Testimony in Support of SB 950.pdf
Uploaded by: Brenda Myers
Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB 950

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brenda Myers, and I am writing today to voice my support for Senate Bill 950 (SB 950). This legislation provides Maryland with a balanced and pragmatic approach to transitioning toward a clean energy future while ensuring energy reliability and economic stability. As our state works toward ambitious renewable energy goals, SB 950 ensures that we do not compromise the reliability of our electric grid or impose undue burdens on consumers and businesses.

Maryland policymakers face a critical challenge: how to meet our state's growing energy demands while advancing renewable energy goals. SB 950 offers a realistic solution by authorizing the construction and operation of natural gas power plants as a temporary measure until Maryland achieves 50% renewable energy generation, including nuclear power. This ensures that our transition to clean energy is not only ambitious but also practical and secure. SB 950 will do the following:

Ensuring Grid Reliability – Renewable energy sources like wind and solar are intermittent, and while energy storage technology is advancing, it is not yet capable of replacing the reliability of fossil fuel power plants. SB 950 allows natural gas plants to operate until Maryland reaches a 50% renewable energy threshold, preventing blackouts and energy shortages while our clean energy capacity expands.

Addressing Maryland's Energy Shortfall – Maryland has retired multiple coal plants in recent years and imports a significant portion of its electricity from out of state. With demand rising due to data center expansion and electrification initiatives, SB 950 ensures that Maryland maintains a reliable in-state power supply rather than relying on expensive and potentially less sustainable imported electricity.

A Managed and Responsible Transition – SB 950 does not promote indefinite fossil fuel use. Instead, it mandates a phased reduction of natural gas generation once Maryland reaches 50% renewable energy. The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) will work with natural gas plant operators to scale down fossil fuel production in direct proportion to the growth of clean energy sources.

Aligning Economic and Environmental Goals

Some opponents may argue that any expansion of natural gas infrastructure contradicts Maryland's climate commitments. However, SB 950 takes a middle-ground approach that ensures:

- **A gradual transition that does not jeopardize energy reliability.**
- **A structured and predictable decline of natural gas use.**
- **That Maryland's economy and residents are not burdened with unstable energy costs.**

By requiring a direct correlation between fossil fuel reduction and renewable energy expansion, SB 950 prevents economic disruptions while keeping Maryland on track to meet its long-term clean energy objectives.

SB 950 Fits into Maryland's Clean Energy Strategy

Maryland has set a target of achieving 100% clean electricity by 2045 under the Climate Solutions Now Act. SB 950 does not derail this goal—it strengthens it by ensuring that Maryland can reliably meet its energy needs during the transition.

The bill complements existing clean energy initiatives, including:

- Expanding offshore wind and solar energy projects.
- Modernizing the grid and improving battery storage capacity.
- Incentivizing energy efficiency and demand response programs.
- Supporting the potential expansion of nuclear power as a stable, carbon-free energy source.

Maryland's energy transition must be both ambitious and practical. SB 950 ensures that our state can continue advancing toward a clean energy future while safeguarding the reliability and affordability of our power supply. By permitting natural gas generation only until Maryland reaches 50% renewable energy, the bill establishes a clear, structured path for phasing out fossil fuels in a way that prioritizes grid stability and economic sustainability.

I urge this committee to support SB 950 as a responsible and necessary measure to secure Maryland's energy future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brenda Myers

Hampstead, Maryland

SB 950 Price.pdf
Uploaded by: Brysn Price
Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB 950

Presented by Bryan Price

Maryland State Senate Hearing on SB 950

Chair, Vice Chair, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 950 (SB 950). My name is Bryan Price, and I am a Maryland resident committed to ensuring that our state transitions to clean energy in a responsible and pragmatic manner. SB 950 represents a crucial step toward balancing energy reliability with Maryland's ambitious renewable energy goals by allowing for the construction and operation of natural gas power plants until the state achieves 50% renewable energy generation, including nuclear power.

Maryland's energy future is at a crossroads. While the transition to renewable energy is imperative, we must also acknowledge the realities of our current energy landscape. Renewable sources like wind and solar are intermittent, requiring backup solutions to maintain grid stability. Battery storage technology continues to improve, but it is not yet capable of fully replacing the reliability of dispatchable power plants. SB 950 ensures that Maryland's electric grid remains dependable by permitting natural gas-fired generating stations until the state meets its 50% renewable energy threshold. This approach prevents blackouts, energy shortages, and excessive reliance on imported electricity.

Maryland has retired multiple coal plants in recent years, significantly reducing in-state power generation capacity. At the same time, demand continues to rise due to electrification efforts and the expansion of data centers. This growing gap between supply and demand means that Maryland is importing a substantial portion of its electricity from other states, making us vulnerable to fluctuating wholesale energy prices and regional supply constraints. SB 950 provides a necessary stopgap by allowing for the responsible use of natural gas while Maryland continues to build its renewable energy infrastructure. This ensures that the state does not become overly dependent on out-of-state power, which can be both costly and less sustainable.

Some may argue that any expansion of natural gas infrastructure contradicts Maryland's clean energy goals, but SB 950 takes a measured approach. A sudden elimination of natural gas would put grid reliability at risk, leading to economic and social consequences that would undermine support for the state's climate policies. As an unwavering environmental advocate deeply committed to sustainability and conservation, I

understand the urgency of the green movement, but I also recognize that playing the long game requires pragmatic decision-making. The premature closure of coal plants, while symbolically powerful, has eroded public trust in the clean energy transition by driving up costs, threatening grid reliability, and giving opponents of renewable energy ammunition to challenge the cause. SB 950 acknowledges that natural gas can serve as a bridge fuel while renewables and nuclear energy scale up, ensuring that Maryland's transition is both successful and sustainable.

This legislation is not about slowing Maryland's transition to clean energy,;it is about ensuring that the transition is both successful and sustainable. The Climate Solutions Now Act commits Maryland to achieving 100% clean electricity by 2045, and SB 950 does not contradict this goal. Rather, it provides a realistic pathway for maintaining reliability as the state ramps up its investments in offshore wind, solar energy, grid modernization, and energy storage improvements. By allowing a limited role for natural gas in the interim, SB 950 provides the flexibility needed to ensure that Maryland's clean energy transition does not come at the expense of energy security and economic stability.

SB 950 also aligns with the principles of fairness and responsible energy planning. Marylanders should not be forced to bear the consequences of an energy transition that does not adequately address present-day reliability challenges. Energy shortages and price volatility disproportionately affect working families, small businesses, and farmers—many of whom already face economic pressures. Ensuring that Maryland's power grid remains stable while renewables continue to grow is a commonsense solution that protects consumers from unintended consequences.

As someone who has long fought against unnecessary transmission expansion projects like the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), I see SB 950 as a way to prevent future justifications for large-scale transmission projects that primarily serve out-of-state energy needs. By investing in in-state generation and prioritizing grid reliability, Maryland can reduce its dependence on PJM-driven transmission projects that disrupt farmland, forests, and rural communities. Instead of building more massive high-voltage transmission lines, Maryland should focus on modernizing its existing infrastructure and supporting distributed energy generation.

The passage of SB 950 is an opportunity to chart a responsible path forward—one that ensures Maryland's energy future is both clean and reliable. I urge the committee to support this bill and take a balanced, pragmatic approach to our state's energy transition.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bryan Price
21221 York Road
Parkton, MD 21120
Bryan.s.price@gmail.com
410.302.8074

SB 950.pdf
Uploaded by: CHERYL EBAUGH
Position: FAV

Please pass SB 950 to protect Maryland landowners and ensure that our elected officials and leaders of our beautiful state of Maryland are doing their due diligence to promote responsible transmission development and ensure fair energy policies.

Thank you,

Cheryl Ebaugh

SB950 FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Christopher West
Position: FAV

Chris West
Legislative District 42
Baltimore and Carroll Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
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410-841-3648 · 301-858-3648
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Chris.West@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 6th, 2025
The Maryland State Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
2 West Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 950*: Natural Gas Generating Facilities – Authorization*

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I believe I can say with confidence that this Committee (more than others) is well versed in the various advantages, problems, and nuances of renewable energy and renewable energy policy.

