

1 In the Matter of the Application of the Potomac
2 Electric Power Company for Authority to Implement a
3 Multiyear Rate Plan for Electric Distribution Service
4 in the District of Columbia

5
6 Formal Case No. 1176

7
8
9 Moderated by Emile C. Thompson

10 Wednesday, April 3, 2024

11 5:29 p.m.

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14 Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia
15 1325 G Street Northwest, Suite 800
16 Washington, DC 20005

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21 Reported by: Timothy Guevara

22 JOB NO.: 6597103

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 List of Attendees:

3 Emile C. Thompson, Chairman

4 Richard A. Beverly, Commissioner

5 Ted Trabue, Commissioner

6 Antoine Thompson, The Greater Washington Region Clean
7 Cities Coalition

8 Keith Foxx, FOXXSTEM

9 Shelore C. Williams, Development Corporation of
10 Columbia Heights

11 Matthias Paustian, Resident

12 Florentino Gregoria, Anchor Construction Corporation

13 Jerry R. Williford, JR., IBEW Local 1900

14 Dan Tangherlini, Resident

15 Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick, Commission Secretary

16 Sandra Mattavous-Frye, Office of the People's Counsel

17 Michael Powers, Resident

18 Dierdra Joy, Resident

19 Dottie Love Wade, Resident

20 John Shaw, Resident

21 Darren Jones, Resident

22 Allison Bates-Wannop, Rhizome

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A P P E A R A N C E S (Cont'd)

- Cassandra Joseph, Resident
- Alexander Padro, Resident
- Autumn Gray, Resident

P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. Good
3 evening. We're going to call to order the community
4 hearing of the Public Service Commission for the
5 District of Columbia in Formal Case Number 1176 in the
6 Matter of the Application of the Potomac Electric
7 Power Company for Authority to Implement a Multiyear
8 Rate Plan for Electric Distribution Service in the
9 District of Columbia. I'm Emile C. Thompson, Chairman
10 of DC Public Service Commission. I'm joined by
11 Commissioner Richard Beverly and Commissioner Ted
12 Trabue.

13 For the record, today is April 3, 2024,
14 and we are convening this hearing at 5:30 p.m. in the
15 Commission's hearing room to discuss Pepco's rate
16 increase application. This community hearing is a
17 hybrid meeting with in-person and call in testimony.
18 If anyone viewing this community hearing wants to
19 testify or comment, I encourage you to do so. The
20 instructions are listed on the Commission's website
21 including the link to join via computer and phone
22 number and access code if you want to join by phone,

1 but I'll also provide instruction here.

2 To join via computer or laptop, please
3 go to the calendar on our homepage of our website at
4 www.dcpssc.org, and click on the link for FC1176
5 community hearing hybrid. There you will find a link
6 to access Webex. To join via phone, dial
7 1-650-479-3208. The access code is 23076004073. The
8 attendee password is 92932564. If you join by phone,
9 when it's your turn to speak, you will hear a prompt
10 to press star six to unmute yourself. So hopefully,
11 everybody got that.

12 By way of background, on
13 April 13, 2023, Pepco submitted an application for
14 approval to increase existing distribution service
15 rates and charges for electric service in the District
16 of Columbia by \$190.7 million to the implementation of
17 a multiyear rate plan for calendar years 2024 through
18 2026. Pepco requests authority to earn overall rates
19 of 7.7 percent, 7.78 percent, and 7.79 percent for the
20 MRP years of 2024, 2025, and 2026, including the
21 return on common equity of 10.5 percent.

22 Pepco represents that its application

1 would translate to an increase in distribution rates
2 of approximately \$6.18 per month for a typical
3 residential customer who uses 614 kilowatt hours per
4 month. The Commission directed Pepco to file
5 supplemental testimony and exhibits along with
6 supporting schedules to support a traditional one year
7 rate case for the test period calendar year 2023.

8 It is estimated that under a
9 traditional one year case, the increase is
10 approximately \$10.97 per month per average residential
11 customer. Those proposals are before the Commission.
12 Under the District of Columbia Code, the Commission
13 can only approve Pepco's MRP as an alternative form of
14 regulation if the Commission finds the MRP, A,
15 protects customers; B, ensures a quality,
16 availability, and reliability of Pepco's electric
17 services; and C, is in the interest of the public,
18 including the shareholders of the electric company.

19 A little about your electric bill.
20 When you look at your bill, you may wonder what rates
21 are regulated by the Commission and are subject to
22 this rate case. There are three components of your

1 bill. Pepco is the only company authorized in the
2 District to distribute electricity.

3 One part of your bill is called the
4 distribution rate, or what it costs Pepco to deliver
5 electric service to customers. This rate covers the
6 cost for the meters, the wires, the poles, the
7 conduit, the customer service people, the repairs,
8 restoration after storms, and all things necessary to
9 operate the delivery system for the electricity in the
10 District.

11 There's another part of your bill which
12 is for electricity itself, and that is generated by an
13 electric generation company. The rate for electricity
14 that is generated by an electric generation company is
15 not the subject of this hearing because the Commission
16 does not regulate the charges for generation generated
17 by an electric generation company either from
18 competitive electric suppliers or through the standard
19 offer service. Those electric supply rates are set by
20 the market. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
21 regulates interstate transactions involving the sale
22 of electricity energy and interstate transmission

1 charges that transmission owners charge for delivering
2 electricity.

3 The third part of your bill includes
4 taxes, surcharges, and fees that the Council of the
5 District of Columbia has authorized to be imposed on
6 Pepco that can be recovered from Pepco services.
7 Sorry, Pepco's customers.

8 At this time, I would like to
9 acknowledge Commissioner Beverly and Commissioner
10 Trabue for any comments.

11 COMMISSIONER BEVERLY: I'd like to
12 thank everyone for coming out this afternoon,
13 especially in the rain, to share your thoughts with
14 us. I want to acknowledge staff for staying and
15 dedicating their time to listen to what you have to
16 say as well. So thank you for attending this.

17 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Thank you Mr.
18 Chairman. Thank you Commissioner Beverly. I would
19 like to echo Commissioner Beverly's sentiments in
20 thanking all of our residents and other interested
21 parties for coming out tonight through all of this
22 liquid sunshine to participate in the very important

1 hearing that we're having this evening. The third of
2 three hearings that we've had over the last week and a
3 half or so to form public opinion and understand
4 public opinion on this very important rate case. So
5 again, thank you very much for coming out this
6 evening, and we look forward to your testimony.

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you. I would
8 also like to take this time to acknowledge the Office
9 of People's Counsel. Is there any representatives
10 from the Office here? They are the statutory party in
11 all cases before the Commission and represent District
12 of Columbia ratepayers and consumers.

13 As a preliminary matter, please silence
14 your mobile phones. A stenographer is transcribing
15 today's hearing. Representatives of organizations
16 shall be permitted a maximum of five minutes for oral
17 presentation, and individuals will have a maximum of
18 three minutes. Written comments or statements can be
19 filed until April 26, 2024, by sending them to Brinda
20 Westbrook-Sedgwick, Commission secretary. Her email
21 address is psc-commissionsecretary@dc.gov. She's also
22 seated to my left.

1 If possible, when testifying, please
2 avoid the use of acronyms, which may be difficult for
3 the stenographer and for others to comprehend. We
4 will now start this hearing by calling first our
5 pre-registered witnesses. I'd like to first call Mr.
6 Antoine Thompson, no relation, to the podium.

7 While you're speaking, please speak
8 clearly and loudly. Since the hearing is being
9 recorded, I would ask you to state your name and
10 whether you are testifying as an individual or on
11 behalf of an organization. And if you are testifying
12 on behalf of an organization, just state the
13 organization. And then last, but certainly not least,
14 please make sure you press the button on your mike so
15 that your voice is captured.

16 MR. A. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman. Good evening. Thank you Commissioners.
18 Antoine Thompson representing Greater Washington
19 Region Clean Cities Coalition. I am the CEO and
20 executive director of Greater Washington Region Clean
21 Cities, a public-private partnership that promotes the
22 use of clean, American transportation fuels,

1 alternative fuels, improve air quality, environmental
2 justice, diversity, and inclusion as well.

3 I commend you for your service. I am a
4 former state senator from New York, former chair --
5 first African American to chair the Committee of
6 Environmental Conservation. And also, former City
7 Council member as well. I serve on a number of
8 regional and national boards related to clean energy
9 and clean transportation.

10 Greater Washington Region Clean Cities
11 Coalition expresses its support for Pepco's "Climate
12 Ready Path DC" multiyear plan. We support their
13 efforts to make investments to ensure a climate ready
14 grid for the future, and to -- and its commitment to
15 assisting the District of Columbia in achieving its
16 energy goals.

17 In 2022, Pepco proposed a Climate
18 Solutions Plan, a multifaceted strategy that advances
19 smarter, stronger, and cleaner energy systems for DC.
20 It's -- it's important to note that DC's -- the
21 District's clean energy goal seeks to achieve carbon
22 neutrality by 2045. And our office has been very

1 involved with a number -- we currently run over eight
2 EV-related projects. We also -- in fact, right before
3 I came here, we just got another federal award for
4 alternative fuels for biodiesel. And we work with DC
5 Public Works and DC Department of Order on alternative
6 fuel projects as well.

7 But I want to say that we really need
8 your help to move this along. DC -- there are big
9 gaps. We know about food deserts. We know about bank
10 deserts. Now we're talking about charging deserts.
11 There's an aggressive \$7500 rebate for -- to purchase
12 an electric vehicle from the federal government at
13 point of sale. And there's a 4,000 for used. But a
14 lot of folks in DC are not able -- they're in this,
15 kind of, catch-22 situation. Right?

16 We're out doing outreach events all the
17 time. And what we find is that people want to get EVs
18 and work seven, eight, and five. But they're fixed
19 with this challenge of where would they charge their
20 car because more than half the District does not have
21 access to homebase charging. So we've got to
22 accelerate that. I think Pepco is a critical partner

1 of that, and we need them to be able to not have their
2 hands tied.

