

Elizabeth A. Noël, People's Counsel

PRESS RELEASE

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Residential Pilot Program offers “Smart Metering” to DC Electric Consumers

Advanced Technology, Innovative Rates Could Help Reduce Customer Bills

People’s Counsel Elizabeth A. Noel today announces the introduction of the SmartpowerDC™ “Smart Meter Pilot Program.” “Due to the failure of retail competition for residential consumers and increasing generation prices, OPC negotiated \$2 million from Pepco in the merger settlement agreement for a smart meter pilot program. We hope that the smart meter program will prove to be an avenue through which consumers can obtain information and some measure of control over their energy use and their energy bills.” Stated Ms. Noel.

SmartPowerDC™ is an innovative program developed through the cooperation of the Consumer Utility Board, the Public Service Commission, PEPCO, The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the D.C. Office of the People’s Counsel. The Smart Meter Pilot Program is a first of its kind project to provide residential customers the ability to respond to direct pricing information. Two thousand, two hundred and fifty (2,250) D.C. customers *randomly selected* from all 8 wards will have the opportunity to participate in the pilot program. These customers may potentially save money by making a change a few hours a day for a few days a year when energy usage and energy prices are at their peak.

SmartPowerDC™ builds on several earlier industry “smart” meter studies, but will be the first to test advanced metering under three different pricing options. These options should provide customers control over their electricity costs by signaling them when to shift energy use away from high priced periods. Additional billing detail should enable customers to learn how they can use electricity most efficiently.

“As People’s Counsel, I anxiously await the final evaluation of the pilot program because if at the end of the day, consumers making a conscious decision to shift their electricity usage can help save all consumers by limiting PEPCO’s purchase of expensive “peak power” to serve the District, then this will be a win-win situation for all ratepayers” said Ms. Noël.

The “smart” meter will further benefit customers by permitting Pepco to detect individual customer outages and voltage levels remotely. Pepco will also be able to gather customer consumption data remotely, thereby helping to ensure the accuracy and timing of meter reads as well as the collection of critical load research information.

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