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PRESS RELEASE

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Peoples Counsel Applauds the PSC's Approval of the Power Line Undergrounding Plan: Now the Hard Work Begins!

“OPC has fought long and hard to ensure that Pepco provides safe and reliable service to all DC consumers. The Public Service Commission’s approval of the Power Line Undergrounding Plan is a landmark achievement for the District of Columbia. It is a unique public private partnership responsive to Mayor Vincent Gray’s early call for a “game changer.” The Power Line Task Force comprised of Pepco, DDOT, OPC, the PSC and other public and government stakeholders, crafted a plan that unequivocally demonstrated that collaboration can produce a result that meets the needs of all customers,” said People’s Counsel, Sandra Mattavous-Frye.

“As People’s Counsel, I was committed to responding to our citizen’s calls for action by finding a solution to a seemingly insoluble problem: the persistent and costly power outages that left consumers stranded without power for days on end. I am confident that this decision will go a long way on the road to ensuring that finally DC electricity consumers will come out of the dark and get the reliable service they deserve at an affordable rate,” said Ms. Mattavous-Frye.

“Indeed, this is a victory for consumers, but it is only the first step in the process. Now the hard work begins. We must be vigilant in ensuring that we live up to the promises—Affordable costs, transparent operations, effective and informative consumer education and communication, must remain the cornerstones as we move forward,” added the People’s Counsel.

The Office of the People's Counsel is an independent agency of the District of Columbia Government representing energy and telecommunications services customers

With the approval of the first 3-year or triennial plan, upgrades will begin to the first of the 60 worst performing electrical feeders identified in Pepco's distribution system. The total project is estimated to last for 7-10 years. Many communities will face periodic disruptions to streets and traffic flow in their area. Careful monitoring will be required to minimize unnecessary inconvenience to consumers.

For a complete list of the project work sites visit:

<http://opc-dc.gov/index.php/consumer-topics-a-z/proposed-construction-locations>