3 Exelon is a company that's been, and
4 Pepco, has been very aggressive on the Maryland side
5 with deploying public charging. We need to see that
6 happen in DC, and anything that we can do to help in
7 that. All the community centers, all the major
8 libraries in Prince George's County have EV chargers.
9 Same company, different reality in DC. We need your
10 help to change that; and hopefully, this process will
11 do that. Thank you, and I'll take any questions.

12 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr.
13 Thompson.

14 Commissioner Beverly? Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Mr. Thompson,
16 thank you very much for your testimony.

17 MR. A. THOMPSON: Thank you. Thank
18 you. Anything we can do to help. I'm always --

19 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: But before you
20 leave, approximately how many charging stations do we
21 have now in the District? And in your organization's
22 view, about how many more would we need to be at a

1 point where, I think, your organization feels where we
2 should be? I think you're saying we need more, but --

3 MR. A. THOMPSON: Yeah. I don't have
4 the stats in front of me. I -- I know that DC has
5 a -- a couple hundred public chargers right now. But
6 given that we, you know -- that nationally, we need
7 1.4 and 1.7 million. Right? I think in our number
8 based on -- and I don't necessarily agree with all the
9 numbers in the -- in the District's -- a couple of
10 their plans. I think we're probably going to need
11 easily well over 15,000. Between the Level 2 --
12 because I'm not talking all Level 3 chargers, the
13 superfast chargers.

14 But we need to -- I was just reading an
15 article yesterday on LA, and I know it's a lot bigger.
16 But if you do pro -- you know, per capita, they have
17 them on light poles. Over -- over -- I think over a
18 thousand on light poles alone. We don't have that in
19 DC. It's not just Level 3s.

20 The DC fast chargers are the Level 2s,
21 but we have a long way to go. And I think we need to
22 be able to get them on light poles. We need to get

1 them at every library, hopefully, before the end of
2 the year. Every City Hall finally just got two.
3 Right? So we are so far behind in terms of getting
4 them on public assets. So yes.

5 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Thank you.

6 MR. A. THOMPSON: Thank you. And we
7 strongly support Councilmember Allen's proposal. I
8 think it was, like, 7500. But that's still not
9 enough. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: All right. Thank
11 you.

12 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you. Before
13 we call our next witness, I just want to take a moment
14 to acknowledge Office of People's Counsel Sandra
15 Mattavous-Frye, who just walked in.

16 MS. FRYE: I'm pleased to be here and
17 see so many people here and -- it's my understanding
18 that most of you are from Pepco.

19 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you.

20 MS. FRYE: If I can say a couple of
21 words?

22 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Oh, yeah. Of

1 course. Please.

2 MS. FRYE: I don't have anything
3 written, so this is just paper. I did want to say,
4 again, thank you for giving me an opportunity to be
5 here. I have been to many, many community meetings in
6 my lifetime, and it's always interesting to get -- to
7 hear and see what people have to say.

8 I'm always most impressed by those
9 people, the lay people, that come out without any sort
10 of compensation or without any connection to Pepco.
11 But I'm here to tell the Commissioners how these rate
12 increases really impact them. And that's important
13 because those are real. And they feel them just as
14 much as, you know, anyone.

15 And what's interesting to me is how
16 that energy burden as we now, you know, flipping term
17 that we use really does impact. And when we say, you
18 know, the -- most of the people that are sitting here
19 today, their incomes are sufficient that their energy
20 responsibility -- I'm not going to even call it a
21 burden because it's an energy responsibility -- is so
22 minimal that it's no more than this cup of coffee.

1 Whereas other people, their energy
2 burden is tremendous. And they are paying almost
3 close to 50 percent of their disposable income, and
4 that's real. You know, we don't think of it as being
5 real, but it really is. So it's important for me to
6 be here, and it's also more important for consumers to
7 be here so that the Commission can really hear, you
8 know, what's going on and how it's impacting their
9 lives.

10 I'm -- you know, as I said, I don't
11 have a prepared statement. I'm -- I and my office, we
12 are here representing those consumers that don't have
13 a voice and that don't come out to community hearings
14 and, you know, have to take off from work to attend a
15 community hearing. Have to come after work in the
16 rain to attend a community meeting. So we're here.
17 Not only am I speaking, but we're also listening. And
18 other members of my staff are here as well. And we're
19 here.

20 And we just hope that the Commission
21 makes the right decision and takes all factors into
22 consideration when they do so. Now, thank you very

1 much. Very glad to be here.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Thank you Madam
4 People's Counsel. Good to see you as always.

5 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Next, we'll call
6 Mr. Keith Foxx to the podium.

7 MR. FOXX: Hi. Good evening. This
8 thing adjust any? My apologies.

9 Good evening Mr. Chairman and members
10 of the Commission and Office of the People's Counsel.
11 Good to see you again. My name is Keith Foxx. I'm a
12 professional engineer and principal at FOXXSTEM
13 Engineering, a DC-based civil and structural
14 engineering firm founded in 2020, and also a
15 ratepayer.

16 I am here today to express FOXXSTEM's
17 full support for Pepco's "Climate Ready Pathway DC"
18 plan and respectfully ask for the approval of Formal
19 Case 1176 by the Public Service Commission. I have
20 witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of
21 Pepco's commitment to sustainability and
22 infrastructure development in our community.

1 FOXXSTEM has the privilege of being a
2 prime contractor on the Capital Grid project. Our
3 first prime contract thanks to Pepco. One of the
4 projects identified in Pepco's multiyear plan is that
5 Capital Grid project. We provide support to a number
6 of Pepco's contractors, some in the room here, to
7 deliver critical projects in the public space. As you
8 know, the Capital Grid project includes nearly ten
9 miles of undergrounding of transmission lines and is a
10 multiphase project.

11 Being a prime contractor on this
12 important project has helped our business grow and
13 expand our workforce including hiring DC residents.
14 Furthermore, our collaboration with Pepco has provided
15 more opportunities for FOXXSTEM to win additional
16 contracts with other utilities.

17 I'm also advocating strongly for this
18 multiyear plan in contrast to a single year plan
19 because from our perspective as a small business, the
20 predictability associated with a multiyear plan is
21 invaluable for budgeting, hiring, and overall strategy
22 planning. A three year outlook on rates and

1 infrastructure projects, as proposed by this multiyear
2 plan, provides a solid foundation for our business to
3 plan our hiring and growth strategies with confidence.

4 Pepco's "Climate Ready Pathway DC" plan
5 and the approval of Formal Case 1176 are crucial steps
6 towards a more sustainable and prosperous future for
7 the District and FOXSTEM. Furthermore, the multiyear
8 plan represents a commitment to the broader
9 community's economic and environmental well-being.

10 I, therefore, respectfully, strongly
11 urge the Public Service Commission to approve Pepco's
12 multiyear plan ensuring continued growth, innovation,
13 and resilience for our city and our small businesses.
14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Thank you
15 for your consideration. And I yield the remainder of
16 my time.

17 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr.
18 Foxx. Any questions?

19 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Mr. Foxx, just
20 very quickly. First of all, thank you, again, for
21 your testimony. About how old is your firm and
22 approximately how many DC residents do you employ?

1 MR. FOXX: So our firm just entering
2 our fourth year. And we have about 21 employees. I
3 would say somewhere between seven and ten are DC
4 residents.

5 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Okay. And they
6 do what sorts of work?

7 MR. FOXX: So everything from
8 engineering, staffing, HR, IT. So our -- our company
9 is mostly engineers, but we have a lot of support
10 staff also. I'd say probably on the engineering side,
11 maybe three engineers from the District of Columbia.

12 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Thank you very
13 much. Appreciate it.

14 MR. FOXX: And we also do interns from
15 the District of Columbia.

16 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Very important as
17 well.

18 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you. Next,
19 I'll call Ms. Shelore C. Williams. She's ready?
20 Okay. And I believe Ms. Williams is going to join us
21 virtually.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: How're you doing,
2 Ms. Williams?

3 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm fantastic. And
4 thank you for allowing me to say hello to you today
5 and speak on this issue.

6 I am -- I want to say good evening
7 Commissioners, neighbors, and community members. My
8 name is Shelore Williams, and I am the president and
9 CEO of the Development Corporation of Columbia
10 Heights. Many people say DCCH, but I'll just say --
11 I'll -- I'll give the full name.

12 Our office is located at 2604 Georgia
13 Avenue Northwest, just a few blocks from Pepco's
14 Harvard substation. Development Corporation was
15 established in 1984 as a -- as a nonprofit advocacy
16 platform with the goal to revitalize and bring much
17 needed resources to underserved neighbors.

18 So I state, firsthand, that we are in
19 support of Pepco's efforts to upgrade its grid for the
20 future. The Development Corporation of Columbia
21 Heights has and will continue to use smart strategies
22 with Pepco's continued assistance to implement

1 neighborhood revitalization projects and benefit low-
2 and moderate-income households.

3 The Development Corporation is proud of
4 its record of accomplishments, which includes
5 providing grants to small -- small businesses,
6 assisting over 500 businesses with technical training
7 and preparing for grant proposals, and partnering with
8 developers on revitalization projects, especially in
9 Columbia Heights. We are -- we are ownership. We own
10 and manage approximately 53 apartment units for low-
11 and moderate-households in Columbia Heights. We exist
12 to help residents in Columbia Heights to excel in the
13 future. That's why Pepco's plan to invest in its
14 electrical grid is important and, we believe, will
15 enhance reliability, provide jobs, and update the
16 internet security protection for the future.

17 Pepco has been steadfast in sharing
18 information about its multiyear plan with the
19 community. A Development Corporation of Columbia
20 Heights representative attended one of Pepco's
21 briefings last year where Pepco staff presented the
22 multiyear plan and discussed some of the benefits that

1 the District residents will benefit from.

