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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
1333 H STREET N.W., 2ND FLOOR, WEST TOWER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

OFFICE OF THE  
PEOPLE'S COUNSEL  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
2008 OCT 10 P 4: 37

2008 OCT 9 P 4: 02

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ORDER

RECEIVED

October 9, 2008

**FORMAL CASE NO. 982, IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION OF  
POTOMAC ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY REGARDING INTERRUPTION  
TO ELECTRIC ENERGY SERVICE, Order No. 15084**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. By this Order, the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia ("Commission") grants the Office of the People's Counsel's ("OPC") Request for Leave to File a Response to Pepco's Reply;<sup>1</sup> grants in part OPC's request for community hearings; and defers until a later date any decision regarding OPC's additional requests for community hearings in each quadrant of the District and for evidentiary hearings.<sup>2</sup>

**II. BACKGROUND**

2. On June 17, 2008, OPC filed a Petition for an Investigation Into the 2008 Electric Service Outages in the Potomac Electric Power Company's ("Pepco") D.C. Service Area ("OPC's Petition").<sup>3</sup> The Commission subsequently denied OPC's Petition for an investigation separate from any other pending investigation and instead incorporated OPC's Petition into F.C. 982, the pending investigation docket for power outages in the District of Columbia, stating that we would address the 2008 outages as part of our investigation in F.C. 982.<sup>4</sup>

3. On August 1, 2008, OPC filed the instant Request for Hearings asking the Commission to hold: (1) a formal evidentiary hearing on the state of Pepco's distribution

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<sup>1</sup> *Formal Case No. 982, In the Matter of the Investigation of Potomac Electric Power Company Regarding Interruption to Electric Energy Service* ("F.C. 982"); Request for Leave of the Office of the People's Counsel to File a Response to Pepco's Reply in Opposition, filed August 19, 2008 ("OPC's Request for Leave").

<sup>2</sup> See F.C. 982, Request of the Office of the People's Counsel for Formal and Community Hearings Regarding Pepco's Electric Distribution System Pertaining to the 2008 Unplanned Power Outages, filed August 1, 2008 ("OPC's Request for Hearings").

<sup>3</sup> F.C. 982, Petition of the Office of the People's Counsel for an Investigation into the 2008 Electric Service Outages in Pepco's D.C. Service Area, filed June 17, 2008 ("OPC's Petition").

<sup>4</sup> F.C. 982, Order No. 14861 (July 18, 2008).

system in the D.C. service territory; and (2) a community hearing in each quadrant of the District to hear the views and concerns of Pepco ratepayers.<sup>5</sup>

4. OPC's request was followed by additional separate requests for hearings, as well as support for OPC's Request for Hearings, from several residents and officials of the District, including Mary M. Cheh, Councilmember, Ward 3, and Lenwood O. Johnson, ANC Commissioner 1A10.<sup>6</sup>

5. Pepco filed a Reply in opposition to OPC's Request for Hearing on August 12, 2008.<sup>7</sup> On August 19, 2008, OPC filed a Request for Leave to file a response to Pepco's Reply, as well as its Response to Pepco's Reply.<sup>8</sup>

6. By notice published in the *D.C. Register* on October 3, 2008, the Commission scheduled a public hearing to be held on Saturday, November 8, 2008, beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room to address the 2008 unplanned power outages in Pepco's District of Columbia service territory.<sup>9</sup>

### III. DISCUSSION

7. We first grant OPC's Request for Leave to file a Response to Pepco's Reply in order to clarify the record. OPC's Response is therefore accepted for the record.

8. Concerning OPC's request for community hearings in each quadrant of the District to hear the views and concerns of Pepco ratepayers, we have decided to hold a community hearing on Saturday, November 8, 2008, in the Commission's hearing room to address the 2008 unplanned power outages as previously noticed in the *D.C. Register*. We defer acting on OPC's additional request for community hearings in each quadrant of the District until after review of the information gathered at the November 8 hearing, Pepco's responses to Commission Staff's data requests, and information included in Pepco's Electricity Quality of Service Standards ("EQSS") report due by October 10, 2008. Similarly, we will defer ruling on OPC's request to hold a formal evidentiary hearing until the aforementioned information has been received and reviewed.

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<sup>5</sup> OPC's Request for Hearings at 8.

<sup>6</sup> See letter from Mary M. Cheh, Councilmember, Ward 3, addressed to Agnes Yates, Chair, D.C. Public Service Commission, dated August 25, 2008, and letter from Lenwood O. Johnson, ANC Commissioner 1A10, dated August 11, 2008.

<sup>7</sup> F.C. 982, Reply of the Potomac Electric Power Company, filed August 12, 2008 ("Pepco's Reply").

<sup>8</sup> F.C. 982, Response of the Office of the People's Counsel to Pepco's Reply in Opposition, filed August 19, 2008 ("OPC's Response to Pepco's Reply").

<sup>9</sup> 55 *D.C. Register* 010130 (October 3, 2008).

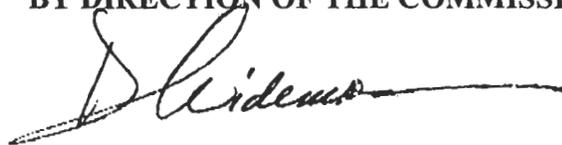
**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

9. OPC's Request for Leave to File a Response to Pepco's Reply in Opposition is **GRANTED**, and OPC's Response to Pepco's Reply in Opposition is accepted into the record; and

10. OPC's Request for Hearings is **GRANTED** in part; a ruling on OPC's request for community hearings in each quadrant of the District and on OPC's request for evidentiary hearings are being deferred until a later date as set forth herein.

**A TRUE COPY:**

**BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Wideman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**CHIEF CLERK:**

**DOROTHY WIDEMAN  
COMMISSION SECRETARY**



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