

Lower Makefield Township  
Electric Reliability Committee (ERC)  
July 8, 2021  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Dan Grenier  
Jason McFarland  
Jason Simon  
John Kingham (Chairman)  
Lee Pedowicz

The July 8, 2021, virtual meeting of the Lower Makefield Township Electric Reliability Committee (ERC) was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Chairman Kingham.

**Agenda:** The meeting agenda is appended to these minutes. ([Attachment 1](#)).

**1) Approval of past minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of April 8, 2021, were approved as circulated and corrected (Pedowicz, McFarland).

**2) Apologies:** Bernard Griga.

**3) PECO What Next?**

- I. Further engage PECO:** It was generally agreed that maintaining a dialog with PECO was of the utmost importance to the future of the ERC and LMT. To this end, Mr. Grenier advised the committee that it is important to formally advise the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to invite PECO to give an update to the Board on the status of power distribution within LMT. Following questions by Mr. Pedowicz it was agreed that the presentation from PECO should continue the dialog begun in the ERC meeting of April 8, 2021. Mr. Simon then moved that the committee should send a formal recommendation to the BOS that it should continue the conversation with PECO begun by the ERC in April by inviting PECO to give a formal presentation to the BOS at a public meeting on electric power reliability issues. Seconded by Mr. Pedowicz, the motion was carried by a show of hands. Mr. Kingham undertook to send an email to the Township Manager to this effect with bulleted points for the discussion with PECO.

It was noted that tree trimming has been underway since the April 8 meeting and Mr. McFarland asked how much tree trimming has been done. Mr. Kingham said that we do not know but from simple observation over the past two months we do know that the Asplundh crews have been busy. Furthermore, since at the last meeting we were told it would be done in the Fall, we can only assume that the early activity is due to the ERC and its discussions with PECO.

The Chairman reminded the committee that from the April 8 meeting and the issues raised by Mr. Simon that communication is a matter of the greatest importance. At the April 8 meeting Mr. Dorand was advised that poor communication during an outage possibly causes more frustration than the interruption itself. Mr. Kingham added that it should not be out of the question to offer our services to PECO to cooperatively review messages with its development team. The first message is usually “crews have been dispatched” but then there is either no update or, if there is, it is an overly optimistic estimate of time.

**II. Info on LMT Website**

- i. What to do in the event of an outage:** On the issue of communication the Chairman noted that there is no easy access to advice for residents on what to do in the event of a power outage. There should be an easy shortcut to:
1. Call PECO – Do not delay.
  2. A shortcut to the PECO outage map.

It was agreed that the PECO phone number should be prominent and, following the advice from PECO in the April 8 meeting, residents should be advised to call so that PECO can verify the Smart Meter feedback.

- ii. Right Tree in the Right Place:** It was agreed that, in view of the vegetation issues affecting PECO's power lines, the LMT site could also include a link to the PECO tree planting advice.

- III. Generator Installations:** Mr. Simon stated that, in any presentation, it would be good for PECO to acknowledge the community investment in generators. Mr. McFarland confirmed that the latest generator permit list from LMT showed more than 500 permits have been issued over the past five years. This means that, using a conservative estimate of \$6000 per installation, the community investment is now more than \$3m. It was also noted that generators are somewhat related to poor communications. With uncertainty about the length of an outage and food spoilage the natural tendency is to seriously consider a standby generator.

Mr. Grenier said that, since we know where the generators have been installed, it would be useful to analyze the installation list to see if there is a pattern that could be related to PECO's circuit outage data. Mr. Pedowicz asked whether there is a simple way of using a program such as MapQuest to accomplish the task. To this point Mr. Grenier suggested a GIS (Geographic Information System) package. However, he added that, on the assumption that we do not have a suitable program available, the best approach may be to use Google Earth and its "push-pin" utility. Following this approach Mr. McFarland agreed that, given the relatively low number of addresses (500+), it could be done manually, and he offered to undertake the task. The committee accepted his offer noting that a "generator map" would make an especially useful graphic to support the BOS meeting with PECO and would show seriousness of intent behind its questions to PECO.

Further discussion led to the matter of rear-of-property secondary and service lines and PECO access. In answer to a question from Mr. Pedowicz regarding tree-trimming around rear-lines Mr. Grenier confirmed that PECO does have easements. It was agreed that, in the light of a recent letter to residents read by Mr. Simon, PECO must have access to its lines which may or may not involve entry through or across private property. Mr. Grenier confirmed the understanding and stated that the easement language clearly gives PECO right of access

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In conclusion, Mr. Simon reminded the committee that it should not lose sight of the other aspects of interest beyond tree trimming and communications to improve reliability.

**4. The way forward for the ERC:**

In the closing discussion it was agreed that the committee progress is positive and, if the BOS accept the proposal to invite PECO to give a presentation, the ERC will be on a firm footing.

**4) Other Items:** No other items were raised.

**5) Next Meeting:** The next scheduled meeting of the ERC is on October 14, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

**6) Motion for Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

**Attachments:**

1. [Agenda](#)

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**ERC Agenda Jul 8, 2021, Meeting – 7:30pm LMT Remote:**

1. Approval of minutes of April 8, 2021, meeting - Kingham
2. Apologies
3. PECO – What next?
  - I. Further engage PECO on communication improvement
  - II. Info on LMT website
    - i. What to do in the event of an outage.
      1. Call PECO – don't delay.
      2. Link to outage map.
    - ii. Link to PECO “Right Tree – Right Place” info.
  - III. Generator installations
4. The way forward for the ERC
5. Other items
6. Set date, time, place for next ERC meeting
7. Motion for adjournment