

# Marylanders FOR Reliable Power

Brighten our Future

Join

**MARYLANDERS for RELIABLE POWER**

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*Maryland is at a critical juncture in energy policy. The state is facing the prospect of an electricity shortage and rolling blackouts as early as 2011. Electricity consumption in the state increased 15.7 % from 1999 to 2005 in Maryland, while generation increased by 1.9 %. Maryland consumers used 63 million megawatts in 2006, while the state generated 49 million. This imbalance resulted in the state importing 30 % of its electricity.*

**2008 Session Report  
Maggie McIntosh, Chair  
Environmental Matters Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates**

## **Maryland is running out of electricity**

Population growth and soaring use of energy-dependent technology in the home and the work place mean that future demands for electricity won't be met unless more is made available in Maryland. Importing electricity from other states increases the cost for consumers. Authorities like the U.S. Department of Energy, the North American Electric Reliability Council, and the Edison Electric Institute have called for action. PJM Interconnection, the supply grid which serves Maryland, and the Maryland Public Service Commission, agree: our supply is inadequate.

## **Maryland is also running out of time -- the need is immediate**

Temporary disruptions to electrical service are already common in many areas of Maryland. But, the future looks much darker than continued occasional inconvenience. If Maryland does not participate in improving and expanding its electricity supply, it may experience frequent and extensive loss of power in less than three years. Besides interrupting daily life, undependable power threatens economic productivity, public health, and security.

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## **There's power available, but its delivery and reliability are challenged by "gridlock"**

Maryland is one of 13 states and the District of Columbia served by PJM Interconnection, the world's largest regional transmission organization. PJM monitors and directs electricity transmission by multiple power producers to ensure that needs are met in its entire region. Congestion on this grid translates into higher electricity costs for Maryland consumers. Unless capacity to move electricity within the grid is improved, there is growing likelihood of power outages and rising rates caused by the expense of operating a congested grid.

## **Conservation can help, but it can't solve the problem**

Conservation of electricity, mandated by the 2008 General Assembly, is part of the solution. But, efficient use of electricity will not offset the growth in demand for its use. Growing population and wider use of electronics and other electrically powered appliances far outweigh efforts to use less electricity by individuals or commercial users.

## **Renewable energy is another step in the right direction**

Maryland wants to broaden and diversify its energy sources to include more power generated by renewable resources such as wind, water, and the sun. However, it is unlikely that renewable energy sources will produce substantial power by 2011 when the state's electricity supply is expected to be inadequate and outages will more common. Most important, electricity created from renewable resources will face transmission problems much worse than those already experienced unless the capacity to direct electricity is improved.

## **Generating more power in-state and improving transmission are critical**

Nearly a third of Maryland's power is generated outside the state which makes it more expensive for consumers. But generating more power in Maryland – whether from traditional sources or renewable ones – won't help unless additional transmission capacity is available to deliver the electricity to customers. As a result of inadequate transmission, Maryland electricity consumers now pay more than those in most states in the region.

## **Join Marylanders for Reliable Power**

Join this coalition of citizens, businesses, and organizations which want to ensure that Maryland's future electricity needs are met. The coalition will work to inform the public of the critical need to conserve electricity, increase generation, and expand transmission. Your participation can help produce public policy that makes possible ready, reliable power. To join, call 410/295-2959 or visit [www.forreliablepower.com](http://www.forreliablepower.com).

# Marylanders FOR Reliable Power

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What is **Marylanders for Reliable Power**?

**A:** **Marylanders for Reliable Power** is a coalition of businesses and organizations working to ensure that Maryland's future electricity needs are met through conservation, additional generation of electricity from traditional and renewable energy sources, and improvement of transmission capacity.

### Q: What will the coalition do?

**A:** The coalition will work to inform the public of the critical need to act now so that electricity is available to ensure the state's future productivity, public health, and security. Coalition members have many different reasons for wanting an adequate supply of dependable electricity in Maryland, but they all agree it is critical to our state's future.

### Q: Why is it needed?

**A:** If timely action is not taken, a variety of authorities agree that in just three years, Maryland could experience electricity outages that are more than inconvenient and which threaten our economy and our wellbeing.

### Q: What kind of actions does the coalition support?

**A:** Increased generation of electricity within our state will ensure that supply meets the demand. Both traditional energy sources and renewable sources are needed to fill the widening gap. Improving the transmission system within the state will ensure that the electricity reaches the consumers dependably and as inexpensively as possible.

### Q: Won't conservation solve the problem?

**A:** Efficient use of electricity by both commercial and residential customers can help, but the demand for electricity continues to rise with population growth, greater commercial and consumer product use, and other technology dependent on electricity.

### Q: What about renewable energy sources?

**A:** These can help, too. But at present, very little electricity is produced from renewable resources in Maryland. It will take time and changes in public policy at both the state and federal levels to be able to rely on renewable sources for substantial electricity production.

### Q: How can I join **Marylanders for Reliable Power**?

**A:** For information on becoming a member of the coalition, call 410/295-2959, or visit [www.forreliablepower.com](http://www.forreliablepower.com).