Furthermore, I believe there is a bipartisan consensus that renewable energy sources and green technologies have tremendous promise for the future. However, the technology itself and the necessary infrastructure required to use green energy at scale is not sustainable for Maryland *yet*.

Senate Bill 950 offers guardrails for the inevitable technical hiccups that will occur as we transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy to power the State. It will create a mechanism allowing for the construction, permitting, and operation of natural gas generating facilities until Maryland reaches 50% of its energy needs through renewable energy sources.

To those who are opposed to the use of natural gas and are concerned that this bill is some sort of workaround to gradually eliminating natural gas, you need not worry. The bill further stipulates that once State reaches this 50% threshold the Maryland Energy Administration will be empowered to start downscaling the use of these facilities, making natural gas a backup power source that will eventually phase out as the green technology becomes more effective.

Senate Bill 950 is a sensible measure to ensure the State can responsibly meet its increasing energy demands so that we're not literally left in the dark.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 950 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

Testimony to General Assembly James Belt 03042025.

Uploaded by: James Belt

Position: FAV

March 4, 2025

James H. Belt, III

2626 Stone Road

Westminster, MD 21158

Maryland General Assembly

RE: Support of bills advocating for a better approach to energy development

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

My name is James Belt. As a resident of Carroll County and a proud Maryland business owner, I am writing to ask you to vote favorably for bills advocating a better approach to energy development.

As someone who had the potential to be impacted by the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project, I was disturbed and disappointed by the existing process for project consideration and protections for landowners. It became apparent that the current process did not require enough investigation into potential alternatives to the proposed transmission lines. Additionally, the public appeared to be brought into the process at later stages, making it harder for citizens impacted by the project to voice their concerns. It appears that there may be many viable alternatives to the proposed project. I also believe there has not been enough consideration to the impact of closing existing power plants before the State of Maryland has a viable alternative to generate the power being lost.

With that in mind, I would strongly encourage you to vote for the proposed bills that improve the process, provide more protection for Maryland citizens, and advocate for investigation into potentially better and more economic alternatives to new transmission lines.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best,

James Belt

(410)-236-3574

Jessica Malatt.pdf
Uploaded by: Jessica Malatt
Position: FAV

Jessica Malatt

7709 Hobbs Court

Mount Airy, MD 21771

jessicamalatt@gmail.com

240-529-2348

3/4/2025

Testimony in Support of Senate Bills 483, 853, 947, 950, 951, 952, 953, 955 and House Bills 631, 1079, 1337, 1362, 1396

To:

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Chair: Senator Brian J. Feldman – brian.feldman@senate.state.md.us

Vice Chair: Senator Cheryl C. Kagan – cheryl.kagan@senate.state.md.us

House Economic Matters Committee

Chair: Delegate C.T. Wilson – ct.wilson@house.state.md.us

Vice Chair: Delegate Brian M. Crosby – brian.crosby@house.state.md.us

From: Jessica Malatt

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee & the House Economic Matters Committee,

My name is Jessica Malatt, and I am a resident of Mount Airy, Maryland. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bills 483, 853, 947, 950, 951, 952, 953, 955 and House Bills 631, 1079, 1337, 1362, 1396, which are essential in protecting homeowners, families, and our environment from unnecessary and harmful infrastructure projects like the Maryland Public Service Commission's (PSC) MPRP transmission line proposal.

As a homeowner in a rural community directly impacted by this project, my greatest concern is the well-being of my family. My husband and I chose to build our home in this peaceful, natural environment to raise our children away from urban congestion, noise, and industrial encroachment. The proposed transmission lines would disrupt this way of life, forcing us to live beneath towering electrical structures and exposing our children to potential health risks from

electromagnetic fields. This is not what we envisioned when we made a lifelong investment in this property.

Beyond the direct impact on my home, the MPRP transmission project threatens the surrounding forested land, including a neighboring property that shares the same woodland area. This forest serves as a natural buffer, providing privacy, clean air, and an essential habitat for wildlife. If this project proceeds unchecked, it will irreversibly damage the environment, destroy mature trees, and alter the rural character of our community.

The bills I support ensure that homeowners like myself are not forced to accept industrial-scale projects in our backyards without thorough evaluation of alternative solutions.

• Senate Bill 483 requires the Public Service Commission to consider less invasive options before approving new transmission lines, protecting sensitive environmental and residential areas.

• House Bill 631 reinforces property rights by preventing the state from taking land under perpetual agricultural or conservation easements.

• Senate Bill 953 proposes the creation of a task force to develop a realistic electricity plan for Maryland, ensuring that future infrastructure meets energy demands responsibly without sacrificing homeowner rights.

These measures provide necessary oversight and accountability to prevent projects like MPRP from overriding the interests of Maryland's homeowners and environment.

While some may argue that expanding the power grid is necessary for future energy demands, we must balance progress with responsible development. Placing transmission lines in residential and environmentally sensitive areas is not the only option—alternative solutions such as underground lines or existing right-of-ways should be prioritized.

These bills advocate for that balance, ensuring that Maryland's infrastructure needs do not come at the cost of:

• Families' health

• Property values

• Environmental conservation

Call to Action

I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bills 483, 853, 947, 950, 951, 952, 953, 955 and House Bills 631, 1079, 1337, 1362, 1396, and to advocate for their passage to protect Maryland's homeowners, preserve our forests, and prevent unnecessary and harmful infrastructure development.

Closing and Thank You

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at jessicamalatt@gmail.com or 240-529-2348. I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and look forward to seeing your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Jessica Malatt

FAV_SB0950_StopMPRPInc..pdf
Uploaded by: Joanne Frederick
Position: FAV

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

BILL NO.: Senate Bill 950 – Natural Gas Generating Facilities – Authorization
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
HEARING DATE: March 6, 2025
SPONSORS: Senators West, Ready, Carozza, and Watson
POSITION: Favorable

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of Senate Bill 950 (SB950)**, which provides a **strategic and necessary approach to Maryland's energy future** by authorizing **the construction and operation of natural gas generating facilities** until the state meets **50% of its energy needs from renewable energy resources, including nuclear energy**. This bill is essential for **ensuring energy reliability, protecting Maryland's conserved lands, reducing electricity costs, and creating thousands of high-paying jobs in our state**.

Ensuring Grid Reliability and Energy Security

Maryland currently **imports a significant portion of its electricity**, making us vulnerable to **supply disruptions, price volatility, and increased transmission expansion**. As we transition to renewable energy, **SB950 ensures that Maryland maintains a stable, reliable power supply** by allowing **in-state natural gas generation to continue until we reach 50% renewable energy**.

- **Natural gas provides a firm, dispatchable energy source** that can **fill the gaps** when solar and wind generation are unavailable.
- **Battery storage technology is improving but is not yet capable of fully replacing baseload power from natural gas.**
- Maryland's reliance on out-of-state power exposes us to **transmission constraints, reliability risks, and higher costs.**

By increasing **in-state energy generation**, SB950 ensures that Maryland remains **energy-secure** and **reduces its dependence on costly electricity imports from neighboring states**.

Protecting Maryland's Preserved and Conserved Land from Transmission Expansion

SB950 is not just about reliability—it is also critical for **protecting Maryland's farmland, forests, and conserved lands from unnecessary transmission expansion**.

Maryland's increasing energy demand and reliance on imported electricity from PJM Interconnection puts us at risk of **more large-scale transmission projects**, which often require **eminent domain, threaten conservation easements, and disrupt rural communities**.

By ensuring **Maryland is resource adequate**—meaning we can **generate enough electricity within our borders to meet our own energy needs**—we reduce the pressure to **sacrifice more preserved land for unnecessary transmission infrastructure**.

- **Avoiding unnecessary transmission buildout** protects **lands preserved under the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), Rural Legacy Program, and private conservation easements**.
- **Keeping energy generation local** strengthens our state's **energy independence**, reducing reliance on out-of-state electricity markets that drive costly and land-consuming transmission expansion.
- **Reducing transmission expansion safeguards Maryland's rural communities and farms**, which are already under threat from urban sprawl and development pressures.

