

(Attachment D.)



**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

August 30, 2010

Ms. Terry Romine, Executive Secretary  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
William Donald Schaefer Tower  
6 St. Paul St., 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Case No. 9240- Public Comment

Dear Ms. Romine:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) please accept this letter as our public comments surrounding the reliability and quality of electric distribution of Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco).

Our comments will help the Public Service Commission to understand the importance that electricity means to farmers as part of their agricultural operations as well as their personal residences. Montgomery County agriculture encompasses nearly one third of the County covering 93,000 acres within a region called the agricultural reserve. Our farmers are provided electric service by three separate electric companies including Pepco. The agricultural industry in the County is very diverse in terms of the types of operations that include traditional grain, livestock and dairy farms as well as horticultural operations that provide products and services to the general public. Reliable electric service is critical to all of these operations and our farmers would not be able to continue farming without electricity that our farmers depend on daily.

We understand that infrastructure for electrical power is aging and that upgrades are needed including new electric power generating facilities. We also understand that our aging infrastructure does impact the reliability and quality of electric distribution throughout the County. In our view these factors are further impacted by the continuing growth of trees that encroach the utility lines and public streets. For several years, the agricultural community has gone on record to specifically request that a comprehensive tree trimming program is needed to prevent accidents involving large agricultural equipment that depend on the public roads to access farm fields. In many areas of the County the growth of trees has not been managed and this outcome has created a public safety concern as drivers are forced to the center of the road way to avoid the tree limbs that are hanging over utility lines and into the road.

(Attachment D.)

The trimming of trees along our public roads needs to be done proactively through a coordinated effort by the utility companies, the government, and by private landowners. This coordinated effort for trimming trees cannot be delayed because we have all witnessed the growing intensity of recent storms and the devastating damage they cause.

We suggest that when utility company contractors are scheduled to trim trees in a given area, that appropriate county and state government representatives should be informed. We suggest this so that decisions can be made to perhaps remove a tree altogether verses trimming it back in accordance with the limited distance and limited authority that utility companies have. We suggest that the Public Service Commission consider a change in policy surrounding this limited distance and limited authority to trim trees surrounding the utility lines. This suggestion will help to reduce the long term and on-going costs of limited tree trimming that really does not solve the problem. In light of the recent storms and long periods of power outage, we believe the time is ripe for new educational awareness to private property owners that have been unreceptive to tree trimming. We ask for the Public Service Commission to provide the utility companies with the tools that they need to address the concerns that have been expressed by the public.

The Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee believes that we must all come together to develop an action plan to address the reliability and quality of electric service that is provided to all residents and businesses of the County. Thank you for this opportunity to hear our views on this importance issue that impacts everyone.

Sincerely,

/s/

David Weitzer, Chairman  
Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee

Cc: Jeremy V. Criss, DED Ag Services Division Manager  
AAC Committee Members

(Attachment E.)**Criss, Jeremy**

**From:** Criss, Jeremy  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2010 10:32 AM  
**To:** 'Joe Brown'; 'Willard, Billy'  
**Cc:** 'bergvh@starpower.net'; Zawitoski, John; Fisher, Kristin; Plummer, David C.  
**Subject:** FW: Montgomery Doe Harvest- Can we do our own?

Joe and Billy,

Outlined below, you will see a Deer Harvest Challenge for the mid-shore.

During the Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting last Tuesday, they discussed how Montgomery County could offer a similar challenge.

The farm Bureau would be interested in supporting this effort and we could probably get other agricultural organizations to help.

Last year, I know that Joe offered a gift card to the hunter that donated the largest amount of deer.

Please let me know your view on this.

Thanks Jeremy

Jeremy V. Criss  
 Agricultural Services Manager  
 Department of Economic Development  
 Agricultural Services Division  
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 301-590-2830  
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[jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agservices>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** bergvh@starpower.net [mailto:bergvh@starpower.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2010 9:42 AM  
**To:** Criss, Jeremy  
**Subject:** Montgomery Doe Harvest- Can we do our own?