2 I learned that Pepco's multiyear plan
3 is a strategic approach to upgrade the grid for the
4 future and to expand its capacity to host more rooftop
5 and community solar, which will help customer billing
6 accounts. Pepco also has shared that they would
7 invest in modern technology on the grid to prevent and
8 lower the risk of cyber-attacks. Enhancing the grid's
9 security helps to keep customers' information secure
10 and, ultimately, the goals -- the grid secure. This
11 is extremely important because personal and business
12 information must be secured because we are the
13 nation's capital.

14 The multiyear plan also represents job
15 opportunities for our community. This -- this
16 project -- this project took a lot of manpower to
17 complete. We have personally witnessed this as they
18 competed the -- and updated the Columbia Heights
19 Harvard substation. This project took several years
20 and many individuals to complete. We know that these
21 jobs were good jobs with -- with good benefits.

22 Pepco has been active in our community.

1 And Pepco has promoted and continues to promote the DC
2 Infrastructure Academy to help train District
3 residents for these jobs. We fully support Pepco's
4 efforts to hire DC residents and support local
5 businesses as they execute their multiyear plan and
6 strategy.

7 Pepco has included plans on how
8 residents can afford the increased rates. This
9 important to -- to Development Corporation of Columbia
10 Heights because we own and manage apartment units
11 where many of our residents are families and senior
12 citizens on fixed income. Pepco has been instrumental
13 in addressing our tenants issues, which -- with energy
14 assistant programs. Pepco has demonstrated that they
15 are a community partner for all -- homeowners,
16 tenants, businesses, schools, and universities -- and
17 is committed to supporting our Columbia Heights
18 community as well as this great city.

19 I think that you should know that DCCH,
20 or Development Corporation of Columbia Heights, in
21 conclusion, is in full support of Pepco's effort and
22 its multiyear plan. Thank you for having me come this

1 afternoon.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms.
3 Williams.

4 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: I have no
5 questions, Ms. Williams. It's good to hear you.
6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Next, we'll call
8 Mr. Matthias Paustian. I believe he's also going to
9 be on Webex.

10 MR. PAUSTIAN: Yes. Good evening. My
11 name is Matthias Paustian. I am a resident of Ward 4.
12 And I speak to you today in strong opposition to this
13 multiyear rate plan.

14 The rate increase that's being asked
15 for is extremely high. Pepco's asking to raise
16 residential electricity rates by over 20 percent -- by
17 20 percent over a -- a three year period. The
18 component of electricity rates that Pepco controls,
19 distribution charges, would rise by around 37 percent
20 in that same period.

21 The proposed rate plan closes a --
22 places a disproportionate burden on residential

1 customers. The residential customer class would see a
2 rate increase more than two times that of the system
3 average. And these rate increases come on top of a
4 long series of rate increases in recent years. In the
5 last 15 years, rates have risen faster than the
6 overall cost of living. In particular, residential
7 distribution rates in DC have increased at nearly 2.4
8 times the rate of inflation.

9 And I just remind everyone that overall
10 load growth in DC was broadly flat, just as in the
11 nation, over the last 15 years or so. You're kind of
12 asking yourself what are we paying all this money for
13 when the load is basically flat.

14 Now, a lot has been said about the need
15 to invest in an infrastructure because of so called
16 climate benefits. I'm just going to point to OPC's
17 analysis that shows that around 90 to 95 percent of
18 the proposed investments are business-as-usual in
19 nature and cannot be matched to any reductions in
20 greenhouse gas emissions or improvements in energy
21 efficiency. In particular, Pepco has not
22 identified -- has not been able to identify how it

1 will measure the success of its investments in meeting
2 the District's climate and clean energy goals.

3 The rate plan also points out that the
4 District's climate policy requires a significant shift
5 to electrification, and it says that the climate ready
6 grid investments are needed to support reliability
7 resiliency. However, when asked to provide its
8 forecast for the anticipated growth in
9 electrification, I believe in response to a data
10 request from AOBA, Pepco said it does not directly
11 include electrification in its year load forecast.
12 Pepco also said it does not include forecast for
13 conversion of gas heating to electric heating. So
14 there's a disconnect between the statements that we
15 need to invest in those things and there being no
16 analysis done to actually support how much load's
17 going to grow.

18 The District government commissions an
19 electrification roadmap study that found that Pepco
20 system is well equipped to handle the projected
21 electrification loads from building and transportation
22 electrification up to the year 2032. And they found

1 that the -- those combined electrification loads are
2 not expected to exceed substation capacity in any zone
3 within DC. So again, I'm just questioning the need to
4 invest all this money when there have been studies
5 done that show in the foreseeable future there is no
6 need to invest this money.

7 Lots of folks have spoken to
8 electrification for transportation. I'm just going to
9 point out the issue of who benefits and who pays.
10 Forty percent of residents in DC do not own a car.
11 Most of these folks are much more likely to be low-
12 income folks or middle-income folks. And electric
13 vehicles, so far, are confined to middle- or higher-
14 income groups. So I'm just going to point out that we
15 might be asking everybody to chip in, and the benefits
16 are going to go to folks who are better off.

17 All right. Now, finally, the multiyear
18 rate plan issue. The Commission promised to review
19 the success and failure of this new regulatory
20 mechanism before considering any renewal or prominent
21 multiyear plan, and this review did not occur before
22 Pepco submitted its application. I don't think we

1 should engage in another multiyear rate plan before
2 we've actually evaluated whether we've benefited from
3 that kind of plan as opposed to regular forms of rate
4 making.

5 In particular, if we do engage in any
6 alternative forms of rate making, there should be
7 performance incentive mechanisms attached to the rate
8 plans meaning that, you know, Pepco should be rewarded
9 or doing more than business-as-usual activities. For
10 example, you know, quantitative targets for the
11 adoptions of non-wired alternatives to traditional
12 grid upgrade projects, battery storage, virtual power
13 plants. If you do something more than
14 business-as-usual, be rewarded for that. If you did
15 business-as-usual, there is no need to engage in
16 alternative forms of rate making like multiyear plans.

17 All right. Finally, I have very
18 substantial reservations against the -- a component of
19 this plan that allows Pepco to make its own forecast
20 of future costs. The issue with that is that it
21 creates perverse incentives. Right? Pepco is going
22 to make a forecast and that is incentivizing it as

1 opposed to seek out high cost activities even if
2 future costs may turn out lower than they anticipate.
3 And the reason is simply that Pepco benefits from
4 capital expenditures. If it turns out that, you know,
5 they can do it cheaper, if they've already got a
6 certain level of expenditures preauthorized based on
7 their own forecast, what -- what incentives do they
8 have to contain costs?

9 Let me give you an analogy. Imagine
10 you give a kid a dollar to buy one piece of candy, and
11 you expect the price of candy to be a dollar a piece.
12 Kid goes to the store, finds the candy only cost 50
13 cents a piece. What's the kid going to do? Is he
14 going to go and say, "Well, I'm only going to buy this
15 one piece of candy, and I'm going to give my mom 50
16 cents back"? No. Kid's going to say, "I'm going to
17 buy two pieces of candy. You gave me a dollar. I was
18 allowed to spend the dollar. I could have only spent
19 50 cents and give you the rest back, but, you know,
20 I'm not going to do that."

21 Similarly, Pepco is going to find ways
22 to spend the money. You preauthorized it. And so the

1 idea that you base the rate application on Pepco's own
2 forecast sets incentives to engage in excessive costs
3 and expenditures. And so I would -- I would advise
4 not to approve that kind of rate-based mechanism.

5 And so in conclusion, I -- I strongly
6 oppose this -- this rate plan. I don't think there is
7 a basis for doing this as opposed to a regular base
8 types of regulatory mechanisms such as, you know, to
9 pick a test year, and -- and then do what you always
10 do. I think that'd be much better than another three
11 year multi rate case. Thank you for your time and
12 attention.

13 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr.
14 Paustian.

15 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: No questions.
16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Next, I'll call Mr.
18 Florentino Gregorio.

19 MR. GREGORIO: Good evening. Good
20 evening, Commissioners. My name is Florentino
21 Gregorio, and I'm the president of Anchor Construction
22 Corporation. I'm here this evening to speak and

1 support the Pepco multiyear rate plan, the "Climate
2 Ready Pathway" Formal Case 1176, and request approval
3 of it by the Public Service Commission.

4 Even though the majority of my comments
5 will be about Anchor, I feel that I -- I better sense
6 who I am. I was born in Portugal. One of three
7 children. The oldest to Enrique and Lucinda, my
8 parents. My father's dream was for us to be able to
9 experience the American Dream a little -- a little --

10 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: It's kind of hard
11 for us to hear you.

12 MR. GREGORIO: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you. Sorry.

14 MR. GREGORIO: Okay. Thank you. Yeah,
15 that's better. I hear myself.

16 And through his sacrifice and drive, I
17 was able to immigrate to the United States as a young
18 boy. As soon as I was old enough, I was able to work
19 the summer construction jobs. Working in construction
20 sparked my interest in civil engineering, and I went
21 on to graduate from University of Maryland with a
22 bachelor's in science and civil engineering.

1 I started Anchor Construction in 1985
2 as a small business, a small yard, in Northeast DC
3 with a very small number of people, employees, working
4 repairing sidewalks. With a lot of hard work and a
5 lot of good people, Anchor was able to grow. Since
6 then -- and particularly with the great help of being
7 a minority-owned business and a disadvantage business
8 enterprise certified by the state, local, county, and
9 city municipalities.

10 Our headquarters still remains in
11 Northeast DC. We are certified business at the price
12 having a certification as a local enterprise, as a
13 longtime resident business, and having our
14 headquarters in the development enterprise zone. Now
15 with the diverse workforce of 400 or so employees,
16 Anchor has completed probably over a thousand
17 contracts for the public and private. While Anchor
18 specialized primarily underground utilities
19 infrastructure work such as electrical, water, sewer,
20 storm, and communications, also performs some bridge
21 work structures, green infrastructures, and other
22 civil work.

