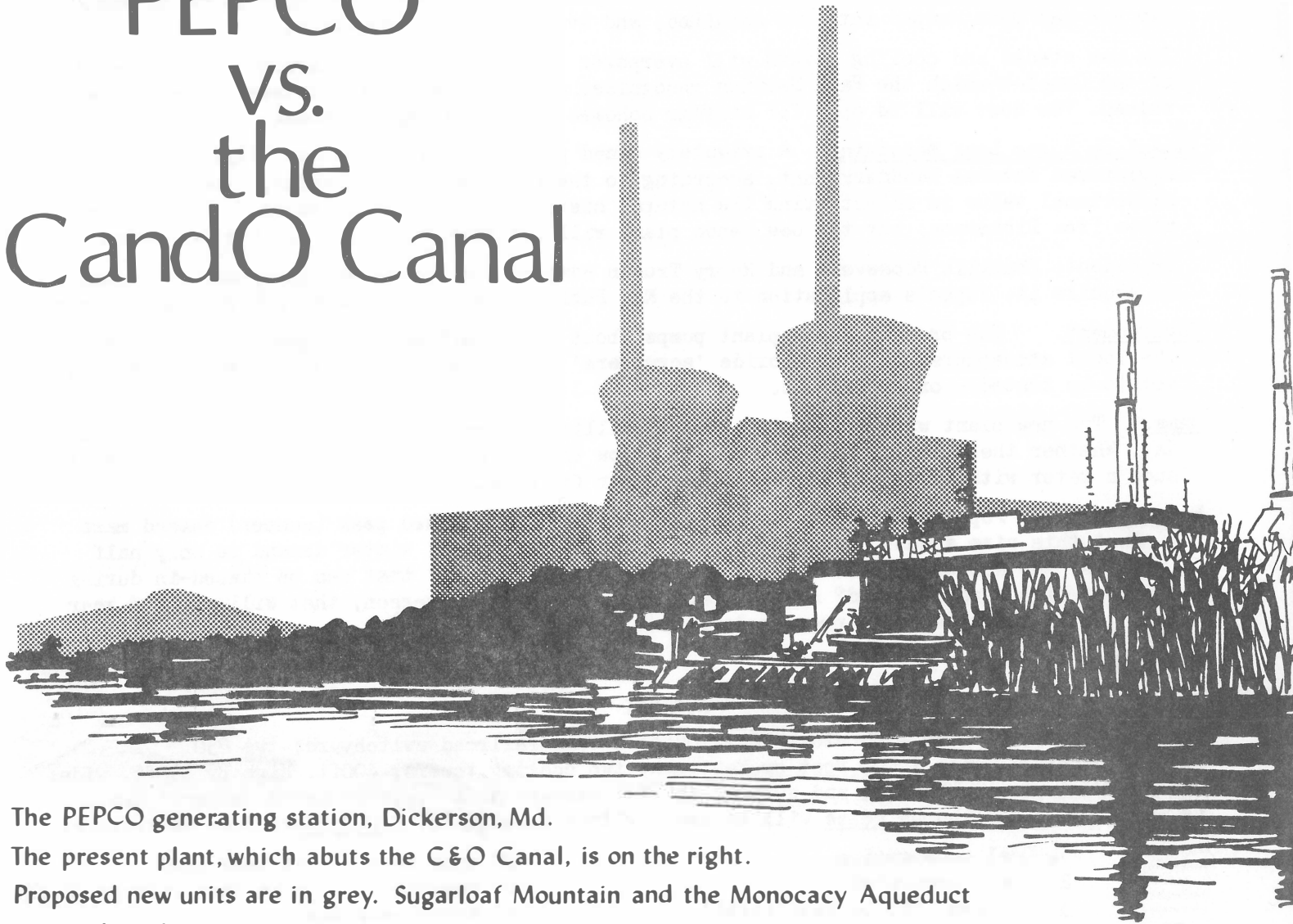


PEPCO vs. the C&O Canal



The PEPCO generating station, Dickerson, Md.

The present plant, which abuts the C&O Canal, is on the right.

