

# Pepco's Reliability Enhancement Plan

## *Montgomery County Progress Report*

Pepco's Reliability Enhancement Plan continues with the goal of improving reliability as quickly as possible. With this March 2011 update, Pepco is continuing its efforts to trim trees, as well as work on other reliability projects throughout Montgomery County.

While power outages due to severe weather sometimes are unavoidable, Pepco understands the inconvenience that long-lasting outages can cause our customers. Pepco is committed to significantly improving its level of service and is confident that the Reliability Enhancement Plan will improve our customers' experience.



## Six-Point Reliability Enhancement Plan

### 1. Trimming Trees

Many of Pepco's recent outages are a direct result of trees falling on power lines. Pepco is aggressively trimming trees along public rights of way to obtain increased clearance between the overhead electric wires and existing trees. Pepco also will work with counties, communities and homeowners to remove potentially hazardous trees which fall outside of the company's right of way area.

### 2. Improving Priority Feeders

A feeder is an electric power line that distributes power to up to 1,100 customers within a specific geographic area. Each year, across Montgomery County, Pepco selects and replaces feeders that are performing poorly. As part of the Reliability Enhancement Plan, Pepco has expanded this program by 45 percent.

### 3. Meeting Increased Customer Demand for Energy

Similar to upgrading electric service to your home to accommodate new appliances and electronic devices, Pepco is continuing to upgrade power lines and is adding circuits to accommodate new customers and support increased energy use by existing customers.

### 4. Installing Advanced Technologies

Pepco is installing advanced control systems that allow the electric system to identify problems and perform switching automatically. These technologies will automatically isolate failed pieces of equipment and restore most of the affected customers within minutes of the failure.

### 5. Replacing Aging Infrastructure

Pepco has a long-standing project to replace underground cable in residential developments that for the most part was installed during the 1970s. This program replaces cable to prevent future failures and increases the reliability of the distribution system for customers supplied from the underground system.

## Montgomery County Progress Results

(March 2011 Update)

1. Pepco trimmed trees along 99 miles of power lines in the county during March. The target is to trim 850 miles in the county by the end of the year. Staffing for tree trimming within the county also has been increased to three times the normal complement of workers to meet the project's demands.

2. In March, Pepco continued work on projects in Chevy Chase, Takoma Park, Silver Spring and Gaithersburg. Another project -- in the Norbeck area -- was completed in March. Pepco has 47 projects planned for completion in 2011.

3. In March, Pepco continued work on the high impact project in Bethesda and began work on equipment installations in the Gaithersburg, Potomac and Norbeck areas. Pepco has a total of four projects planned for completion in 2011.

4. In March, Pepco completed work on 10 projects in Bethesda and Potomac. Pepco has 14 projects planned for completion in 2011.

5. In March, Pepco replaced or renewed 40,000 feet of cable throughout the county and completed work in the Montgomery Village, Heritage Walk and Plyers Mill Estates areas. Pepco continues work in Foxhill Green, West Riding, Middlevale Lane, Highfield, Williamsburg Village, Glen Oaks, Red Mill Shopping Center, Olney Acres, Highlands of Olney and New Mark Esplanade and began work in March in Flints Grove.

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# Six-Point Reliability Enhancement Plan

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# Mongtomery County Progress Results

*(March 2011 Update)*

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## 6. Selective Undergrounding and Supply Line Enhancements

In areas where traditional modifications on the overhead system have not produced the desired results, Pepco will selectively replace the overhead system with an underground system. In addition, measures will be taken to further protect the high-voltage substation supply lines to reduce the number of outages. By increasing the reliability of the supply lines, Pepco increases the reliability of the substation, which in turn improves the performance of the 12 to 15 individual distribution feeders supplied by each substation.

6. Pepco narrowed the list to two feeders meeting the undergrounding criteria in the county and started an engineering evaluation on both. Pepco also completed field inspection work on seven critical 69,000 volt circuits in the county. Additional corrective measures are slated for the second quarter of 2011.