Job Growth and Economic Benefits for Maryland

SB950 will **boost Maryland's economy by creating thousands of high-paying jobs** in construction, engineering, operations, and maintenance. Expanding natural gas generation within Maryland will:

- **Create thousands of skilled construction jobs** in building and upgrading natural gas plants.
- **Support ongoing jobs in plant operations, maintenance, and related industries**, including supply chain manufacturing and skilled trades.
- **Generate significant tax revenue** for Maryland's local and state governments, supporting education, infrastructure, and community services.

The natural gas industry already contributes **billions of dollars to state and local economies** across the U.S., and allowing Maryland to generate more of its own electricity ensures that **these economic benefits stay within the state rather than being sent to neighboring states**.

Lowering Energy Costs for Maryland Families and Businesses

Maryland residents and businesses are struggling with **rising electricity bills**, in part due to **our dependence on expensive out-of-state energy imports**.

- SB950 **reduces the cost of importing electricity**, providing **immediate price relief** while we continue expanding renewables.
- In-state energy generation **helps stabilize energy prices**, protecting consumers from unpredictable price spikes due to regional supply constraints.
- More local generation also **increases competition in Maryland's energy market**, leading to more affordable rates for consumers.

A Responsible and Phased Transition to Renewable Energy

SB950 does not advocate for **indefinite reliance on natural gas**, but rather establishes **a clear and structured phase-out plan** that aligns with Maryland's progress toward its renewable energy goals.

- Once **50% of Maryland's electricity needs are met by renewables and nuclear energy**, the **Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) will collaborate with natural gas plant operators** to **gradually reduce natural gas production** at the same pace as renewable generation increases.
- This approach **avoids sudden energy price spikes** and **ensures a smooth, economically viable transition** for consumers and businesses alike.

Conclusion

SB950 is a **practical and balanced solution** that **protects Maryland's conserved lands, strengthens our energy security, creates thousands of high-paying jobs, and provides immediate relief from rising electricity costs**.

By making Maryland **resource adequate**, we ensure that **our state's farmlands, conservation easements, and rural communities are not sacrificed for unnecessary transmission expansion**. Energy policy should not come at the expense of Maryland's **agricultural heritage and protected landscapes**.

For these reasons, I **strongly urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB950**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Frederick
President
Stop MPRP, Inc.
joanne.frederick@stopmprp.org
443.789.1382

MPRP BILLS SUPPORT.pdf
Uploaded by: Julie Holly
Position: FAV

I am writing in support of the following bills: SB483, SB853, SB947, SB950, SB951, SB952, SB953, SB955, HB631, HB1079, HB1337, HB1362, and HB1396.

Each of these bills is essential to ensuring that any entity seeking to construct energy transmission or generating facilities is held accountable for the full impact of its actions. For too long, citizens have shouldered the financial and personal costs of these projects—whether through harm to their health, businesses, properties, incomes, or overall quality of life. Meanwhile, corporations reap the benefits without sufficient regard for the communities they affect.

The approval of the MPRP project as currently proposed would send a troubling message to Maryland residents about where their interests rank in the eyes of their representatives. Maryland thrives when its communities thrive, and maintaining a strong, engaged population depends on policies that protect the well-being and economic stability of those who call this state home. Enacting stricter regulations to ensure corporate responsibility would reinforce that Maryland legislators are committed to safeguarding their constituents and the long-term prosperity of the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julie Holly, District 4

SB950.pdf
Uploaded by: Lisa Orens
Position: FAV

I support SB950 because allowing natural gas power plants to operate until Maryland reaches 50% renewable energy, including nuclear energy,

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Orens

Written Testimony SB 950 Patti Hankins 3-4-2025.pd
Uploaded by: Patti Hankins
Position: FAV

MD SB 950 2025
Natural Gas Generating Facilities – Authorization
Hearing – March 6, 2025
Written Comments of Patti Hankins

Patti Hankins
229 St Mary's Rd
Pylesville, MD 21132
Patti.Hankins@gmail.com

Chairman and Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee
Written Testimony SB 950
March 6, 2025

Maryland needs to become energy independent from other states for its electricity generation. My comments outline the current state of Maryland's dependency on imported electricity.

PJM's regional expansion of high voltage transmission projects does not take into consideration the costs to impacted landowners and communities tasked with hosting these extension cords. Taxpayers are also impacted when agricultural preservation easements are targeted which is often the case. It is easy to site transmission projects on rural land because it is the least expensive option. Maryland elected officials are pretending that imported electricity is from nuclear only resources, which is not factual.

Projects 1, 2 and 3 outlined below will utilize electricity from Pennsylvania that comes from the substations at Bottom Atomic Plant. The electricity is generated from both nuclear resources and fossil fuel resources, specifically from the Calphine York Energy Center and the York Energy Center II which are natural gas fueled. Other PA resources from the north in the flow from these substations is also from fossil fuel generation.

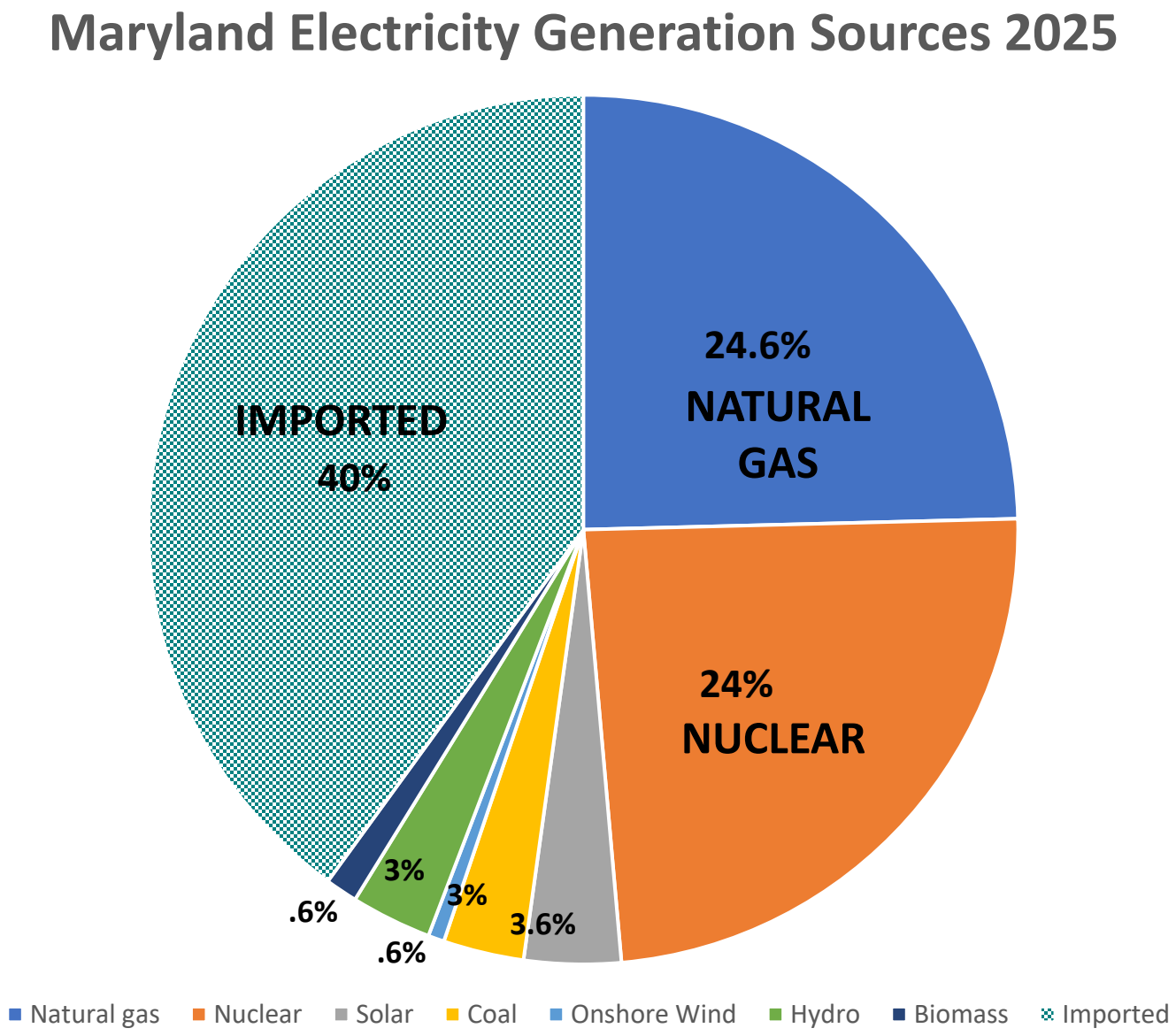
In total there are **4 high voltage projects that PJM approved in 2023 that will significantly increase the percentage of imported electricity into Maryland**. The details are shown in the following pages:

1. Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project
2. PSEG Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project
3. BGE/PEPCO Tri-County Transmission Project
4. First Energy Hunterstown to Carroll Upgrade Project

In addition, the PJM Board of Managers approved **Project #5** on February 26, 2025, the 2024 Window 1 project which will bring extra high voltage 765kV transmission to Frederick County via a 261-mile extension cord from West Virginia coal-fired plants.