Proposed new units are in grey. Sugarloaf Mountain and the Monocacy Aqueduct are on the left.

History

In April, 1972, the Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) applied to the Maryland Public Service Commission for permission to quadruple its generating plant at Dickerson, Md., a rural village in western Montgomery County near the C & O Canal and Sugar Loaf Mountain. When hearings began in February, 1973, the Sugar Loaf Citizens Assoc., a local civic group, hired an attorney and intervened in the case—questioning both the need for the new plant, and the impact of the proposed design on the local scene and environment.

Others, including the C & O Canal Association and former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, have since advised the Public Service Commission of their opposition. Secretary Udall probably expressed the feelings of many when he wrote: "I am convinced the present Pepco plant is not only a noxious polluter of the local air and the adjoining C & O Canal, but an unsightly intruder into a setting of unusual natural beauty. So I do not see how the construction of boilers whose stacks will be as high as Sugar Loaf Mtn...can be styled (as Pepco claimed) an 'Environmental Park'".

Issues

Impact on the C & O Canal. About a mile below the Monocacy aqueduct, Pepco's existing plant and 400 foot smokestacks loom over the Canal towpath. Over the years, Pepco has taken a 'public -be-damned' attitude about the Canal and river: about 10,000 cubic yards of waste fly ash has been dumped into the canalbed, and even more into the river.

The new stacks and cooling towers will overpower the scene for miles around, and the mood of the Canal—which the Park Service recognizes as important to its integrity---will be ruined. The door will be open for similar schemes along the upper Potomac.

Impact on Sugar Loaf Mountain. A privately owned park open to the public, Sugar Loaf is a Registered Natural Landmark that, according to the U.S. Dept. of Interior, "possesses exceptional value in illustrating the natural history of the United States." It is five miles from Dickerson, but the new Pepco plant will dominate virtually all scenic vistas.

Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman admired the beauty of Sugar Loaf and sought to acquire it. Pepco's application to the Md. Public Service Commission gives it barely a nod.

Environment. The present Pepco plant pumps about six tons/hour of sulphur dioxide into the local atmosphere. Sulphur dioxide 'scrubbers' for a plant the size of the new one have yet to be tested—or proved out.

Dams. The new plant will evaporate about 35 million gallons of water (from the Potomac) a day. Whether the State of Maryland should allow this is a difficult question; at the least, such a water withdrawal may increase the clamor for dams.

Energy Need. Population growth around Washington and increased peak (summer) demand make a plant this size a must, says Pepco. But even now the 'peak' winter demand is only half (or less) the summer 'peak'. Why not smaller 'peaking plants' that can be phased-in during times of high summer demand? A huge 'base load' plant at Dickerson, that will run the year round, will tempt Pepco to promote 'off-peak' markets.

The expanded plant

The new plant will have a 25 story powerhouse; a vast railroad switchyard; two 850 megawatt boilers, with 1,000 foot smokestacks; two cooling towers, 400ft. high by 350ft. wide; and equipment to reduce soot and sulphur dioxide emissions. A State acoustic 'expert' has testified that continuous noise will be heard within a radius of 8,000 feet. Some statistics:

1. Coal consumption	800 tons/hour	(at peak load)
2. Power generated	2200 megawatts	(more than Calvert Cliffs)
3. Fly ash (to be landfilled)	140 truckloads/day	
4. Height of smokestacks above mean sea level	1,300 feet	
5. Summit of Sugar Loaf Mtn.	1,282 feet	
6. Distance from C & O Canal	1,500 feet	(approximate)

Help! Help!!!

A vote by the Md. Public Service Commission to approve the Pepco application would be an administrative decision, and virtually impossible to overturn in court. Since the Md. Dept. of Natural Resources has already given its preliminary approval, the Sugar Loaf Citizens have an uphill fight against heavy odds; impossible odds without a wide public outcry.

If you can help in person (perhaps as a witness) or with contributions, please contact Mr. John Menke, Barnesville, Md. 20703 (301-349-5122). At the least, please indicate that you do not want to see the Canal further despoiled, by letters to: Pepco; Md. Public Service Commission, 301 West Preston St., Balto., Md. (21201); Director, National Capital Parks, National Park Service, 1100 Ohio Drive S.W., Washinton, D.C. (20242). As yet, the Park Service has not taken a position.