### **2010 Doe Harvest Challenge Kicks off Next Week**

Maryland Farm Bureau, Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, and the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board have teamed up for the second year in a row to hold the Doe Harvest Challenge!

Taking place on the Mid-Shore (Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Kent counties) and in Southern Maryland (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, and Prince George's counties), the 2010 DHC is designed to encourage hunters to harvest more white-tailed and sika does and donate them to participating FHFH processors making them eligible for up to 6 prize packages! The benefits of the Challenge are threefold, 1) Increased harvest of does will help reduce overpopulations of deer and, in turn, result in a reduction of deer-ravaged crops, 2) Donated venison goes to local charities and soup kitchens providing an essential source of high-quality lean protein, and 3) Hunters in each region are eligible for 5 prize packages valued at \$500 each and a grand prize package valued at \$1000!

The DHC begins with opening day of bow season, September 15<sup>th</sup> and runs through December 25<sup>th</sup>!

For more details and challenge rules see the attached 2010 DHC flyer or contact Kurt at 410-922-3426 or email him at [kurtf.mdfb@verizon.net](mailto:kurtf.mdfb@verizon.net).

9/13/2010

(Attachment E.)



The Western Chesapeake Watershed Branch of QDMA, Patriot LWM Outdoors, and Bass Pro Shops are proud to sponsor the **Annual Doe Donation Contests**

In an effort to raise awareness of the need for reduction in female deer populations, as well as the Montgomery County Deer Donation Program, the hunters that donate the most Montgomery County harvested female deer in either contest to either donation cooler will receive some great prizes!

| <b>Most Does Donated Overall</b><br>(entire regulated hunting season)  | <b>Most Does Donated During the Firearm Season</b><br>(excludes January season)  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Winner</b> will win a Conservation Print from Bass Pro Shops and other prizes valued at over \$200!</p> <p><b>2nd Place</b> will win a \$50 gift card code to PatriotLWMOutdoors.com</p> <p><b>3rd Place</b> will win a 1-year QDMA Membership or a QDMA t-shirt if already a member</p> | <p><b>Winner</b> will win a \$100 gift card to Bass Pro Shops at Arundel Mills Mall in Hanover, MD.</p> <p><b>2nd place</b> will win a \$50 gift card code to PatriotLWMOutdoors.com</p> <p><b>3rd Place</b> will win a 1-year QDMA Membership or a QDMA t-shirt if already a member</p> |

The rules are simple, The contest is free...

1. Donate the most female deer during the contest dates
2. Deer must be harvested in Montgomery County, MD.
3. Button bucks and spikes under 3 inches (antlerless, as defined by the MD DNR) and antlered bucks WILL NOT count towards the totals.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>20301 Whites Ferry Road, Poolesville, MD<br/>Phone: 240-388-0602</p> | <p>Seneca Ayr Farm<br/>22310 Laytonsville Road, Laytonsville, MD<br/>Phone: 240-398-0122</p> |
|---|--|

**DROPOFF IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!**  
PLEASE CALL THE PHONE # THAT CORRESPONDS TO YOUR LOCATION TO ARRANGE DROPOFF.  
ALL DEER MUST BE PROPERLY TAGGED, FIELD DRESSED, AND CHECKED-IN PER DNR REQUIREMENTS.  
**THESE LOCATIONS DO NOT PROCESS DEER!**



Department of Economic Development  
Agricultural Services Division

(Attachment E)

**Criss, Jeremy**

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**From:** bergvh@starpower.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2010 9:17 AM  
**To:** Criss, Jeremy  
**Subject:** Deer Herd

## ***Vehicle collisions with deer on rise in Montgomery County***

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### **Vehicle collisions with deer on rise**

– Margie Hyslop |

Vehicle-deer collisions increased by 5.6 percent in Montgomery County last year, according to incidents recorded by county police.

The 1,945 crashes represented the first increase in six years — since 2,127 collisions were recorded in 2002.