Will Maryland imports be 85%, 90% or higher when all of the above projects are completed between 2027-2030? At what cost to Maryland ratepayers? At what cost to Maryland landowners? The approximate costs of all 5 of these projects is $11.6 BILLION and the generation will be from fossil-fuel plants in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Building Maryland 24/7 available natural gas generators will provide stability to electricity consumer rates.

MD Electric Generation	Percentage
Natural gas	24.6
Nuclear	24
Solar	3.6
Coal	3
Onshore Wind	0.6
Hydro	3
Biomass	0.6
Imported	40

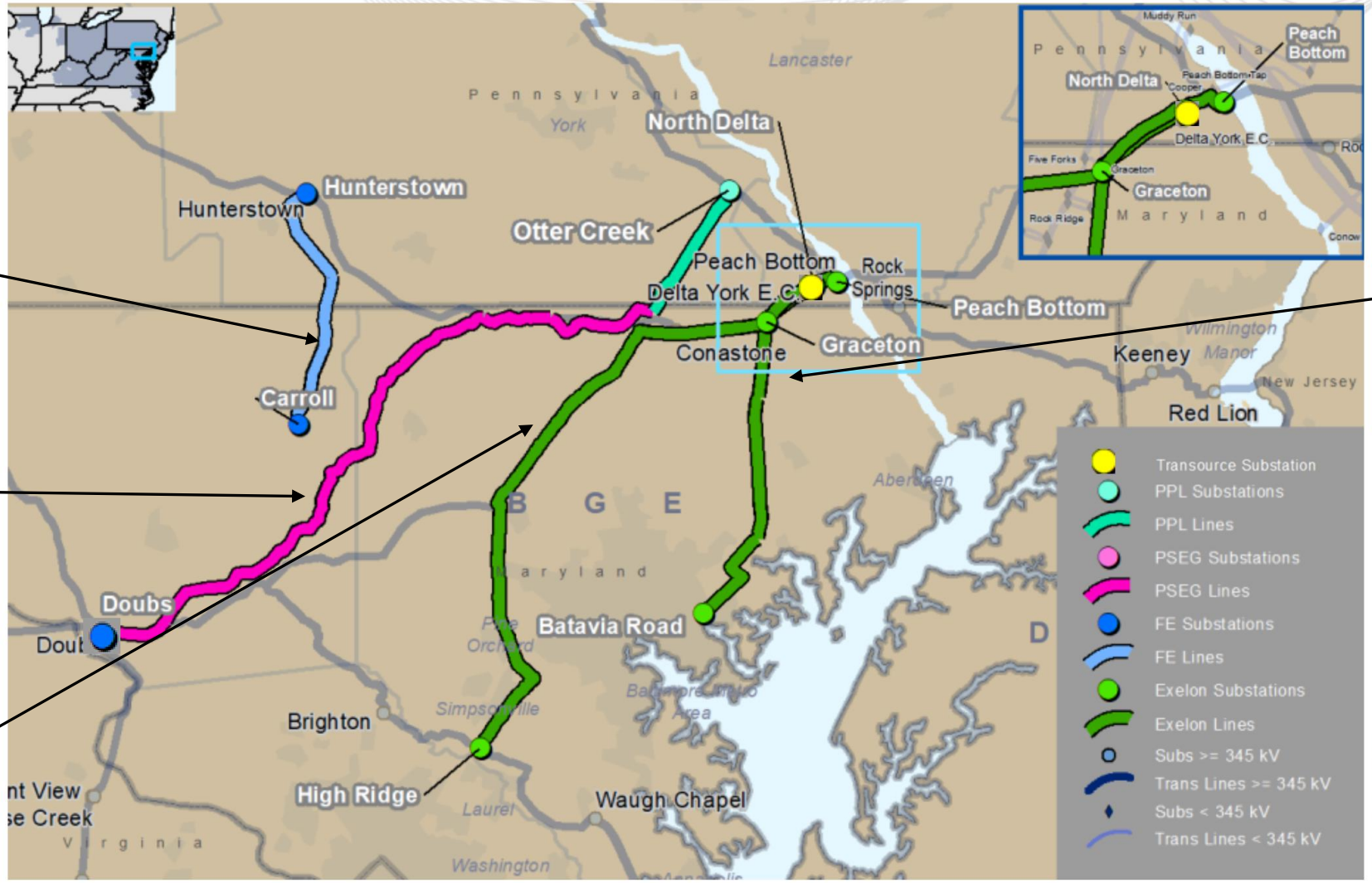


PJM Approved Projects to IMPORT MORE Electricity into Maryland Approved in 2023

First Energy upgrade 115/138kV to double circuit 230kV transmission lines on existing ROW

PSEG MPRP 70-mile greenfield 500kV transmission line

BGE/PEPCO Tri-County Transmission Upgrade Project new 500kV transmission line on existing ROW and rebuild of existing 500kV between Peach Bottom and Conastone



BGE/PECO Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project 2 new substations, new 500kV line from PA to Graceton substation, new double circuit 230kV transmission lines with bundled conductors on existing ROW approved 7-2023

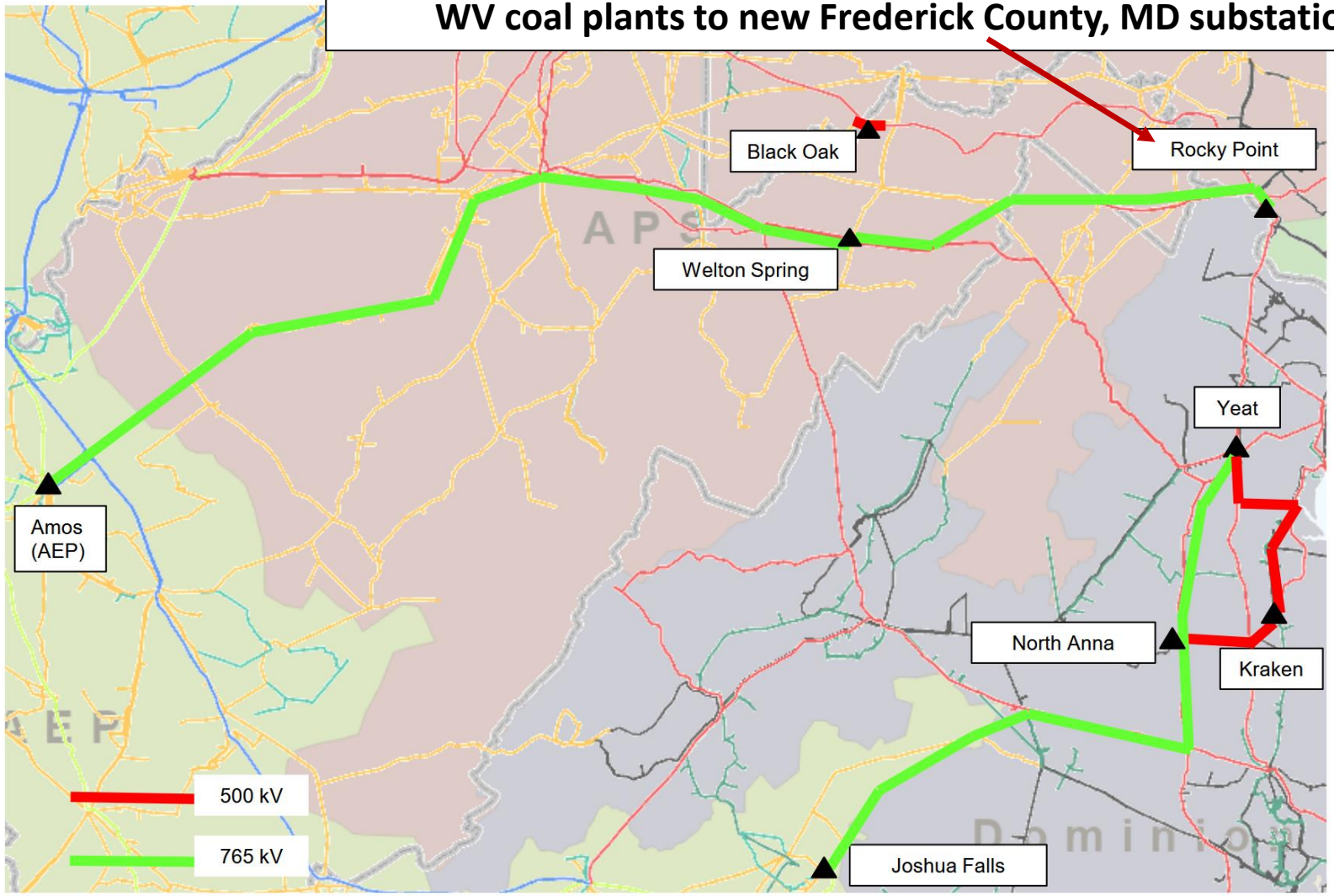
NOTE: *This map is only intended to illustrate the general electrical connectivity of the projects, and should not be relied upon for exact geographical substation locations or line routes.*

