of PEPCO's electric distribution service. I will keep my comments brief, as I am certain you will hear many of the same concerns expressed by others tonight.

Over the past few years, the Town, like other municipalities, has experienced repeated and lengthy power outages, many of which were a result of strong storms, but others that were simply unexplained. Although summer is normally a relaxed time, this one has been unusually trying due to repeated losses of power to large areas of the Town. The outages have ranged in duration from several hours to several days or more. All resulted in losses by our residents, not only of food and air conditioning, but of productivity as well.

Outages are not so shocking after intense storms such as the recent one that uprooted enormous trees in Town. However, it is highly disconcerting that we lose power so often in smaller storms and even when there are no storms. The restoration of service after an outage also has been slow, with PEPCO providing little information to residents or the Town government about repairs.

The Town already has contacted PEPCO to request information on the frequency, duration, and causes of outages in the Town as well as to seek concrete actions that can be taken by the Town or PEPCO to improve reliability and redundancy as well as communications about restoration efforts when needed. PEPCO representatives are planning to attend the Town's September Council meeting, and the Town plans to follow up further with PEPCO on improving the reliability of service.

In short, the current state of affairs is unacceptable. Only the PSC can force PEPCO to make meaningful improvements to its electric distribution service. To that end, we ask the PSC to require PEPCO to do the following, at a minimum, to improve its service to customers:

- Replace priority underperforming "feeders";
- Meet new load growth;
- Install automated meters and hardware;
- Upgrade selected substations; and
- Underground selected cables in residential areas.

In addition to these improvements, the Town strongly supports the implementation of performance-based standards, thus tying PEPCO's rates to its reliability.