1 One of our proudest achievements is the
2 status of the First Contractor of Choice with COC for
3 Exelon. This enormous opportunity provides an
4 excellent partnership, and resources has led to
5 significant growth for Anchor. And more important,
6 has allowed Anchor to provide lots of jobs for a lot
7 of -- and provide for a lot of families while making a
8 lasting contribution to our communities by improving
9 their quality of life by ensuring that we have
10 reliable source of water and power.

11 Pepco's multiyear plan identifies
12 several investments that would be made over a three
13 year plan. Two of the investments identified are
14 projects for which Anchor is presently a contractor:
15 Copper Grid and Downtown Resupply. Through this work,
16 Anchor is able to support numerous fulltime equivalent
17 jobs contributing substantial to tax revenue to the
18 District. These projects also allow for our own
19 workforce development.

20 As you know, Anchor -- you may know
21 Anchor administers a DRES-approved enterprise program
22 for pipelayers. The three year program combines

1 classroom and job experiences. The graduates of which
2 will allow our younger workers to obtain the skills
3 necessary to grow and become business leaders in their
4 own right. These projects will be vital to the
5 continued growth of the apprenticeship program. It
6 gives me good pleasure to see our people do well and
7 succeed.

8 I'd like to address the multiyear
9 nature of Pepco's plan, which Anchor strongly
10 supports. Having regulatory approval over a three
11 year period provides Pepco the certainty of being able
12 to perform such work -- important work infrastructure
13 projects as Capital Grid and Downtown Resupply, which
14 in turn enables COC, such as Anchor, the ability to
15 better plan and budget. We're, therefore, very much
16 in favor of this plan, a multiyear plan, as opposed to
17 the more traditional one year rate plan.

18 Anchor also has a strong spirit of
19 giving back to the community. As a sampling of the
20 charities and causes that Anchor supports include
21 CAUSE USA, assisting wounded veterans; YMCA Angels of
22 the Battlefield, supporting military and first

1 responders; support DC Police Foundation; a Wider
2 Circle, a DC-based social service organization;
3 Turning the Page, assisting parental development in
4 education; food drive Capital Area Food Bank; DC
5 Students Construction Trade Foundation; and the AFI
6 Silver Theater and Cultural Center.

7 Our leadership team and employees have
8 also proudly contributed to the support of Pepco's
9 effort of the DC Infrastructure Academy. Anchor has
10 assisted by offering their services as instructors and
11 has also employed some of the graduates from the
12 program. All of them continue to grow and put -- you
13 know, opportunities provided by Anchor -- provide
14 Anchor by Exelon.

15 Thank you for permitting me to the
16 opportunity to speak to you about this important
17 matter. Please see -- do not see this as a multiyear
18 plan, as an expense, but as an investment, an
19 importance of DC business, and more important, DC
20 employment. It is not exaggeration to say Exelon
21 investment allows me to continue to achieve my
22 American Dream. You can make -- you can make this

1 happen. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr.
3 Gregorio. Any questions?

4 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: No. Thank you
5 very much for your testimony.

6 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you.
7 Appreciate it. Thank you.

8 Next, I'll call Mr. Jerry Williford to
9 the podium.

10 MR. WILLIFORD: Good evening, Public
11 Service Commissioners and guests. My name is Jerry R.
12 Williford, Jr. I'm the president, business manager,
13 financial secretary for IBEW Local 1900. We represent
14 more than 1100 working men and women in the Washington
15 DC area. We represent working men and women in a wide
16 and diverse variety of fields including Pepco
17 Utilities, Lanyard Power, Washington Gas and
18 Frederick, and government agencies that include the
19 Architect of the Capital, Bureau of Engraving and
20 Printing, U.S. Government Publishing Office, and the
21 National Institutes of Standards and Technology.

22 Let me start by saying on behalf of the

1 hundreds of hardworking union members of Local 1900,
2 we have carefully considered the details of this plan
3 and are overwhelmingly in support of Pepco's "Climate
4 Ready Pathway DC" multiyear rate plan for various
5 important reasons. Under the multiyear rate plan,
6 Pepco will execute several significant projects to
7 include critical infrastructure and enhance grid
8 performance and meet customers' current and future
9 needs.

10 The planned investments Pepco will make
11 as part of this plan will generously translate into
12 the creation of many lucrative, well paid, union jobs
13 with competitive wages and benefits for our members
14 and other residents in the DC region and beyond as
15 estimates indicate that investments made from this
16 plan will require the support of approximately 3800
17 fulltime jobs. Our proud members do this type of work
18 and are capable and well positioned with the exact
19 type of technical knowledge, skills, and expertise
20 that it will take to complete these critical projects
21 successfully in a timely, cost-effective manner.

22 It is important to note that it is our

1 union workers that are currently installing nearly ten
2 miles of transmission line in the Capital Grid
3 project, which is also one of the largest
4 infrastructure projects on the East Coast. Soon, our
5 workers will begin to work to relocate infrastructure
6 along Benning Road to accommodate the expansion of the
7 DC streetlight and enhance the Benning Road I-95
8 exchange. Let me also emphasize that these critical
9 investments will generate the creation of many other
10 newly created jobs indirectly including jobs related
11 to the manufacturing and supply of materials and
12 equipment, transporting materials to and from the
13 jobsites, and these workers will also support local
14 businesses, which will further improve the economic
15 welfare of local DC business.

16 These projects will also require the
17 employment and support of many contractors, some of
18 which will be represented by labor -- organized labor.
19 Excuse me. Pepco has a long distinguished history of
20 community engagement and is fully committed to hiring
21 residents of DC as well. Pepco and its parent
22 company, Exelon, were early supporters of the DC

1 Infrastructure Academy, which is a phenomenal
2 initiative offering 100 percent of its graduates with
3 good job opportunities at Pepco, its contractors, or
4 other major employers in the DC region.

5 Our members include several DCI
6 graduates, and I can -- I can attest to the fact that
7 Pepco has developed and implemented highly effective
8 training and progression programs that enable these
9 employees to complete an apprentice program where they
10 can earn over \$110,000 annually with no overtime in
11 four years. This program has graduated over 200
12 individuals since its inception and it serves as a
13 main recruiting resource for contractors and other
14 employers in the District. All DCI graduates are DC
15 residents. And I'm proud to say that I constantly
16 receive feedback including -- or indicating that its
17 life changing for them. I'm actually a mentor to
18 probably about 30 of these young people. And it's one
19 of the -- it's a -- it's a big deal. Pardon me for
20 that.

21 Today, there are not many jobs in the
22 DC region that -- that can provide residents with an

1 opportunity to earn good wages, in many cases up to
2 six figures and above, annually without a college
3 degree. These projects provide an alternative
4 successful career path for those that choose to attend
5 trade and technical schools, which are now a critical
6 part of America's workforce of the future.

7 Our union brothers at IBEW Local 1900
8 are proud to -- proud of the work that we do, which
9 helps to keep the nation's capital a vibrant city
10 ready for the future. And we strongly believe that
11 the Pepco "Climate Ready Pathway DC" multiyear rate
12 plan represents job security and competitive wages and
13 benefits for our working men and women and hundreds of
14 other working residents. This is why IBEW Local 1900
15 Union brothers and sisters kindly ask that you approve
16 the plan to ensure that our members have the
17 opportunities to work on a long-term multiyear
18 investment plan that will improve the economy of DC
19 and the welfare of its residents. Thank you.

20 And -- and just another thing. Of the
21 1100 that we represent, 970 of them are Pepco
22 employees. And of those 970, close to 400 are DC

1 residents. So I just wanted to share that with you as
2 well. And I appreciate your time. Very passionate
3 about the Infrastructure Academy. If you have an
4 opportunity, April 11th they have a graduation over on
5 Pomeroy Road. If you can, be there. It's
6 unbelievable. Come experience it. thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you for those
8 comments, Mr. Williford. I will certainly tell you
9 that I've had the opportunity to go down to the
10 Infrastructure Academy and been on a number of other
11 engagements with them. And it is truly an amazing
12 program. And what they're doing down there just on
13 the Pepco side, but across the academy, it's truly
14 impactful. So I understand why you feel the way you
15 feel.

16 MR. WILLIFORD: Yep. Thank you very
17 much. Have a good day.

18 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Mr. Williford, I
19 just wanted to say thank you as well. And thank you
20 for your commitment to hiring and training and
21 advancing the careers of District residents. It's
22 very important in this community.

1 MR. WILLIFORD: It -- it is to our
2 local as well. Thank you very much.

3 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Next, I'll call
4 Mr. Dan Tangherlini.

5 MR. TANGHERLINI: Thank you very much.
6 Good evening, Chairman -- Chairman Thompson,
7 Commissioners Beverly and Trabue, Madam People's
8 Counsel, and those joining us in person and virtually.
9 My name is Dan Tangherlini, and I'm here tonight in
10 support of Pepco's multiyear rate plan, or MYP. I'll
11 submit my longer statement in the form of a letter for
12 the record and highlight certain points in my oral
13 testimony.

14 I've worked extensively with Pepco in
15 various professional roles, including my current
16 capacity. More significantly, though, and why I'm
17 here tonight, is I've been a Pepco customer for more
18 than 30 years as a resident of the Capitol Hill
19 Community in Northeast DC.

20 Recently, we completed the transition
21 to an exclusively electric home: installed solar,
22 replaced our boiler with an air-to-water heat pump,

1 upgraded our electrical service, and provided for the
2 near term installation of a Level 2 electric car
3 charger. We've committed ourselves entirely to Pepco
4 as our sole energy utility provider. So ensuring
5 Pepco has both the resources and regulatory direction
6 to appropriately protect, expand, and modernize the
7 District's grid is essential to supporting those of us
8 who've made the transition to sustainable energy as
9 though -- as well as those who'll join us.

10 The proposed MYP would achieve
11 significant efficiencies by establishing locked and
12 predictable pricing for consumers for multiple years.
13 Having such predictability is an important feature of
14 Pepco's plan as it provides customers certainty for
15 distribution rates for multiple years while allowing
16 Pepco and the DCPSC to spend more time evaluating
17 impacts and planning for the future.