PJM©2023

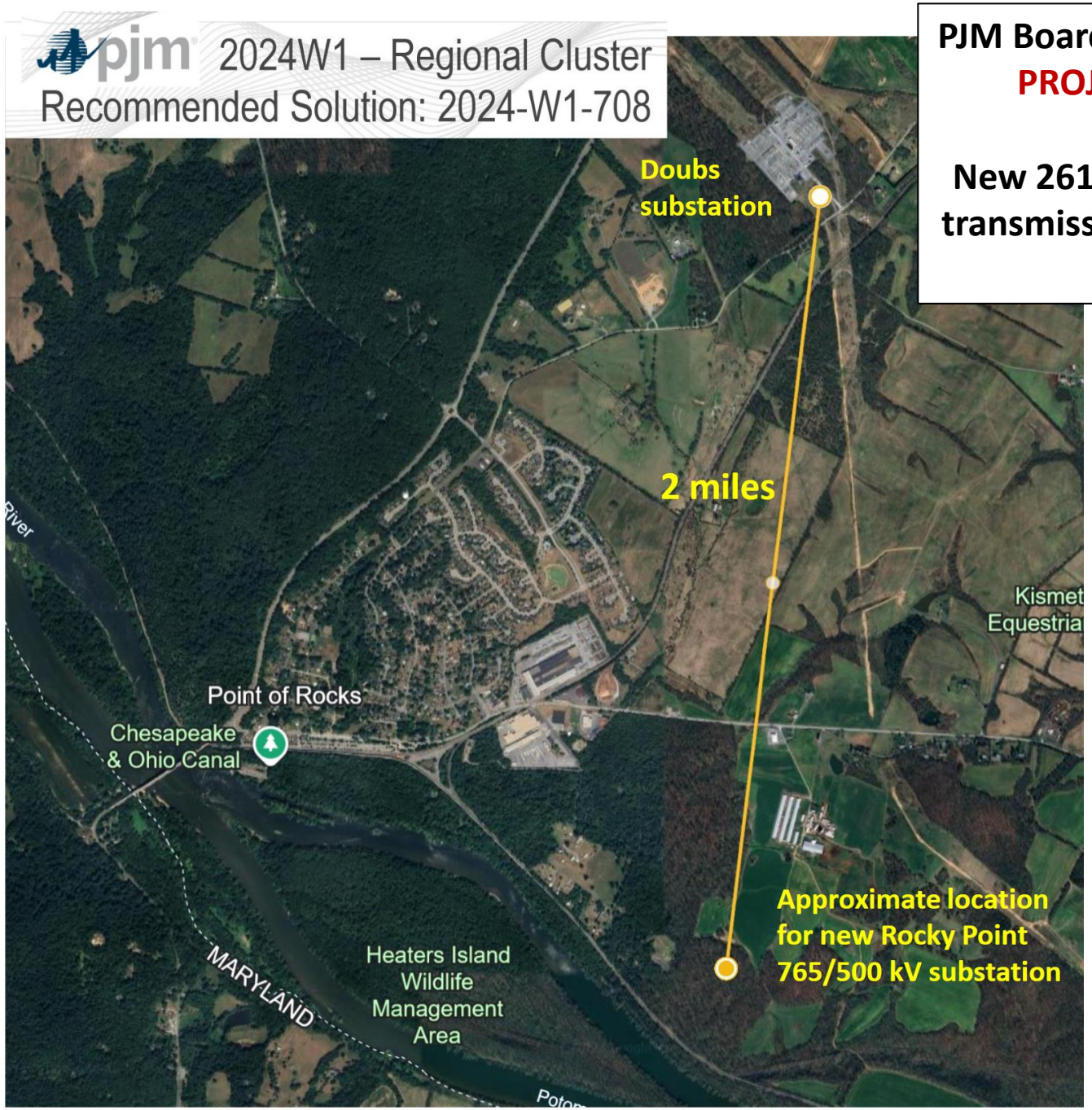
PJM Board of Managers Approved on February 26, 2025

PROJECT TO IMPORT MORE ELECTRICITY INTO MARYLAND

New 261-mile greenfield EXTRA HIGH VOLTAGE 765kV transmission line from WV coal plants to new Frederick County, MD substation Rocky Point.



PJM © 2025



PJM Board of Managers Approved on February 26, 2025

PROJECT TO IMPORT MORE ELECTRICITY INTO MARYLAND

New 261-mile greenfield EXTRA HIGH VOLTAGE 765kV transmission line from WV coal plants to new Frederick County, MD substation Rocky Point.

- PJM states that this project supports future load growth in Eastern PJM
- Expansion of 765kV into Eastern PM beyond Frederick County is possible
- 765kV is equal to 3 – 500kV transmission lines
- 765kV requires a 200’ ROW
- Agricultural activities are limited under 765kV transmission towers

EXTRA HIGH VOLTAGE – EHV 765kV TRANSMISSION TOWERS

- A single-circuit 765-kV line can carry as much power as three single-circuit 500-kV lines
- 765-kV projects use a typical right-of-way width of 200 feet.
- Typical 765-kV lines have a tower height of approximately 130-140 feet
- Highest voltage available in the United States

765kV Guyed-V Lattice tower

Figure 3 shows a 765-kV deviation tower located less than 50 yards from a new two-story home.

The illustration provides a good indication of the size of these towers. The footprint for towers along straight segments is smaller because the balanced conductor load reduces the bending moment that must be supported at the foundations.

