



PRESS RELEASE

July 24, 2017

PSC Reduction of Pepco Rate Hike in Line with OPC's Push for More Utility Bill Relief for Low Income DC Residents

Washington, D.C. -- DC People's Counsel Sandra Mattavous-Frye today expressed cautious optimism about the Public Service Commission's (PSC) decision to increase Pepco's distribution rates by \$36.88 million, although higher than OPC's proposed maximum of a \$25 million rate increase. Pepco initially sought a rate hike of \$85 million which OPC viewed as too high and unjustified. The request was subsequently reduced to \$77.5 million.

Today's decision means that the typical residential consumer will see an increase of just over \$2 per month. However, the hike won't take effect for two years because it will be offset by \$15 million of funds OPC fought to be included in the Pepco-Exelon merger. In addition, the PSC set aside another \$6-7 million of funds that were included in merger to benefit District residents with disabilities and senior citizens.

"For OPC, a critical issue was the allocation of the Customer Base Rate Credit we pushed as critical to the merger agreement. Today's decision gives the lion's share of those credits to residential customers, seniors and other lower income ratepayers-groups forming the core of OPC's constituents," said Mattavous-Frye. I appreciate that the Commission is adopting some of the Office's thinking on protecting our most vulnerable communities. OPC will be working with the Commission to soften the blow of any future rate increase cases."

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