

*Office of the People's Counsel's
Presentation for Ward 5 Community
Hearing Regarding DC PLUG*

Monday, July 24, 2017



*Office of the People's Counsel
(202) 727-3071
www.opc-dc.gov*



Who We Are

- The Office of the People’s Counsel for the District of Columbia (“OPC” or “Office”) is an independent District agency with approximately 40 employees.
- The People’s Counsel, whose name is Sandra Mattavous-Frye, is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.
- The Office is comprised of the Directorate and four separate divisions—namely, Energy Efficiency and Sustainability, Consumer Services, Operations, and Litigation Services.



What We Do



- OPC is the District's statutory consumer advocate with respect to natural gas, electric, and telephone utilities' matters.
- The Office represents the District's natural gas, electric, and telephone utilities' ratepayers and consumers before a host of federal agencies (including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), federal appellate courts (including the U.S. Supreme Court), D.C. courts, the PSC, City Council, Congress, and PJM.
- Liaison between consumers/ratepayers and natural gas, electric, and telephone utilities.

OPC's Past and Present Role Regarding DC PLUG



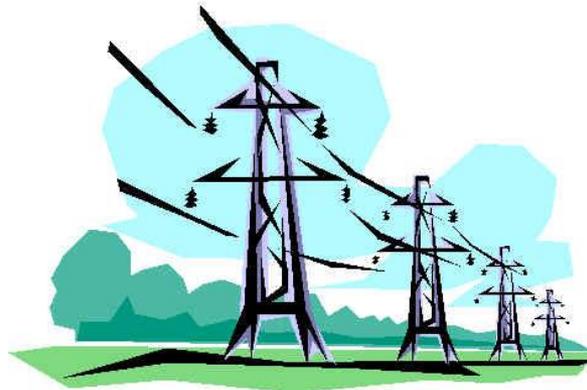
- The Office was a member of former Mayor Gray's Undergrounding Task Force, whose work/recommendations produced DC PLUG.
- The Office worked closely with a number of stakeholders in 2016 to draft the amendment to the Undergrounding Law that became law in May 2017.
- OPC continues to enthusiastically support DC PLUG.
- (1) The Office is presently reviewing Pepco/DDOT's Biennial Plan and Financing Application and therefore has not yet taken a position. (2) The primary focus of OPC's review is whether the joint filing complies with the revised Undergrounding Law and will result in the undergrounding of a maximum number of overhead primary and lateral power lines at a reasonable cost; (3) OPC will work closely with Pepco/DDOT to attempt to resolve any issues or concerns the Office identifies. (4) The Office is aware of the concerns of effected residents and will work diligently to ensure they receive timely logistical information—such as, prior notice of construction, construction hours, effected streets, outages, parking, complaint procedure, DC PLUG Pepco/DDOT points of contact, DC PLUG dedicated websites, etc.



2 Public Members

DC PLUG = Resiliency

- DC PLUG is intended to improve the resiliency of Pepco's electric distribution system in relation to major storm outages.
- This is different than Pepco's normal reliability work or reliability-related merger commitments, each of which are designed to improve the overall reliability of the system in relation to normal system use and conditions, not major storm outages.



Change is in the Air



- The revised Undergrounding Law requires a reset (of sorts) to the DC PLUG initiative.
- The former construction plans, costs, and surcharges approved by the Commission in 2014 are now invalid. In their place, Pepco/DDOT were required to file new proposed construction plans, projected costs, and charges with the Commission—which, when approved by the Commission, will govern a corresponding 2-year construction period (i.e., 2018 and 2019).

At Present, These Are Just Proposals

- Everything discussed today in relation to the Biennial Plan and Financing Application is just a proposal. The Commission can modify, reject, or accept each as it sees fit.
- The proposed surcharge that will be used to recover Pepco's construction costs and the rate rider that will pay for DDOT's construction costs will almost assuredly change in light of the Commission's recent decision on Pepco's 2016 rate application.



Undergrounding Project Consumer Education Task Force (“UPCE”)

- Per the Commission’s urging, in June 2015 the Mayor established the Undergrounding Project Consumer Education Task Force (“UPCE”)—whose membership consists of representatives from OPC, Pepco, DDOT, AOBA, D.C. Climate Action, ANC Commissioners from effected wards, Commission Staff, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, and the City Administrator.
- Stated purpose of the UPCE is to monitor Pepco/DDOT’s performance as it relates to adhering to the consumer education/outreach provisions in their communications plan.



... *UPCE (Continued)*

- Commission stated the UPCE “should” (i) review education/outreach materials, (ii) consider how community complaints will be handled, (iii) make recommendations regarding ways to improve the undergrounding process based on consumer feedback and complaints, (iv) consider alternative ways to educate consumers on the implementation of the undergrounding project throughout its life, (v) recommend improvements, and (vi) file monthly or quarterly reports with the Commission.

... UPCE (Continued)

- The Office strongly supports the UPCE and is hopeful the Commission will recommend that the Mayor allow it to remain in effect throughout the first Biennial-Plan construction.
- The Office would also like for the Commission and Mayor to explore the feasibility of expanding the UPCE's membership to include residents from the effected Wards, as originally envisioned by the Commission.
- Ward 5's UPCE ANC representative is Monique Smith.

Thank you!!

Q&A

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