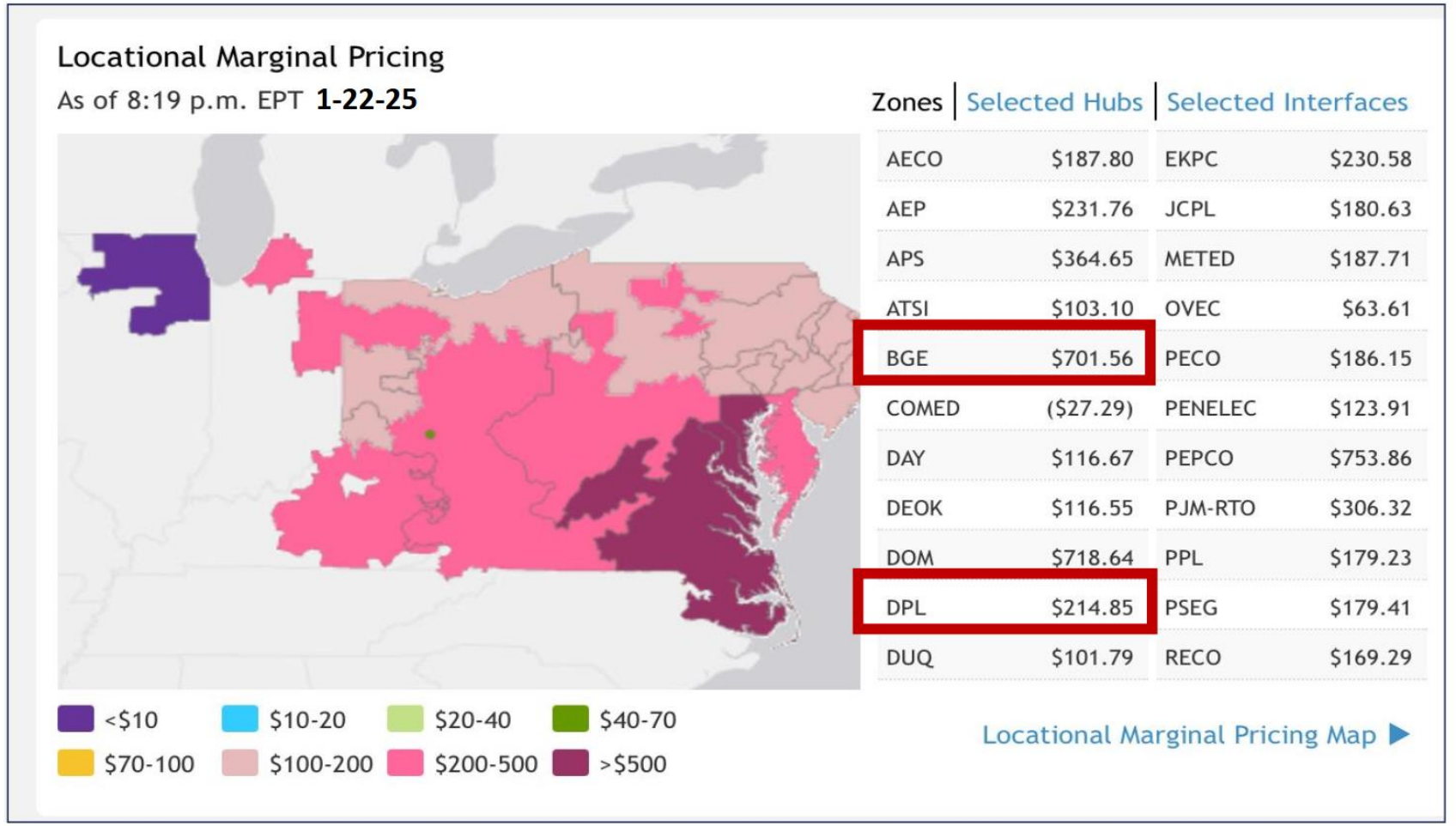
Figure 3 – Deviation Tower in a Residential Neighborhood

765kV Self-supporting Lattice tower

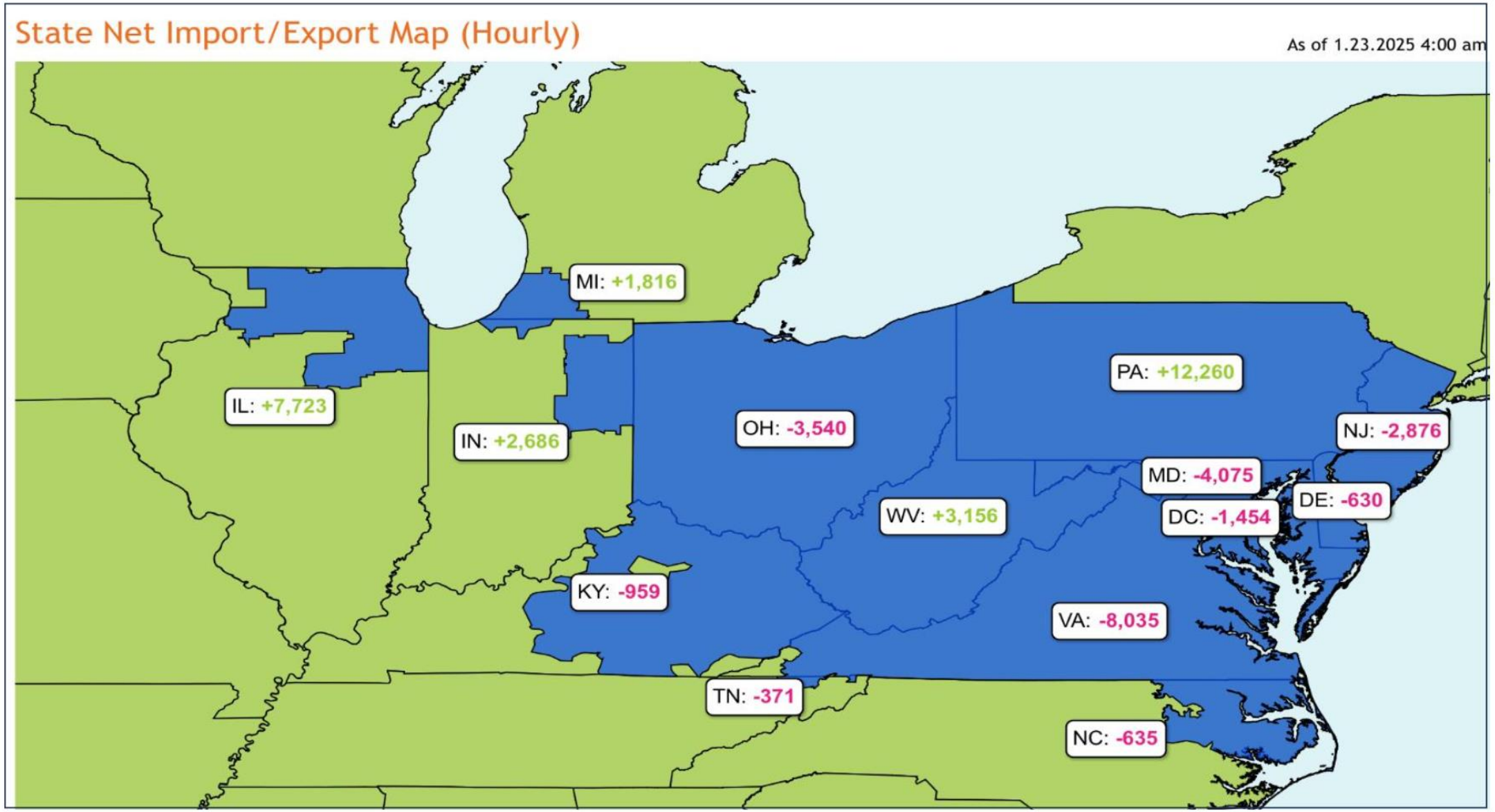
Locational Marginal Pricing - LMP is the price of delivering the next megawatt (MW) of electricity to a specific location or zone on the grid, like the BGE Zone or the Delmarva Zone

Constrained local MD supply and high electricity demand on January 22, 2025, led to the LMP price of $701.56 for the next MW in the BGE zone.

