



Pepco Benning Rd Site Investigation

Anacostia Watershed Society's Summary and Evaluation of the Draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report

The District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) released the Pepco Benning Rd Draft RI Report for public comment (see reverse side for background information). This report describes the methods and analysis of sampling that occurred on the Pepco Benning Rd property and an adjacent section of the Anacostia River. Here are the key outcomes from the Draft RI Report:

- Pepco will need to address numerous data gaps and uncertainties before moving forward
- There were several contaminants found at elevated levels on the Pepco property and Anacostia River - polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), heavy metals (e.g., lead), pesticides, dioxins/furans, volatile organic compounds
- Potential risks associated with exposure to contaminated materials have been identified, but more evaluation of human and ecological health risks will be necessary once additional sampling is complete

Listed below are some of our concerns with the report:

- * Significant data gaps should have been identified and addressed sooner with continuous evaluation by Pepco and proper oversight by DOEE. We cannot afford more delays.
- * Background sample locations for this study need to be farther away from contaminant plumes near the Pepco site; true background levels need to be established. Additionally, responsibility for contamination cannot be ruled out simply because background levels are found to be similar to site conditions.

Voice Your Concerns!

Deadline: April 18, 2016

Send to Apurva Patil at:

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-OR-

DOEE, 1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor
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List of concerns continued:

- * Unsubstantiated assumptions regarding contamination sources should be omitted from this report. Only scientific evidence should support claims.
- * More analysis is needed to fully explain the implications of contaminant groups (e.g., PCBs, PAHs, heavy metals, etc.) found together at sampling locations. Further explanation of chemical transport is also needed. Tidal action and extreme weather events need to be taken into consideration, for example.
- * If contaminants that exceed screening levels are ruled out as having migrated from the Pepco Benning property, will the source of pollution be further evaluated by Pepco or DOEE to ensure remediation?
- * Contamination found above screening levels near the boundary of the Pepco property should be investigated further in order to understand the complete extent of the pollution.

Site History and Background:

The Pepco Benning Rd site housed a power plant built in 1906 that provided electric generation, transmission and distribution services in the greater metropolitan Washington area. In 1976, the plant switched from burning coal to fuel oil. From 2002 to 2012 it operated as an intermittent, peak demand electric plant until it officially closed in June 2012. The plant was demolished in May 2015, but the 77-acre facility is still owned by Pepco and currently being used as a maintenance yard and distribution center.

Pepco and the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) entered into a consent decree (legally binding agreement) on December 1, 2011 requiring Pepco to conduct an investigation of potential contaminants released on its property that may have migrated into the nearby Anacostia River. There were at least six PCB spills between 1985 and 2003 that were recorded and rectified.

Work plans for the investigation were finalized in December 2012 and all field work activities were completed in December 2014. In late April 2015, Pepco submitted the Draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report to DOEE. After ten months of review and discussion between the two parties, DOEE released the Draft RI Report for public comment on March 1, 2016.

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**Tell DOEE and Pepco to
finish the job NOW for
healthier
communities and
Anacostia River!**