



February 21, 2024

112 West Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Letter of Information – House Bill 24 Environment - Impact of Environmental Permits and State Agency Actions**

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) submit this letter of information on **House Bill 24 - Environment - Impact of Environmental Permits and State Agency Actions**. House Bill 24 requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to conduct a climate and environmental equity evaluation of a permit application if, after conducting an Environmental Justice (EJ) score review required under current law, MDE determines that issuing an approval for the permit may impact an underserved community or an overburdened community. Additionally, the legislation establishes provisions relating to such an evaluation and establishes additional requirements for MDE regarding public input. Finally, MDE may deny or alter a decision or amend the conditions under a pending permit based on the Department's findings. MDE is required to adopt regulations and may charge a reasonable fee to cover implementation costs associated with the provisions described above.

Pepco and Delmarva Power are committed to conducting business activities with respect and care for the environment and strive to minimize any environmental impacts that may result from our operations. Pepco and Delmarva Power support the intent of the legislation but are concerned about how it may impact important reliability and resiliency projects. Utilities will need to make significant investments in our infrastructure to meet our state's climate goals. As written, there is currently no definition for "new permit" which could lead to the proposed provisions being applied to permit renewals for existing infrastructure. Utilities need practical implementation policies that streamline the siting and permitting processes to build and operate the electric grid of the future that will incorporate renewables, and distributed generation assets such as solar and wind.

Pepco and Delmarva Power look forward to continuing conversations with the bill sponsor and all stakeholders involved.

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