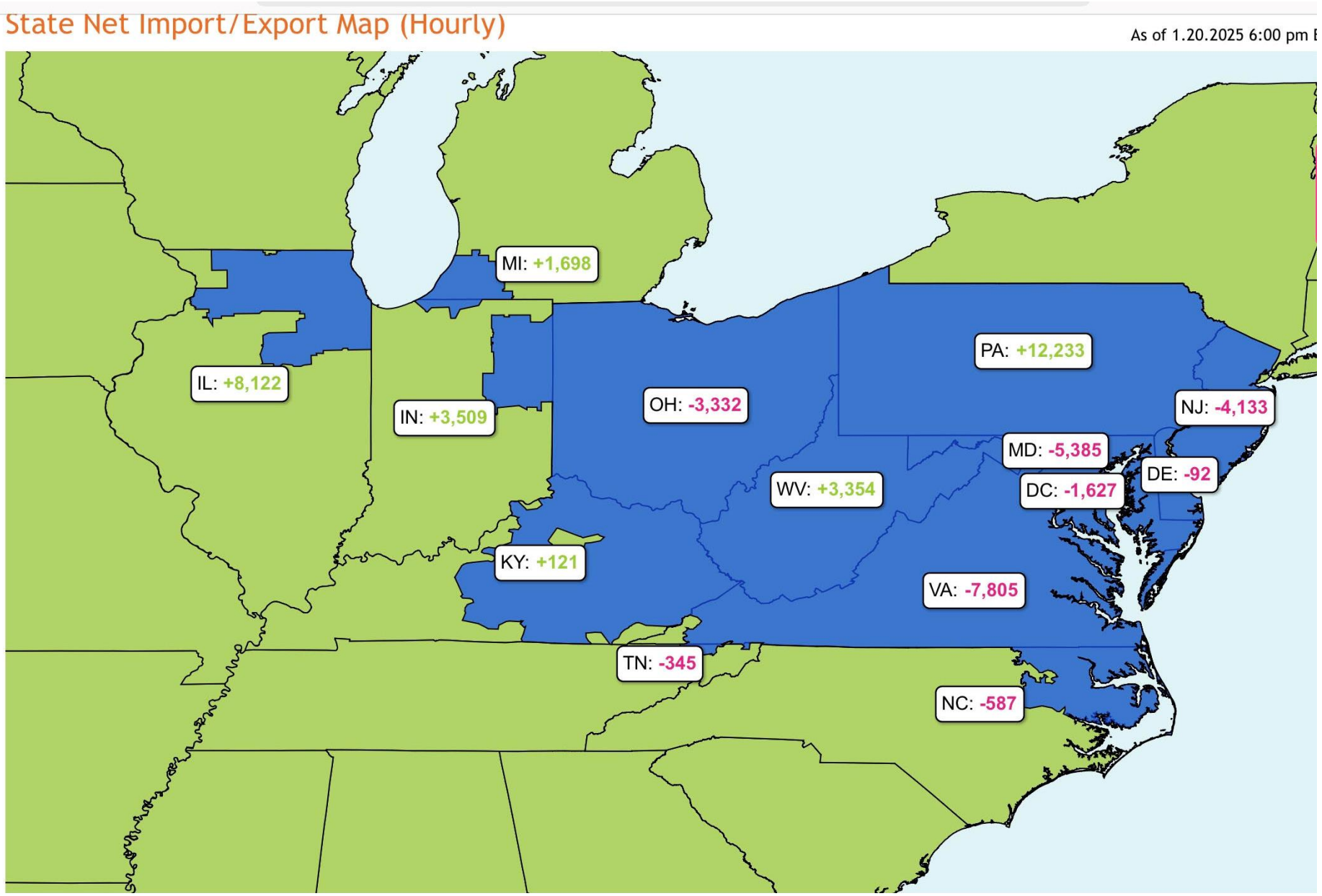
Increasing MD supply by allowing natural gas generation will prevent this type of escalating pricing



Maryland currently imports 40% - between 3,000 MWs to 5,000+ MWs hourly from other states - mostly Pennsylvania. How much will Maryland import when all 5 of the PJM approved transmission extension cords are built?



Maryland currently imports 40% - between 3,000 MWs to 5,000+ MWs hourly from other states - mostly Pennsylvania.
How much will Maryland import when all 5 of the PJM approved transmission extension cords are built?



MARYLAND NEEDS TO BE ENERGY INDEPENDENT

- Increased supply lowers electricity prices
- MD needs 24-7 thermal generation
- Prevents volatility in electricity prices
- Supports manufacturing growth
- Reduces vulnerability of transmission from weather events
- Supports data center growth
- Reduces burden on ratepayers

SUPPORT MARYLAND SB 950 WITH A FAVORABLE REPORT

Patti Hankins
229 St Mary's Rd
Pylesville, MD 21132
Patti.Hankins@gmail.com

SB950.HB1217 Pavlak FWA - nat gas generation autho

Uploaded by: Alex Pavlak

Position: FWA

March 6, 2025

SB950 (HB1217) Pavlak FWA

Natural Gas Generating Facilities – Authorization

THE THREAT:

- Electric power system stability and rolling blackouts
- Maryland needs proven baseload capacity

ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

- MD RGGI has made in-state fossil fuel noncompetitive with cheap imports
- The main barrier is not regulatory
- The cheapest solution is a temporary incentive for natural gas

AMENDMENT #1: Sharpen the purpose, the original purpose assumes that the barrier is regulatory:

FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing~~ the construction, ~~permitting,~~ and operation of natural gas generating facilities in the State until the State meets a certain percentage of its energy needs from renewable energy resources; ~~requiring the Maryland Energy Administration to work with the owners and operators of natural gas generating facilities in the State to decrease the production of energy from natural gas after the State meets a certain percentage of its energy needs from renewable energy resources; and generally relating to natural gas generating facilities.~~

AMENDMENT #2: A temporary quick fix

Exempt up to 2 GW of new natural gas generation from the requirement to purchase RGGI carbon allowances for 10 years.

BENEFITS

- Eliminates the fuzzy parts of the bill.
    - What exactly is 50% of State energy needs?
    - How to negotiate plant retirement? Expiring tax exemption subjects the plants to RGGI induced retirement pressure.

Dr. Alex Pavlak; Future of Energy Initiative; www.pavlak.net; www.FutureOfEnergyInitiative.org
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SB950 PHI 3.6.2025 FWA.pdf
Uploaded by: Anne Klase
Position: FWA

March 6, 2025

112 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Support with Amendments – Senate Bill 950- Natural Gas Generating Facilities – Authorization

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) support with amendments **Senate Bill 950- Natural Gas Generating Facilities – Authorization.** Senate Bill 950 authorizes the construction, permitting, and operation of natural gas generating facilities in the State until the State meets 50% of its energy needs from renewable energy resources. Additionally, it requires Maryland Energy Administration to work with the owners and operators of natural gas generating facilities in the State to decrease the production of energy from natural gas after the State meets 50% of its energy needs from renewable energy resources.

Resource adequacy is a pressing issue nation-wide and is of particular concern in Maryland. Given the limited local generation in Maryland and pending retirements of the dispatchable generation in the state, Maryland is dependent on generation imports to achieve its electric supply. Achieving resource adequacy requires a holistic view of solutions, including solutions from Maryland, PJM, and Maryland utilities. More resources are needed as soon as possible—power plants (renewable and natural gas), energy storage, and demand-side capabilities.

If the Committee elects to vote this bill out of Committee, Pepco and Delmarva Power recommend adding amendments that authorize utilities to recover in rates the prudently incurred costs for acquiring, constructing, owning, and operating regulated generation and language that establishes a process to protect utility customers from the rate impacts of project terms that harm the electric company's credit metrics.

Pepco and Delmarva Power are ready to partner with stakeholders to advance solutions that provide reliability electricity supply, address affordability, and advance jurisdictional climate goals.

Pepco Holdings, the parent company of Pepco, an electric utility serving Washington, D.C., and suburban Maryland; Delmarva Power, an electric and gas utility serving Delaware and portions of the Delmarva Peninsula; and Atlantic City Electric, an electric utility serving southern New Jersey. Anthony and his team are responsible for guiding the company's delivery of reliable and excellent service to more than two million customers in the Mid-Atlantic. Pepco Holdings is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation, one of the nation's leading energy services companies.

Valencia McClure | Anne Klase | Allyson Black-Woodson | Poetri Deal | 410 980 5347

BGE_EEE_FWA_SB950 – Natural Gas Generating Facilit

Uploaded by: Dytonia Reed

Position: FWA

AN EXELON COMPANY

Position Statement

Favorable with Amendments
Education, Energy, and Environment
3/6/2025

Senate Bill 950 – Natural Gas Generating Facilities – Authorization

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) supports with amendments Senate Bill 950 – Natural Gas Generating Facilities – Authorization. Senate Bill 950 authorizes the construction, permitting, and operation of natural gas generating facilities in the State until the State meets 50% of its energy needs from renewable energy resources. Additionally, the bill requires the Maryland Energy Administration to work with the owners and operators of natural gas generating facilities in the State to decrease the production of energy from natural gas after the State meets 50% of its energy needs from renewable energy resources.

