

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2023 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-071-2023

Proposed by Council Member Burroughs

Introduced by Council Members Burroughs, Dernoga, Harrison, Watson, Hawkins,
Blegay, Oriadha, Franklin, Olson and Ivey

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction July 18, 2023

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning
2 County Council’s Strong Opposition to the Proposal to Locate a PEPCO Lithium Battery Storage
3 Facility Unit for a PEPCO Battery Storage System in the Southlawn and Livingston Woods Area
4 in Prince George’s County

5 For the purpose of expressing the County Council’s strong opposition to the proposal to locate a
6 PEPCO Lithium Battery Storage Facility Unit for a PEPCO Battery Storage System in the
7 Southlawn and Livingston Woods Area in Prince George’s County; requesting PEPCO to halt the
8 battery storage plans in the Southlawn and Livingston Woods Area; requesting PEPCO to find
9 another location in the County for battery storage that is not in close proximity to the homes of
10 County residents; and generally regarding the PEPCO Lithium Battery Storage System.

11 WHEREAS, PEPCO is proposing to locate a Lithium Battery Storage Facility Unit for a
12 PEPCO Battery Storage System in the Southlawn and Livingston Woods Area of County Council
13 District Eight; and

14 WHEREAS, there are major safety, environmental justice, and transparency issues that have
15 been repeatedly shared, at every meeting with PEPCO, by residents of County Council District
16 Eight; and

17 WHEREAS, in the past months, residents have made it very clear that they are not against a
18 battery storage facility unit being located in the County, but the location that is being proposed is
19 unacceptable; and

20 WHEREAS, the proposed location is only a few hundred feet from a daycare center, is in
21 close proximity to Oxon Hill High School, and is in close proximity to residential homes, next to

1 mostly minority communities, and is on an emergency route; and

2 WHEREAS, a review of the other lithium battery storage facilities across the State reveals
3 that none are in such close proximity to residential homes. Concerned community members have
4 engaged diligently with PEPCO throughout the project development process but feel that their
5 concerns are being ignored; and

6 WHEREAS, some of the specific concerns from residents include:

- 7 • The Fire Department is not equipped to contain the explosion of lithium batteries; and
- 8 • There is a lack of appropriate training of our public safety officials for a crisis that can occur.
9 There is research dealing with battery fires in mining operations conducted by the National
10 Institute for Occupational Safety and Health that concluded that emergency responders need to be
11 educated on the characteristics of lithium-ion battery fires and appropriate suppression agents; and
- 12 • There is the potential for lithium batteries run-off and chemical air pollution; and
- 13 • The potential site is in direct proximity to daycare, schools, gas stations, and businesses in a
14 mostly minority neighborhood; and
- 15 • There will be decreased property values; and
- 16 • There has been a lack of community engagement and transparency.

17 WHEREAS, PEPCO should halt the battery storage plans in the Southlawn and Livingston
18 Woods Area and find another location in the County that does not present the specific concerns of
19 the District Eight Community and is not in close proximity to the homes of residents.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
21 Maryland, that County Council expresses its strong opposition to the proposal to locate a PEPCO
22 Lithium Battery Storage Facility Unit for a PEPCO Battery Storage System in the Southlawn and
23 Livingston Woods Area in Prince George's County.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PEPCO is requested to halt the battery storage plans in
25 the Southlawn and Livingston Woods Area.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PEPCO is requested to find another location in the
27 County for battery storage that is not in close proximity to the homes of County residents.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Council be directed to transmit a copy
29 of this Resolution to the President and Chief Executive Officer of PEPCO and the Maryland Public
30 Service Commission.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2023.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council