



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Statement of Councilmember Roger Berliner
On the Proposed Settlement Between
Pepco-Exelon and Montgomery County**

March 17, 2015

The proposed settlement between Exelon and Montgomery County includes many important benefits to the citizens of Montgomery County, benefits that our County Council specifically endorsed. Our top priority has always been achieving 1st quartile reliability, and this agreement, if approved, would ensure that result in the next three years. Other significant benefits include funding for a “green bank” and micro-grids, access to transmission lines for trails, funds for workforce development, solar projects, and a commitment to be a partner in pursuing Utility 2.0.

While the settlement contains these positive attributes, it is unlikely to be adopted in the absence of other critical concessions by Exelon. The State of Maryland, the Office of People’s Counsel, and the Maryland Public Service Commission staff have all strongly opposed the merger as contrary to the public interest. The overarching issue that Exelon’s settlements have thus far failed to address is Exelon’s track record of supporting its nuclear power plants at the expense of renewable and distributed energy resources.

Unless Exelon is prepared to demonstrate that in return for becoming the largest energy player in the Mid-Atlantic region, it will be the greenest energy player in the region, it is very doubtful that the merger will be approved, notwithstanding the settlement with the County. There are on-going settlement negotiations underway between Exelon and other parties, including the Coalition for Utility Reform, seeking such a result. I remain hopeful that Exelon will make the kind of commitments to renewable energy that could allow the Maryland Public Service Commission to find this merger in the public interest.