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News Release

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STATEMENT FROM STEVE MCKAY, FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2, IN OPPOSITION TO THE MARYLAND PIEDMONT RELIABILITY PROJECT (MPRP)

FREDERICK, MD – Since last July, residents, farmers and business owners in Frederick, Carroll, and Baltimore Counties have been faced with a life-altering challenge. The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) threatens their livelihood, their property value, their way of life, and for many, their family heritage. A New Jersey-based electric utility company - the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) – has now selected their “final route” for the new high tension electric power line project. Certainly, for some, the project is no longer a direct concern due to the fact that PSEG has now eliminated many alternate route proposals that were originally under consideration. But make no mistake, if this project is approved, it will have a devastating impact across the region.

Soon, the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) will have the task of reviewing the MPRP proposal and then either to approve or disapprove it. But the PSC is not the first approving authority for MPRP. The Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection, or PJM, is the authority that selected and awarded the MPRP project. PJM chose to award a new greenfield project through an already developed area. PJM selected a proposal that was destined to harm Maryland residents, all for the purpose of providing power to Northern Virginia data centers. PJM had a responsibility to minimize the impact of this project on this area, and to prioritize project proposals that would maximize the use of existing power line rights of way (ROW). PJM failed in this responsibility.

There is still time for PJM to correct their failure. PJM can stop MPRP. PJM can cancel the project award and encourage Baltimore Gas & Electric (BGE) to bring forward a new proposal, one that would expand the capacity of BGE’s existing power line ROW from the Doubs Substation to the very same end point currently proposed for MPRP. A few months ago, when faced with intense public opposition in Loudon County, this is exactly what PJM did there – they cancelled a previously awarded greenfield project and worked with

existing power line owners to expand capacity along their current rights of way. I call on PJM to do that here and now. I call on PJM to rescind the MPRP project award and work with BGE on a new proposal – one that doesn't take any new land, one that doesn't harm our residents, farmers, and business owners, one that we all can live with. PJM has that authority. PJM has used that authority before, and it is high time that PJM exercise that authority once more.

For additional information, contact Council Member McKay at 301-600-1034 or via e-mail at SMcKay@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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