



**Remarks – Joseph M. Rigby
Chairman, President & CEO, Pepco Holdings, Inc.**

**U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2009 Opening Ceremony
National Mall, Washington, D.C.
October 8, 2009**

Good morning and thank you, John (Lushetsky), for that kind introduction. I am pleased to be here to help kick off what promises to be an inspiring look at the fulfillment of a promise, the promise of solar power. Throughout the next several days, we will see the tangible results of technology that moves us closer to a more reliable, economic and environmentally sustainable electric grid.

As the electricity company serving the nation's capital, Pepco is providing smart meters for the net metering contest, and electricity to supplement the power needs of the solar village if weather or other circumstances make it necessary.

Our journey to the smart grid began about 5 years ago when we envisioned the "utility of the future." It was based on what customers expected from us – more information, better service, and the tools to enable better decisions in the use of electricity. We are acutely aware of the importance of making this work for all consumers.

Along with smarter homes and smarter transportation options, such as the plug-in hybrid vehicle also demonstrated here, comes the need for a smarter electric grid. Historic solutions will no longer work to resolve our future challenges.

Today, these students, who are all so comfortable with technology because they have grown up with it, have transformed ordinary homes into almost self-sufficient, clean energy super-homes. This village is a shining example of how to creatively solve energy problems with smart technology. The way we use energy is about to change, and the students here today will lead the way.

All of these technologies will work only if the customer benefits. So, as we go out today and investigate these magnificent solar houses and marvel at the wonders of new technology, let's remember to keep the human side of technology in our sights. A balanced blend of technology, energy efficiency and one-on-one communications will lead us to solutions that will help all of us manage energy costs and meet tomorrow's energy and security needs. To all of the students, faculty, staff and visitors, congratulations on your achievements and welcome to Washington.