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PRESS RELEASE

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OPC GIVES “THUMBS DOWN” TO PSC DECISION

Today, the DC Public Service Commission announced its intent to increase distribution rates by **\$23.5** million. The bulk of these costs will be borne on the backs of residential ratepayers.

“The Commission’s decision to grant Pepco \$23.5 million of its \$44 million request is a sign that the Commission continues to ignore the people. This decision serves to encourage Pepco to continue its relentless pursuit of excessive and unnecessary rate relief,” said People’s Counsel Sandra Mattavous-Frye.

“This is a stunning disappointment for all District ratepayers who supported OPC’s calls to *decrease* Pepco’s rates by \$13 million in Formal Case No. 1103. DC residential ratepayers will almost immediately see a monthly increase of \$3.75 or 40%, in the customer charge on their bills and an overall increase of 21%, in the distribution portion of their bill,” said the People’s Counsel. Distribution costs are the only portion of the bill still regulated by the Commission.

“We have to look at the Commission’s actions in context, including today’s decision, the Commission has granted Pepco four rate increases since 2006, totaling \$ 95.5 million! These increases have greatly contributed to the District of Columbia having among the highest electric rates in the PJM region. Effectively, DC consumers have seen their electric rate nearly double since 2005,” said the People’s Counsel.

Unashamedly, Pepco indicated weeks before this decision was rendered that it will file yet another request for a rate increase in DC by the end of June, 2014.