

South Lawn Citizens Association

Monroe

Senate Bill 07-43 – Climate Labor and Environmental Equity Act 2023

February 22, 2023

**OXON HILL, LIVINGSTON ROAD & AREA RESIDENTS EXPRESS HEALTH
AND SAFETY CONCERNS ABOUT PEPCO'S LITHIUM-ION BATTERY
ENERGY STORAGE PILOT PROJECT**

For almost two years, residents in Oxon Hill and Fort Washington have been fighting against the installation of a 1 MW Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on Livingston Road. A project in the making that very few residents knew nothing about and still don't.

Of great concern to the residents of the immediate and surrounding area is that since this is a pilot project, there are too many unknowns. The data that is available is less than five years old and is still being studied. One major concern is the effects of global warming, various temperatures swings, storms and terrorist threats.

The community discovered that the contractor PEPCO hired for this project was not in good standing with the State of Maryland, another reason for neighbors to be concerned about the project design.

The community supports PEPCO's effort to explore alternative forms of energy; however, we have been asking PEPCO to consider relocating the BESS given the newness and potential safety hazards of this technology. According to a Professor at Southern University, hired by the EPA to study lithium-ion battery hazards and harmful emissions. There are many unknowns with lithium-ion batteries as it relates to utility application.

Questions regarding fire, health and safety have not been addressed to the satisfaction of the residents. The community has asked for

emergency plans in case of a fire and PEPCO, to date has not produced or adequately discussed them.

The community organizations and area residents are convinced that this is just one example of a large corporate entity engaging in environmental racism by preying on what it regards as a minority community. The pilot project in Montgomery County is located miles away from residential homes, schools, and day care centers. This project is less than 200 feet from a day care, residential homes, and three schools less than one mile away.

So to place something in a residential area with so many unknowns is baffling. We do not want to be PEPCO's guinea pigs.