



Department of Permitting Services
Division of Building Construction
 255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850

CODE INTERPRETATION/POLICY

Policy Name: Reliable Power Source		
Code/Year NEC/2008	Section of Code 695-4(a)	Title of Code Section/Subsection Multiple Power Sources to Electric Motor-Driven Fire Pumps
Statement/Background of Issue This policy is to clarify that electrical power supplied by companies serving Montgomery County constitutes a reliable power source as outlined in the National Electrical Code (NEC).		
Division Interpretation/Policy Section 695.4 (A) of the 2008 NEC requires that, where a reliable power source is not available, a secondary source of power, such as an on-site generator, must be provided, as approved by the authority having jurisdiction. DPS interprets that for the purposes of the NEC, electric power supplied by power companies serving Montgomery County is considered a reliable source of power. Therefore, a secondary source of power, such as an emergency generator is not required for fire pumps. Notwithstanding this interpretation of the NEC, building code requirements for stand-by power sources in atrium buildings, high-rise buildings, underground structures, etc. are still applicable.		
Interpretation/Policy No. BCP11-03	Date March 1, 2011	Division Chief Hadi Mansouri <i>Hadi H. Mansouri</i>