Resource adequacy is a critical concern in Maryland. It's essential to have enough electricity generation capacity to meet peak demand and ensure reliable power delivery through sufficient transmission infrastructure. With limited in-state generation and the impending retirements of dispatchable generation, Maryland relies heavily on imported electricity to meet its energy needs. This dependency underscores the importance of maintaining a robust and reliable electric grid. In order to meet the electric demand of Maryland residents and businesses, stakeholders from the State, PJM, and utilities need to collaborate on solutions.

BGE respectfully requests an amendment for an investor-owned electric company to obtain a credit rating assessment by a premier credit rating agency to ascertain whether the terms of any order directing the utility to construct, permit, and or operate a natural gas generating facility are likely to be credit negative. This is essential to protect ratepayers from paying higher rates in the event BGE's credit rating would be adversely impacted because of a generating facility construction investment. Additionally, appropriate language to ensure the recovery of prudently incurred generation investments and costs is requested, given BGE is a regulated utility.

BGE remains committed to supporting Maryland's energy transition and supports policies that keep affordably, resiliency, and reliability a priority. BGE requests the Committee accept our recommended amendments and issue a favorable report.

BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.3 million electric customers and more than 700,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company's approximately 3,400 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's largest energy delivery company.

Charles Washington| Brittany Jones | Guy Andes| Dytonia Reed| 410.269.5281

SB950 - P3 - 2025.pdf
Uploaded by: Caitlin McDonough
Position: UNF

Testimony of the PJM Power Providers Group (P3)[1]

Senate Bill 950

Maryland Senate Finance Committee

March 6, 2025

While P3 appreciates the intent of SB 950 to build new natural gas capacity in Maryland and reduce the state's reliance on power from other states, P3 opposes the bill in its current form. SB 950 states that natural gas generation facilities can be "constructed, permitted, and operated" in Maryland until the state meets 50% of its energy needs from renewable sources (including nuclear). At that point, the Maryland Energy Association would work with the state to decrease production from natural gas facilities as production from renewable and nuclear resources increases.

The bill suffers from both policy and practical concerns and should, therefore, be either substantially modified or rejected. As a fundamental issue, all power plants in PJM are dispatched based on their bids into the PJM energy market. PJM dispatches the lowest-cost units first, and as demand increases, it deploys more costly units. Of course, the cost of power can vary due to factors such as weather and gas prices, both of which are difficult to predict. Determining when specific amounts of power are derived from particular resources could be challenging and may fluctuate on a monthly and yearly basis. Moreover, a significant portion of Maryland's power needs is met by out-of-state resources, so those resources must also be considered in any analysis.

A better path forward for Maryland would be for the legislature to simply clarify that natural gas power plants can be constructed in the state and be unburdened by environmental restrictions that would hinder their ability to provide the necessary power to the grid over the 20–30 years required to recover the costs associated with building and operating such plants. Natural gas power plants will almost certainly have higher energy market bids than wind and solar resources, which benefit from significant tax credits. As a result, production from natural gas generation facilities will naturally decrease as renewable energy penetration increases. It is preferable to allow this transition to unfold in a manner that enables PJM to manage system reliability while ensuring dispatch is guided by economic, rather than regulatory, considerations.

[1] The views expressed in this testimony represent the views of P3 as an organization and do not necessarily reflect the views of individual P3 member companies with respect to any issue. For more information on P3, visit www.p3powergroup.com. P3 members own more than 82,000 megawatts of generation assets in PJM. P3 member companies are active suppliers in the state of Maryland, either as wholesale generation suppliers and/or competitive retail electric services suppliers

SB 950 - CBF - UNF.pdf
Uploaded by: Matt Stegman
Position: UNF

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

Senate Bill 950
Natural Gas Generating Facilities - Authorization

Date:	March 6, 2025	Position:	**UNFAVORABLE**
To:	Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee	From:	Gussie Maguire, MD Staff Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 950, which allows for the construction and operation of new natural gas-burning energy generation systems until the state is able to meet 50% of its energy needs from renewable sources. The bill includes nuclear energy in its "renewable" category, but while nuclear energy does not generate the same harmful emissions as burning fossil fuels, it still depends upon a finite fuel source. It is important to distinguish it from true renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind energy. In any case, opening the door to additional fossil fuel-fired power generation in the state would be a step backwards for Maryland's air quality, water quality, and climate goals.

In addition to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other pollutants, gas-fired power plants emit nitrogen oxides (NOx) into the atmosphere. Atmospheric nitrogen, from power plants, vehicle emissions, and other sources, enters the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries through either dry deposition of particles or attached to precipitation, and contributes about one-third of nitrogen of the nitrogen reaching the Bay[1]. NOx emissions have declined over time, thanks in large part to reductions from point sources like power plants[2]. Introducing additional gas-burning energy generation systems to the state of Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay's airshed would go back on that progress, increasing nitrogen loads to the Bay and exacerbating algal blooms and anoxic dead zones. Larger dead zones imperil already-stressed aquatic species, including striped bass and menhaden.

Finally, despite natural gas's reputation as a "clean burning" fuel, its emissions pose the exact same threats to the climate as other fossil fuels. Natural gas is primarily composed of methane, which is even more effective than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Any leaks in pipelines to or equipment at a natural gas-burning facility would contribute methane, while normal energy generation activity would also release low levels of methane along with carbon dioxide. Increased GHG emissions do not align with the state's goals and investments already made to combat climate change.

CBF urges the Committee's UNFAVORABLE report on SB 950.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

[1] https://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/threats-to-the-bay/air-pollution
[2] https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-02/documents/appendix_l_atmos_n_deposition_allocations_final.pdf

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

SB 950_1217_Oppose.pdf
Uploaded by: Maurice Simpson, Jr.
Position: UNF

Constellation

March 6, 2025

Chairman Brian J. Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chairman C.T. Wilson
House Economic Matters Committee
231 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 950/HB 1217 - Natural Gas Generating Facilities - Authorization

SB 950/HB 1217 authorizes, notwithstanding any other provision of law, natural gas generating facilities to be constructed, permitted, and operated in the State until the State reaches 50% of its energy needs from renewable energy sources, including nuclear energy. Constellation respectfully opposes any changes to the Public Service Commission's current authority to allow utility-owned generation under specified circumstances.

Utility generation has historically proven to be the costliest to consumers, and commandeering monopoly utilities to invest in generating capacity will undermine competition from merchant developers and market-based investments. Utilities have not been involved in generation development for over two decades and have no internal resources, experience, or supply chains to support a build-out of new power plants.

We encourage the Maryland General Assembly to pursue resource adequacy solutions that ensure that competitive generators continue to bear the risk of new generation investment, protecting consumers across the state. At a time when utility infrastructure costs and customer bills are skyrocketing, there should be no consideration of utilities re-entering the generation business to put even more costs on the backs of ratepayers.

Constellation respectfully requests an unfavorable vote on SB 950. Please contact Maurice Simpson, Senior Manager of Government Affairs, at Maurice.Simpson@constellation.com with any questions.

SB0950 (HB1217) - LOI - Natural Gas Generating Fa

Uploaded by: Landon Fahrig

Position: INFO

Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: MEA
SUBJECT: SB 950 - Natural Gas Generating Facilities - Authorization
DATE: March 6, 2025

MEA Position: LETTER OF INFORMATION

This bill purports to authorize the construction and operation of natural gas generating facilities, but limits such until the State meets 50% of its energy needs from renewable energy generating resources including nuclear generation.

The bill is not needed, as natural gas generation facilities may already be constructed and operated in the state. Additionally, the bill contains no language that would actually promote the construction of natural gas generation, renewable generation, or nuclear generation.

Additionally, the bill requires that the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) work with the owners and operators of natural gas generating facilities once the state *does* meet 50% of its energy needs from renewable energy resources, again including nuclear energy, to decrease the production of energy from natural gas generating facilities. MEA has no regulatory authority to accomplish this goal. Generators in the state are regulated in various ways by the Maryland Public Service Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and through the market rules and other mechanisms within PJM that are approved by FERC.

MEA urges the committee to consider this information before issuing its report.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Landon Fahrig, Legislative Liaison, directly (landon.fahrig@maryland.gov, 410.931.1537).