18 A critical importance is the need to
19 safeguard those who cannot afford to make the sort of
20 investments we have made. That is why it is
21 reassuring to see that the MYP makes several proposals
22 to address affordability, particularly the emphasis

1 given to the Residential Aide Program, or RAD, which
2 removes distribution cost from an individual's bill
3 making them immune from rate increases such as those
4 sought in this proposal.

5 It's my understanding that the income
6 levels for the RAD Program is much higher than for
7 similar energy assistance programs broadening the
8 reach of this effort. Notwithstanding, given current
9 energy price trends, I'm sure you'll pay particularly
10 close attention to the size of the requested
11 increases.

12 The residents of the District and its
13 government are committed to a zero emissions future.
14 Those responsible for ensuring this outcome need to
15 rise to the challenge and use all appropriate tools to
16 ensure the success of a clean energy transition. The
17 investments and projects envisioned by Pepco in this
18 rate plan are aligned with the city's goals of carbon
19 neutrality by 2045 and will build the cities capacity
20 and, more specifically, allow for greater use of
21 distributed energy resources such as boundary storage,
22 solar, and microgrids.

1 Given the compact service area, the
2 sophisticated customer base, committed jurisdictional
3 government partners, and clear imperative, the DCPSC
4 and Pepco could provide national leadership that will
5 encourage the transition to sustainable energy while
6 enabling new businesses and job creation here in DC.
7 Pepco can lead the way in welcoming the expansion in
8 new industries and technological innovations in the
9 District by providing a modern, sophisticated, and
10 accessible grid. It can do so while protecting those
11 most vulnerable and price sensitive to rate changes.
12 The Public Service Commission can take another step in
13 this direction by approving the MYP. Thank you, and
14 I'm happy to take any questions.

15 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Mr. Tangerlini,
17 after so many years of working with you and in so many
18 different circles, it's great to see you here in this
19 room tonight. A long time resident of the District
20 and former director of various District government and
21 federal government agencies.

22 But I want to ask you something in your

1 personal capacity as one who has gone from a home that
2 used gas and electricity to all electric. How
3 difficult was this switch? You know, we're having
4 these conversations in a myriad of different quarters
5 around the city. How difficult was the switch, and
6 how have you found it now? Were there challenges in
7 terms of system upgrades on your block or within your
8 home that you had to accomplish?

9 MR. TANGHERLINI: No. Actually, that
10 was one of the things that I found to be most
11 gratifying was the -- the actual connection with Pepco
12 was -- was -- that -- that's been the best part so
13 far. Our contractor base, our -- our individual
14 contractor base serving residents is still warming up
15 to this idea, if you pardon the pun. And many of them
16 are very familiar with -- with traditional heating
17 systems and aren't really excited about making a
18 transition to something. And it's particularly unique
19 as what we did, which was an air-to-water heat pump.

20 I -- I think that that's one of the big
21 challenges and, really, where a lot of effort and
22 energy could go into on the part of the different

1 regulatory authorities and other people who support
2 this transition is making it easier for -- for
3 individual citizens to -- to take that right step in
4 the direction of sustainability.

5 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Okay. And the
6 interconnection with the -- your solar system?

7 MR. TANGHERLINI: Yeah. That was
8 actually pretty straightforward. And the -- the
9 current regime, regulatory regime, that DC has for
10 solar installation for individual residents is one of
11 the best in the country. And we've benefited
12 tremendously from that. and I think, you know, other
13 people in this -- in the community, then, are now
14 encouraged to participate in this distributed
15 electrical generation mechanism. We need to then have
16 a grid that then supports that.

17 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Thank you very
18 much. Good to see you again.

19 MR. TANGHERLINI: Yeah, it's good to
20 see all of you. Thank you for your service.

21 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Next, I'll call Ms.
22 Naomi Cohen-Shields. Call Mr. Michael Powers.

1 MR. POWERS: Thank you Chairman
2 Thompson and gentlepersons of the Commission. I would
3 like to support Pepco's "Climate Ready Pathway DC"
4 multiyear plan. I am Michael Powers, safety
5 coordinator of IBEW Local Union 70 in Forestville,
6 Maryland. I represent 1950 essential personnel
7 dedicated to the building, servicing, and maintaining
8 of our critical electrical grid. Local 70 is a proud
9 participating partner in the DCIA, Infrastructure
10 Academy, whereby which we do OSHA training for the
11 participants in the DCIA and DC residents. Again,
12 something we're very proud of.

13 I wholeheartedly support Pepco's
14 "Climate Ready Pathway DC" multiyear plan. This
15 endorsement stems from a deep commitment to our
16 members, their families, and the communities we serve.
17 The emphasis on "Local" in our union's name is not
18 mere symbolism. It underscores our members' intimate
19 connection with the area and the areas they serve.
20 Many are Pepco ratepayers themselves further
21 highlighting our invested interest in the utilities
22 operations. Pepco's plan promises significant

1 benefits including the creation of 3800 jobs -- job
2 opportunities. These -- these positions offer
3 competitive wages, comprehensive benefits, vital for
4 sustaining families and strengthening communities.

5 The proposed investment in the grid
6 necessitates the skilled labor of our members. These
7 projects are pivotal -- pivotal for the modernization
8 of the grid by installing more modern equipment and
9 smart technologies to meet the evolving customer
10 needs. With many initiatives spanning multiple years,
11 they provide stable employment and excellent benefits
12 ensuring prosperity of our workers, and allows the
13 contractors long-term foresight into the market to
14 help offset mobilization and tooling costs.

15 The utility sector remains one of
16 the -- one of the few avenues of achieving middleclass
17 status and Pepco's plan not only enhances the
18 infrastructure, but also provides meaningful
19 employment opportunities for District residents. Most
20 notably, many of our workers are among these
21 residents. Further underscoring the plans positive
22 impact on a local community, Local Union 70 provides

1 local skilled labor and an opportunity for long,
2 stable careers that are pillars for families to grow
3 on, providing good healthcare, and to help to provide
4 a quality education for their children.

5 I urge you to support Pepco's "Climate
6 Ready Plan DC". By doing so, you endorse the
7 modernization of the grid and the sustainability of
8 our employment for District residents. Thank you very
9 much, gentlemen. Any questions?

10 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr.
11 Powers. I don't have any questions.

12 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Appreciate it.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Ms. Dierdra Joy.

15 MS. JOY: I want to thank the
16 Commissioners for allowing me to speak today. My name
17 is Dierdra Joy. I'm a resident -- long-term resident
18 of the District of Columbia. I live in Ward 1. I'm
19 also a member of Third Act DC. Third Act is an
20 elder-led organization committed to safeguarding the
21 climate and democracy.

22 And I am also primarily here as a Pepco

1 residential ratepayer. And I've been watching my
2 electricity rates steadily climb over the years. I
3 lived in my current home for 15 years. And over that
4 period of time, residential customer distribution
5 charges have risen, as others have mentioned, far
6 faster than the cost of living. I can afford, however
7 grudgingly, to pay these increases. But according to
8 the Office of the People's Counsel, this particular
9 proposal by Pepco would make housing in the District
10 unaffordable for the bottom 20 percent of District
11 households.

12 And I actually -- what this brings to
13 mind for me is my father who does not live in the
14 District, but I think that his story is probably --
15 it's not unique. It probably does occur in the
16 District as well. My father lives across the river in
17 Arlington in the house I grew up in. He's 93 years
18 old. He -- at that age, he lives independently.
19 He's -- he's pretty impressive. But at that age,
20 thermoregulation is -- is tough. So when I go to his
21 house, I know to wear a t-shirt any time of year
22 because he has to keep the heat up pretty high just to

1 be comfortable.

2 And he can probably -- he could
3 probably a handle a 20 percent -- a -- a huge rate
4 increase like what is being asked here. But I think
5 about the number of elderly, lower-income, District
6 residents in the -- in those -- in his shame shoes who
7 would have a real tough time paying for that. I
8 haven't heard a lot this evening about the residents
9 of the District and the burden that the cost -- these
10 costs would be placed on them.

11 I mentioned I'm a member of Third Act,
12 and one of core issues is protecting against the
13 climate crisis. I'm all for electrification. I'm not
14 for greenwashing. Pepco claims the rate increase is
15 needed to enable a big shift to electrification. This
16 sounds reasonable except that the District government
17 electrification road map already found that Pepco's
18 current system can handle the projected
19 electrification loads from buildings and transport up
20 through the year 2032.

21 In fact, Pepco's own electrification
22 plan to the Commission -- to the Commission found that

1 future load growth due to electrification of all
2 buildings in DC will remain within recent historical
3 ranges. Respectfully, there is no basis for the
4 planned capital investments in the District
5 electrification policy.

6 And lastly, I take issue with the use
7 of a multiyear rate plan. As others have mentioned,
8 the first multiyear rate plan has yet to be reviewed
9 by the Commission to assess excesses and failures. I
10 think it would be premature to consider an additional
11 multiyear plan before the first one has been properly
12 assessed. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Joy.

14 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Thank you for
15 your testimony, Ms. Joy. Without getting in too
16 deeply into your business, and you don't have to
17 answer this if you wouldn't like to, but you said
18 you've been in your home for about 15 years. And
19 you've seen growth in your bill.

20 MS. JOY: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Can you talk
22 about, you know, maybe 15 -- I remember my water bill,

1 so I won't pick on anybody in the room. My water bill
2 15 or so years ago was \$40 a quarter. Now I feel like
3 it's over \$200 a month.

4 MS. JOY: Exactly. Yeah. Similar.

5 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: If it's --

6 MS. JOY: Well, certainly. Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Not your water
8 bill, but --

9 MS. JOY: Right. Like most families,
10 you pay -- you pay attention to those bills. When our
11 kids were growing up, you know, you pay attention
12 to -- to where the thermostat is and are the doors
13 closed and all of that. It just seems as though even
14 though we're -- we're -- our kids are all moved away
15 now, the bills are -- are certainly not lower. And
16 they do seem higher. Yeah. So we're talking 15 year
17 time range. Yeah. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Next, I'll call Ms.
19 Dottie Lovade. I say that correctly?