This statement prepared by

Edwin F. Weasley Jr.

MEMBER, C & O CANAL
ADVISORY COMMISSION, MONT. CO.,
MD.

LOOKING FOR A CAUSE? WANT TO SAVE THE C+O CANAL-AGAIN?
JOIN US FOR A —

save the canal hike!

ON SAT, JUNE 2, 1973 AT 2 P.M.
(POURING DOWN RAIN DATE, JUNE 3)

IN 1954, SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WM. O. DOUGLAS LEAD A GROUP OF INTREPID HIKERS DOWN THE CANAL TO SAVE IT FROM THE FREEWAY BUILDERS.

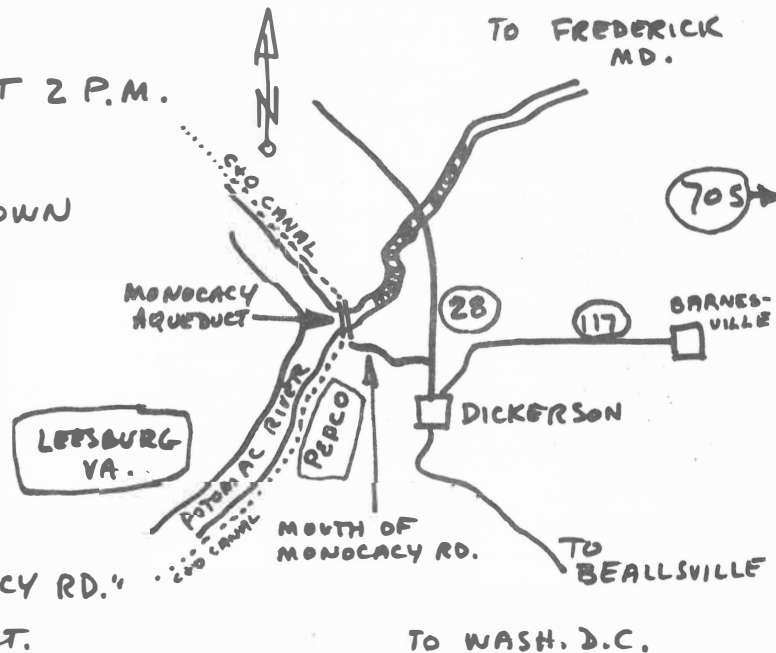
IN 1973 WE ARE CALLED A SECOND TIME TO BEAR WITNESS FOR THE CANAL — TO KEEP IT A NATIONAL PARK. WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR HELP (AND WALKING SHOES) TO PROTECT THE MONOCACY AQUEDUCT AND ITS ENVIRONS WHICH ARE ABOUT TO BE DWARFED BY A VAST TECHNOLOGICAL PARK.

SCHEDULE:

- ① MEET AT MONOCACY AQUEDUCT AT 2 P.M.
- ② SHORT SUMMARY OF ISSUES.
- ③ FACT FINDING WALK 1 MILE DOWN CANAL TOWPATH TO PEPCO SITE.

DIRECTIONS:

- ① GET A GOOD ROAD MAP.
- ② GO TO DICKERSON, MD.
- ③ GO ABOUT $\frac{1}{2}$ MI. NORTH OF DICKERSON ON ROUTE 28.
- ④ TURN LEFT ON "MOUTH OF MONOCACY RD." AND GO ABOUT 1 MILE TO AQUEDUCT.



PLEASE COME! YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED.
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS — WE MUST PROVE TO PEPCO, THE STATE OF MARYLAND, THE NEWSPAPERS (WHO SO FAR HAVE TURNED A DEAF EAR), AND THE NATL. PARK SERVICE, THAT SCORES OF PEOPLE ARE STILL WILLING TO FIGHT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE CANAL.

SPONSORED BY: THE C+O CANAL ASSO.

CANAL & RIVER RIGHTS ASSO.