The increase indicates that management efforts need to be stepped up, said Rob Gibbs, natural resources manager for the county Department of Parks and chairman of the Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group.

A report by the work group recommends additional management, particularly in some down-county areas, including lower Rock Creek Stream Valley, Sligo Creek Stream Valley, the Paint Branch-Colesville area, Potomac, Rockville and Olney. Parks staff also will investigate solutions for deer complaints in the Cabin John area, according to the parks department.

Gibbs said deer management is much more difficult in down-county areas because the parks are smaller and narrower, the density of contiguous houses, the high level of public parks activity and a lack of resources.

Measures taken last year to reduce the deer population in 19 county parks, two state parks and on land owned by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission included managed hunts and the deployment of sharpshooters at night. Animal protection groups have opposed the lethal methods and have urged contraceptive controls.

Details on deer hunts and temporary park closures to accommodate them are to be announced in early fall.

(Attachment F)

Criss, Jeremy

**From:** Coffman, Eric  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2010 4:04 PM  
**To:** Rothblum, Corinne; Criss, Jeremy  
**Subject:** FW: Maryland's Statewide Farm Energy Audit Program recognized as one of five "exceptional state-led energy efficiency programs"

FYI – I think we have talked about this program previously, but we should look at it again to see if there are any members of our ag community that could benefit.

- Eric

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Maryland Energy Administration [mailto:meainfo@energy.state.md.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2010 10:25 AM  
**To:** Coffman, Eric  
**Subject:** Maryland's Statewide Farm Energy Audit Program recognized as one of five "exceptional state-led energy efficiency programs"



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**Recent News**

## Maryland's Statewide Farm Energy Audit Program recognized as one of five "exceptional state-led energy efficiency programs"

Yesterday, the Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) Statewide Farm Energy Audit Program was recognized as one of five "exceptional state-led energy efficiency programs." The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) evaluated energy efficiency programs across the country, and the inclusion of the Farm Energy Audit Program represents MEA's commitment to the EmPower Maryland goal of reducing energy consumption by 15 percent by 2015.

"To stand shoulder to shoulder with national leaders in energy efficiency puts the Maryland Energy Administration in good company," said MEA Director Malcolm Woolf, "but this honor only encourages us to continue the hard work that makes Maryland Smart, Green & Growing."

[Maryland ahead of curve on job training](#)

**Upcoming Event**

[Maryland Clean Energy Summit 2010](#)

*Monday, Oct. 4, 2010*

**Do You Have An Energy Success Story You'd like to Share?**

If you or your company have benefited from MEA programs or incentives, you could be the next feature of our newsletter.

Please submit your story for consideration to [meainfo@energy.state.md.us](mailto:meainfo@energy.state.md.us) or call our office for more details: 410-260-7655.



The now award-winning Farm Energy Audit Program offers assistance, and financial assistance for Maryland agriculture. Since 2007, the program has saved nearly 2 million kWh, 30,000 gallons of propane, and 530,000 therms of natural gas. This reduction in energy consumption represents approximately \$10 million in annual energy cost savings for agricultural producers in Maryland.

In addition to saving citizens money on annual energy bills, energy efficiency programs allow consumers to reduce the strain on the energy grid and increase the number of existing "green" buildings in the state. Other top-five efficiency efforts acknowledged by AEE include programs in Colorado, Hawaii and New York, with 10 award mentions and three additional emerging programs.

Read the [ACEEE press release](#).

Get more information about the [Statewide Farm Energy](#)

Get more information about the [Maryland Energy Admin](#)

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The Maryland Energy Administration offers a wide variety of strategies and information to help you reduce your energy consumption, increase your understanding of alternative energy, and to help you [EmPower](#) fellow Marylanders to take control of our energy future. For detailed information, please bookmark MEA's website: <http://www.energy.maryland.gov>

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Tel: 410.260.7655 • Tel: 800.72.ENERGY • Fax: 410.974.2250

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