20 MS. LOVE WADE: Love Wade.

21 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Love Wade. Sorry.
22 I apologize.

1 MS. LOVE WADE: So --

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Sorry about -- I
3 had --

4 MS. LOVE WADE: He's booting up my
5 iPad. I think I can read it from my phone.

6 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Hi, Dottie. It's
7 so good to see you. Dottie and I served on the school
8 board together for years. So it's good to see her
9 again. A longtime resident of Ward 1.

10 MS. LOVE WADE: Thank you. And I was
11 going to especially speak to you Commissioner Trabue.

12 Good evening Chairman Thompson,
13 Commissioner Beverly, and my longtime colleague and
14 fellow school board member Commissioner Trabue. My
15 name is Dottie Love Wade. And I'm here today to
16 express my support for Pepco, especially the
17 initiative for Climate Ready Pathways, the multiyear
18 rate plan, and advocate for the approval of Formal
19 Case 1176 by the Public Service Commission.

20 As a native Washingtonian and a
21 dedicated public servant with extensive experience in
22 both the District and federal governments as well in

1 private sector, I've always been committed to
2 fostering positive community development and
3 supporting initiatives that promise a brighter, more
4 sustainable future for our city. My involvement as a
5 board chairman for several nonprofits, executive
6 director of the DC Lottery and Charitable Games
7 control board, advisor to the Department of For-Hire
8 Vehicles, and especially as a 22 year commissioner for
9 Ward 1, A1, it has given me a -- a unique perspective
10 on the critical importance of reliable, modern energy
11 infrastructures to our communities growth and
12 resilience.

13 As my capacity as an active member of
14 the Harvard Substation Community Advisor Group, we
15 call it CAG, I've had the privilege of working closely
16 with Pepco's external affairs and project managers on
17 the transformative Capital Grid project. That is so
18 important to our community. I can't express to you
19 how important that Capital Grid project has been to
20 our community.

21 Prior to the Capital Grid and with the
22 development of the Columbia Heights Community, which

1 we were so happy to see, we had started to experience
2 extreme brownouts. Now, I've lived in my neighborhood
3 for 50 years, and my home for 50 years. And my
4 neighborhood -- well, I'm not going to tell you how
5 many years because I'll then have to shoot everybody.

6 We never experienced blackouts and
7 brownouts. But after the development up in Columbia
8 Heights, the pressure on the community was extensive.
9 And I worked with Pepco in the process of developing
10 the upgrades for the -- for the Harvard substation.
11 And I can tell you that they work very closely with
12 us, especially -- it may not mean much to some people,
13 but to old-school people like me, they maintained the
14 historical features and structure of external parts of
15 the building, which meant a great deal to our
16 community. Which has been ravaged, of course, you
17 know, with the modern buildings destroying the quaint
18 neighborhoods that we love so much. So I'm going to
19 get back to that.

20 But I thought it was very important
21 that you know how important this capital grid
22 development has been to our community. Keeping that

1 in mind, we know we got to pay for it. It's a bigger
2 pill to swallow, but I think we all have to spread it
3 out because we're going to all benefit from this --
4 from this capital grid expansion. So it's important
5 for us.

6 So this multiyear rate increase plan
7 will help us, especially seniors such as myself who
8 are on fixed incomes. And we get a little slip every
9 year telling us what our cost of living increase is
10 going to be and how much money we're going to have.
11 So it's helpful to us to know what our other expenses
12 are going to be during that year.

13 So I feel that this multiyear rate plan
14 will assist us in that and will be a benefit to
15 everybody in the community not just the businesses.
16 But it will definitely have an impact on the
17 residents. It'll also have an impact on our seniors
18 because they also offer a residential aid discount for
19 seniors that may result in a more negligible increase
20 in our rates.

21 But let's be real. We know it's going
22 to cost to upgrade our systems. It's going to cost to

1 put in these electric power ports that I hear
2 everybody asking for. I'm going to get an electric
3 car. I'm not moderate income. I'm just a senior on a
4 fixed income. But I know how important it's going to
5 be to not only our environment, but also into how long
6 our automobiles may actually last us. So a long-term
7 investment.

8 So let me go back to here to my
9 prepared notes because I don't want to miss anything.
10 Okay. So I went on about my involvement as an active
11 CAG member. I want to speak again to the fact that
12 Pepco has been involved with the community.

13 Now, I've served on Advisory
14 Neighborhood Commission for 22 years. That's a lot of
15 terms. That's a lot of public meetings. And Pepco
16 came to many of our public meetings from, I think, it
17 started around 2016 when they started talking to the
18 community about the upgrades to the Harvard substation
19 and the improvements to the capital grid.

20 And so since that time, I really can't
21 tell you how many meetings we've had. I know it's
22 been numerous. They've kept us abreast of it. The

1 main thing is that the Harvard substation is in my
2 single member District. So I had most hands-on
3 contact with all the managers and the crews. They
4 were great.

5 So in November 2023, Pepco sponsored an
6 open house designed to inform the community of the
7 multiyear plan. The commitment to building a
8 stronger, smarter, and cleaner energy for future of
9 the District particularly impressed me. And so I
10 strongly support the idea of the multiyear rate
11 increase which allows residents to plan ahead and
12 budget for increased monthly costs, blah, blah, blah.
13 You know, all of that stop.

14 I don't want to keep going over it, but
15 I think it's very important that you know that in
16 developing this multiyear plan, Pepco put a lot of
17 thought into it. And they really did work with the
18 community. And they looked at the seniors because
19 that's my thing. And I always want to know how does
20 this impact the seniors. And I think they responded
21 to me sufficiently so that I will support this
22 initiative.

1 So and final, I urge that the Public
2 Service Commission approve Formal Case 1176
3 recognizing the significant benefits this plan
4 promises the community and future generations. And I
5 thank you for your attention and consideration.

6 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you very much
7 for your comments.

8 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Again, it's good
9 to see you Ms. Love Wade and always appreciate
10 residents who come before us to testify on very
11 important matters like this one.

12 With the Harvard station you said you
13 were intimately involved in, the work and worked
14 alongside the -- your community as well and with the
15 executives from Pepco, what were some of the things
16 that were important to you in terms of the
17 redevelopment or expansion of the Harvard station?
18 What did you guys want? What did you get? And what
19 were some of the things that, maybe, were left on the
20 table?

21 MS. LOVE WADE: Well, the main thing is
22 that they were very considerate of the community and

1 the neighbors that would be impacted by this
2 redevelopment of the station. That, to me, was
3 critical. They stayed in constant contact with the
4 ANC Commissioner -- Commission, with me in particular,
5 with the residents whose homes were impacted by the
6 dust and noise and the traffic. And that was -- the
7 outpouring of that was our Community Action Program
8 that we meet quarterly, but more often if necessary.

9 One of the great impacts is we'll have
10 less brownouts. Our services won't be impacted as
11 much. I think that it'll -- that substation took a
12 great load off of us.

13 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Were you having
14 brownouts due to --

15 MS. LOVE WADE: Excessive use.

16 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: -- if there
17 wasn't enough electricity that couldn't come into the
18 area?

19 MS. LOVE WADE: Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: You weren't
21 having trees fall and things like that?

22 MS. LOVE WADE: No, no, no.

1 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: This was
2 underground where you live, isn't it?

3 MS. LOVE WADE: It was because of the
4 excessive use -- the greater demand. Once you put 50
5 new apartment buildings housing 200 apartments, that
6 puts a great strain on any utility.

7 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: And these
8 brownouts were going on for how long?

9 MS. LOVE WADE: Well, actually until
10 they started doing the switch over.

11 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: A couple of
12 years?

13 MS. LOVE WADE: Couple of years. Yes.
14 Absolutely. Several years. And they were not fun.
15 And then some blackouts, which are definitely no fun.
16 So this improvement in our substation will alleviate
17 those situations. And you know, in urban
18 neighborhoods, a blackout is a dangerous thing for our
19 residents because everybody's not home when it
20 happens. And one of our neighbors actually was
21 accosted parked in her vehicle during a blackout. So
22 no, they're not fun. And they've been alleviated

1 hopefully.

2 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Right. Right.

3 And this switchover, you said, was about how long ago?

4 MS. LOVE WADE: It's ongoing now.

5 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Okay. And you've
6 seen improvement in your service you say.

7 MS. LOVE WADE: Yes. And I hope to see
8 a stabilization in my rates. I'm getting solar, and I
9 suggest everybody else do, too.

10 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Okay.

11 MS. LOVE WADE: That will help your
12 electric bills guys.

13 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: All right. Thank
14 you very much.

15 MS. LOVE WADE: Okay. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you. Next,
17 I'll call Mr. John Shaw to the podium.

18 MR. SHAW: Thank you, Commissioner, for
19 this opportunity to speak with you. Please excuse me.
20 I'm not accustomed to addressing a group in public
21 like this. I'm a long-term resident of the Shaw
22 neighborhood for 20 years. I'm also a member of the

1 Mount Vernon CAG. I'm in total support of Pepco's
2 proposed "Climate Ready Pathway DC." I've attended
3 several open houses. They've gone to great extent to
4 educate the public about these -- these changes, these
5 proposals. And I was an early supporter of the Mount
6 Vernon substation. It was some discussion over the
7 beginning of that substation, but I think I was always
8 a very early supporter of that and other components of
9 the Capital Grid project.

10 I think it's particularly important to
11 have an energy that's necessary for the technologies
12 to harden the system against cybersecurity threats,
13 which are ever growing. I had a thing this morning
14 that I had to chase down. I think it's critical that
15 equipment is -- is needed to support the Pepco crews
16 during inclement weather and to enhance the system in
17 general. I support in particular the three year
18 pro-rate structure. I think that is a very reasonable
19 way of spreading out, as the former speaker said, of
20 spreading out the cost.

21 I've watched the District of Columbia
22 grow significantly. I live up on near S and Seventh.

1 We have new buildings that have been completed, new
2 ones that are in construction. There's a total of
3 eight new multifamily large buildings that are being
4 planned in that area. And I just cannot see the
5 current electricity supplying that many new buildings.
6 They're large buildings. All of them. I live in a
7 tiny little house, and my consumption is not very
8 high. But when you look at these large buildings you
9 can imagine how much electricity that they will --
10 that they will consume. I think these are necessary
11 upgrades.

12 Pepco has demonstrated its commitment
13 to being a valued partner in the Shaw community.
14 They've had many, many meetings that I've attended.
15 They're very engaging. Many of my associates through
16 other work, they're long-term Pepco employees and --
17 and communicators. These have been in ANC meetings,
18 farmer markets, open street events. All of these
19 things.

20 I'm also very concerned about climate
21 change. I'm a medical person by -- by profession, and
22 we're going to need more and more energy to secure

1 climate in the case of extreme heat, which the
2 District is known for. Maybe not extreme cold, but
3 maybe. Maybe. We don't know. It's just everything
4 is becoming a lot less predictable.

5 So in brief, I -- I fully support
6 Pepco's commitment to this climate ready future.
7 Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr.
9 Shaw.

10 MR. SHAW: Were there any questions?

11 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Nope.

12 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Thank you very
13 much for your testimony.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Now, I will turn
15 to --I don't know if we have anybody else who's
16 listening in who wishes to speak. If you do, please
17 press the raise hand function, and we will acknowledge
18 you.

19 MS. WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK: Mr. Darron
20 Jones.

21 MR. JONES: Yes. Good evening, Mr.
22 Chair and Commission members. My name is Darron

1 Jones, and I'm the president of the Pleasant Plain
2 Civic Association. Thank you for allowing me to talk
3 to you virtually.

4 The Pleasant Plain Civic Association
5 was founded in 1921. It operates in the lower Georgia
6 Avenue and Sherman Avenue corridors where the Harvard
7 substation is. Members and offices of the Pleasant
8 Plain Civic Association support Pepco's proposed
9 "Climate Ready Pathway DC" multiyear rate plan and ask
10 that they work with the DC Office of the People's
11 Counsel to implement this plan in a way that is fair
12 and economically sustainable for DC residents. The
13 association supports the infrastructure investments
14 that Pepco has and will make to ensure the grid
15 continues to meet the -- continues to meet the needs
16 of the customers and the neighborhood.

17 Pepco's reliability has improved
18 significantly in our neighborhood, as Dotti Love Wade
19 just said, over the past few years because of
20 investments which is has made. For example, we
21 partnered with Pepco to upgrade the Harvard substation
22 in the Columbia Heights Pleasant Plains neighborhood.

1 As part of the larger Capital Grid project, the
2 Harvard substation upgrade increases the capacity of
3 the system and upgrades infrastructure service in our
4 neighborhood.

5 We partnered with Pepco on the
6 aesthetics of the substation, and Pepco made
7 improvements in the landscaping and curb appeal of the
8 facility. We appreciate Pepco involving the community
9 and including the association as part of the Community
10 Advisory Group, the CAG group as they called it,
11 established to enhance community engagement for the
12 project.

13 Investments like the Capital Grid
14 project help to make improvements to the grid, which
15 is a direct benefit to customers. Our neighborhood,
16 like many other communities throughout the community,
17 is growing with new apartment complexes, developments,
18 and grocery stores. We recognize the investments to
19 the grid will be needed to accommodate the growth and
20 load anticipated in the future.

21 We also support Pepco's efforts to
22 enable climate solutions as part of this plan. This

1 investment made -- the investments made will allow for
2 more electric vehicle charging stations, more rooftop
3 and community solar, as well as support more
4 all-electric buildings. We understand that Pepco has
5 a vital role to play as we seek to address climate
6 change and reduce the carbon footprint.

7 Under the multiyear rate plan, Pepco
8 has proposed expanding energy assistance programs.
9 Our neighborhood has many senior citizens and moderate
10 income families and residents who cannot sustain high
11 costs. Expanding these programs helps working
12 families, seniors, and moderate- and lower-income
13 residents keep costs down.

14 In addition, Pepco has continued to be
15 a community partner. They have participated in
16 community events such as Columbia Heights Day and
17 celebrate pet work. They also provided turkeys to
18 seniors and families during the Thanksgiving holiday
19 last year.

20 We support Pepco's efforts to make
21 investments to the grid for the future as part of the
22 "Climate Ready Pathway DC" multiyear rate plan and

1 again ask that they work with the DC Office of the
2 People's Counsel to implement this plan in a way that
3 is fair and economically sustainable for DC residents.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you for those
6 comments.

7 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Thank you, Mr.
8 Jones. Much appreciated.

9 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Anybody else
10 Brinda?

11 MS. WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK: Allison
12 Bates-Wannop, Rhizome.

13 MS. BATES-WANNOP: Hi. Thank you to
14 the Commission and staff for this hearing. My name is
15 Alison Bates-Wannop, and I am speaking on behalf of
16 Rhizome, a climate change resilience planning software
17 company located in the District. We recommend that
18 the Public Service Commission initiate a resilience
19 working group to explore the sufficiency of the
20 proposed resilience and reliability investments.

21 First, we note the testimony submitted
22 on behalf of the District of Columbia on January 12,

1 2024, specifically the section on page 30 asserting
2 that Pepco's climate ready grid represents traditional
3 reliability investments. One way to ensure that
4 resilience goals are being met in the face of more
5 frequent and intense extreme weather is to implement
6 certain measures such as conducting a climate change
7 vulnerability study, developing a set of resilience
8 metrics, and articulating a methodology for
9 quantifying cost benefit to ensure resilience plans
10 are being adequately assembled. States such as New
11 York, Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Connecticut,
12 California, and others have implemented one or more of
13 these measures.

14 Second, one of the outcomes of the
15 MedSys working groups in 2018 was the "opportunity to
16 define resilience at the distribution level." While
17 five of the working groups contained elements and
18 references to resilience, there was not a concerted
19 effort to evaluate resilience on its own. Given all
20 this and given that extreme weather events are
21 worsening and resilience has not been comprehensively
22 evaluated, Rhizome recommends a separate resilience

1 working group to articulate and define what measures
2 and processes are appropriate for evaluating
3 resilience investments.

4 A similar conclusion was reached by the
5 Maryland Public Service Commission in Order Number
6 90948 issued in December 2023 in Docket 9692.

7 Specifically, the Commission says on page 85 that "a
8 resilience plan should include input from state and
9 local emergency management personnel and other
10 stakeholders." And the Commission then stated that it
11 would open an administrative docket to consider the
12 implementation of resiliency standards and objectives,
13 metrics by which to measure the effectiveness of
14 resiliency investments, resiliency reporting
15 requirements, and penalties for failure to meet any
16 agreed upon resiliency standard or objectives. So we
17 recommend that the DC Public Service Commission take
18 similar action here. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you.

20 MS. WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK: Cassandra
21 Joseph.

22 MS. JOSEPH: Yes. Good evening

1 Commissioners and everyone. My name is Cassandra
2 Joseph. I'm a longtime proud resident of Adams
3 Morgan. I am a native Washingtonian, and I'm very
4 thankful to have these sessions here for the public to
5 be able to come before you to voice our opinions.

6 I've been working closely, also, a
7 little bit with Pepco. I was the board of director
8 for many years of -- of the cooperative, low-income
9 housing cooperative multifamily that I reside in. And
10 I was able to see a little bit more about how the
11 businesses run and how the bills are paid and what
12 cost effectiveness and so forth and many plans that we
13 could make.

14 So I was thankful to be invited to
15 the -- to the open community meeting that we had last
16 winter. And there I found that we are engaged in
17 the -- in the Champlain Street substation. And we're
18 very happy to know that. We've seen much work done.
19 We also feel that it is benefitting our city. I've
20 heard many comments from friends all around the city
21 that the -- the capital grid program has really been
22 helping them in their neighborhood. And we're also

1 thankful for the opportunity that Pepco is providing
2 to help us with the subsidized programs to pay our
3 utilities.

4 It has also given me an opportunity to
5 be a little more -- have a little more insight as to
6 what we're really doing here. So when I meet cab
7 drivers and I'm on my senior transportation and people
8 are complaining about the construction and different
9 things of that nature, I can say to them well, it's
10 for a good reason and just give them a little bit of
11 knowledge of what I've learned. And they say oh,
12 okay. So it's -- it's really, like, just sharing and
13 helping others to understand what it is we are doing
14 because we must enter the future. We must be ready
15 for anything that may happen.

16 And yes, it is going to cost us. And I
17 am a senior citizen. So I'm continuing to study. I'm
18 continuing to listen. But at this point, I can say
19 that I uphold this program. And I want to thank you
20 for this opportunity.

21 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms.
22 Joseph.

1 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: I'm fine. Thank
2 you very much. I'm sorry. At the end, did she say
3 she opposed the plan or support it?

4 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Support.

5 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Support it.
6 Okay. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Is there anybody
8 else on the Webex who would like to testify? Okay.
9 We will go to our last walk in, and then I'm going to
10 call on People's Counsel. But first, I'm going to
11 call on Mr. Padro. Thank you.

12 MR. PADRO: Good evening, Mr. Chairman
13 and Commissioners. I'm Alexander Padro, executive
14 director of Shaw Main Streets, an award-winning
15 commercial revitalization and historic preservation
16 nonprofit organization that has facilitated the
17 community-driven redevelopment of Washington DC's Shaw
18 neighborhood since 2003. I am also an 11 term
19 advisory neighborhood commissioner currently
20 representing single member district 2G02.

21 I have lived in the Shaw neighborhood
22 for nearly 30 years. I have watched the Shaw

1 community grow dramatically through commercial and
2 residential development. In the past two decades,
3 over a dozen new apartment complexes have come online
4 and hundreds of new bars, restaurants, and other
5 businesses have opened along the Sixth, Seventh,
6 Ninth, and Eleventh Street corridors. A new
7 convention center, library, recreation center, and
8 Banneker High School opened in central Shaw. Needless
9 to say, we've seen our share of development, and
10 there's more to come. Some under construction, and
11 others in the planning phase.

12 I support Pepco's efforts to make
13 needed upgrades and investments in its infrastructure
14 to keep pace with the energy needs of our growing
15 neighborhood and city. I have been a part of the
16 community advisory group for the Mount Vernon
17 substation, which is part of the Capital Grid project
18 and included in the multiyear plan. The substation is
19 a major investment that will help to maintain
20 reliability in the area and to account for escalating
21 load growth.

22 Projects like these, which are part of

1 Pepco's multiyear plan, allow the utility to prepare
2 for the future and address our growing needs for a
3 more reliable electrical grid that addresses the needs
4 for residential and commercial EV charging stations
5 and expanding adoption of solar power. I support
6 Pepco's plans to maintain and upgrade the system with
7 its multiyear rate plan. Thank you for the
8 opportunity to testify this evening.

9 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you for those
10 comments, Mr. Padro.

11 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Thank you very
12 much.

13 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: People's Counsel.

14 MS. MATTAVOUS-FRYE: Thank you, and I
15 will -- I promise I will be very brief. I know we've
16 all been here for a while. But I was sitting here and
17 listening to the testimony of the witnesses, and there
18 were a number of things that just caught me. And I
19 think that one thing, we're asking the wrong
20 questions.

21 It is good that Pepco is helping small
22 minority businesses. That's a good thing. But we

1 need to look at what the actual request is. Pepco
2 bears the burden of proof. And what that means is
3 it's not -- it goes well beyond just having paid
4 witnesses, and I'm not critical -- being --
5 criticizing them, but paid witnesses who come and
6 support their -- their position.

7 In addition, it's not enough to have
8 these meetings that we're not invited to, to convince
9 their -- convince their representatives or patrons to
10 support their position. It's necessary for everyone
11 to hear what the other parties have to say because
12 this information that their hearing is one-sided.

13 And it also reflects a direct benefit
14 that they are receiving whether it is a cash payment
15 or investment in their business. So that's, you
16 know -- that is one thing. That's 190 million --
17 \$190.7 million of revenue or rates that will be
18 secured from people -- taken from ratepayers. Every
19 cent of that needs to be justified and not just
20 blanketly given to Pepco.

21 The other -- the other issue is, and
22 one that I haven't heard mentioned at all tonight, is

1 that this application increases the company's profit
2 level. It's taking its rate of return -- which is its
3 profit, basically, if you, you know, sort of break it
4 down into what the term really means -- from 9.8 to
5 10.5 percent. That is their projected -- that is the
6 difference between the request. That's profit. And
7 that profit probably -- that profit level is much
8 larger than the money that they are giving to their --
9 to the city. And -- or to the city and to people that
10 are better fitting, some of the people that are here
11 tonight.

12 And while those are good things -- and
13 I really do feel that supporting businesses,
14 supporting minority business is an excellent thing. I
15 have supported that throughout my career. But we also
16 have to keep in mind that that is a corporate
17 obligation.

18 They are a major company in this -- in
19 the District of Columbia. They are receiving better
20 for tax benefits. They are also receiving interest,
21 and their shareholders are benefiting. They should be
22 doing these things. There's nothing -- there -- I

1 mean, that's the minimal that they can do without
2 having an increase that's not justified, and that is
3 really on residential rate pays. You know,
4 particularly those that are -- that's on residential
5 rate pays. Forty-three percent of the increase will
6 be placed on residential ratepayers. And that's all
7 ratepayers. Those that can technically afford it, and
8 those that cannot. That is another problem that
9 they're not addressing.

10 The other thing that I just have to say
11 something about because every time I hear mention of
12 it is the Infrastructure Academy, which I actually
13 commend Pepco. They have done an excellent job of
14 educating and providing training for our residents,
15 for our young residents. But, and this is me ringing
16 out the OPC bell, that was a settlement provision of
17 the merger case that OPC fought hard to get. And we
18 were successful in having them accept it.

19 And now they have, you know, they have
20 actually put it into operation. And it's doing an
21 excellent job. But they did not come up with that
22 idea. It was a mutual -- it was an OPC recommendation

1 that they accepted for -- in exchange for approval
2 of -- or our agreement to settle the merger
3 application, or the merger case.

4 So what I'm saying is that when we look
5 at any corporation, when we look at Pepco in
6 particular, we have to look at the whole picture.
7 It's nice that they do good things. They're supposed
8 to. They are a corporate entity in the District of
9 Columbia and receiving all of the benefits that come
10 with that.

11 It is -- it is nice that they are doing
12 some community education, but we -- that has to be
13 more than one-sided. It has to be the full picture.
14 It has to tell everything. And I -- I definitely
15 request or suggest that everyone in the audience and
16 those that are listening, when the Commission has its
17 evidentiary hearings, that they tune in so that they
18 can have and hear what the other parties have to say.
19 And if you don't get an opportunity to do that, read
20 the briefs that the other parties have submitted. And
21 if you don't have an opportunity to do that pile, then
22 reach out to OPC. And we can give you our side of the

1 story, which is compelling. And you can reach us at
2 opc-dc.gov.

3 Thank you very much for indulging me,
4 but, you know, it's difficult to hear something and
5 not respond to it. Thank you very much Commissioners.

6 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you,
7 Madam Frye.

8 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Thank you Madam
9 People's Counsel.

10 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: And that, I
11 believe, brings us to our last witness Ms. Autumn
12 Gray.

13 MS. GRAY: Good evening Commissioners.
14 My name is Autumn Gray. I am a native Washingtonian,
15 and a resident of Ward 8. I'm a recent graduate of
16 the DC Infrastructure Academy, and I am currently in
17 training at Pepco to master my position as a
18 distribution system operator.

19 My role is very critical in supporting
20 overhead and underground linemen due to system
21 outages. My role is also needed to complete critical
22 jobs and projects that allow the electrical grid to

1 function properly.

2 Attending the DC Infrastructure Academy
3 was a wonderful opportunity for me, which put me in
4 the path -- on the path that I am currently in now.
5 Before, I worked as a loan officer for five years.
6 However, it was important to me to earn more and grow.
7 As far as career-wise, I was commission based.
8 Therefore, I had to -- I leaned on, you know, state
9 insurance as far as health insurance.

10 I do have children. And my -- one of
11 my sons, he was diagnosed with hypoglycemia. So
12 the -- the DCI program really helped me because I was
13 able to land a career and get adequate insurance for
14 my son. I wanted to earn more and also advance, so
15 they've given me that opportunity as well. OCC thank
16 you and Pepco thank you.

17 My experience with the academy could
18 not have been better. The staff was very supportive
19 and worked hard to place graduates in better
20 opportunities so we can better ourselves. Working at
21 Pepco was -- it's truly amazing. It's a great company
22 to work for. Everybody has really been invested in

1 our success. And Pepco encourages employees to seek
2 other opportunities within the company to gain new
3 skills and to advance.

4 I am quickly learning that it takes
5 many individuals at Pepco and their contractors to
6 maintain and upgrade the grid. I get to see that
7 every day working at the OCCR operation control
8 center. And I'm one of the people that will be needed
9 for this work to upgrade the grid.

10 Pepco plans to execute several projects
11 to upgrade the grid for the future. These projects
12 support many jobs and create potential opportunities
13 for graduates of the DC Infrastructure Academy. From
14 my experience, the opportunities at Pepco can be a
15 real game changer to improve our lives and our
16 community. And they offer a really good salary. And
17 the opportunity to earn overtime, which assists the
18 communities economic growth.

19 Pepco's plan will provide opportunities
20 for other DCIA graduates like myself to support the
21 plan projects and grow and help their families. I
22 thank you for your time.

1 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms.
2 Gray.

3 MS. GRAY: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: Ms. Gray, I just
5 wanted to say thank you for coming down here this
6 evening. It was a pleasure meeting you earlier as we
7 rode up together on the elevator. And I'm so happy to
8 hear about your success after the Infrastructure
9 Academy.

10 MS. GRAY: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER TRABUE: How well you've
12 been able to progress at Pepco. I just wish you the
13 best of luck in your future with the company.

14 MS. GRAY: Thank you all for hearing me
15 speak. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you. So I
17 believe at that time -- this time, there are no other
18 witnesses. I just want to survey the room one more
19 time and online. Okay.

20 A few final comments. Pepco's
21 application was filed on April 13, 2023, and all
22 subsequent filings and proceedings can be reviewed on

1 the Commission's website, which is www.dcpsc.org.
2 Once at the website, open up the e-docket tab, click
3 on search database, and input FC1176. That will show
4 all the pleadings in this case, some of which Madam
5 Frye talked about.

6 A transcript of today's community
7 hearing will also be available there within 48 hours
8 of this hearing. Anybody who wishes to provide
9 additional written comments or just written versions
10 of their statements here today, as I mentioned
11 earlier, please email them to our Commission
12 secretary, Ms. Brenda Westbrook-Sedgwick, at her email
13 address, which is psc-commissionsecretary@dc.gov. You
14 have until April 26, 2024, to do so.

15 Tonight is the last community hearing
16 we will have, so we certainly thank everybody for
17 coming out and participating tonight and previous
18 nights. I'd like to give a special shout out, sign of
19 appreciation, to staff who coordinated and
20 participated in all three hearings. Thank you for
21 your time. And I hope everybody has a good evening,
22 gets home safe, and stays dry. Thank you.

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(Whereupon, the meeting concluded at
7:12 p.m.)

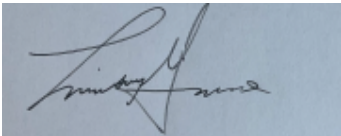
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CERTIFICATE

I, TIMOTHY GUEVARA, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

Dated:

April 8, 2024



TIMOTHY GUEVARA

Notary Public in and for the
District of Columbia

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, ASHLEY TAYLOR, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

Dated:

April 8, 2024



ASHLEY TAYLOR

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