

Lower Makefield Township  
Electric Reliability Committee (ERC)  
January 31, 2022

Meeting Minutes

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

The January 31, 2022, virtual meeting of the Lower Makefield Township Electric Reliability Committee (ERC) was called to order at 7:35 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 October 14, 2021, were approved as circulated and corrected (Pedowicz, Simon).
- 2) **Apologies:** None
- 3) **PECO – Request to the BOS for a meeting.**

- I. **Status:** Mr. Grenier advised the committee that the current Board Chair (James McCartney) has opted to maintain the status quo as far Board liaisons for the various advisory committees are concerned. Mr. Grenier was complimentary about the past work of the ERC in its efforts to have PECO address the various reliability issues and concerns of importance to the Township residents and expressed his hope that the work will continue. To that end he advised the committee that, if it agrees, then it should renew its request to the Board to invite PECO to a meeting.
- II. **Request to BOS to invite PECO to a Meeting:** In response to Mr. Grenier the Chairman stated that, in his opinion, if we do not have PECO in front of us then we are wasting time and may as well hold the ERC in abeyance pending further direction from the BOS. He added that the process for getting a recommendation before the Board seems to be overly complex and leaves us wondering what path to take. In response Mr. Grenier stated that the procedure is not meant to be complicated and it is unfortunate if it appears to be so. He hoped that we would proceed, and that the ERC would give the new BOS Chair an opportunity to meet the committee's recommendations.

At this point Mr. Simon asked Mr. Grenier whether there had been any discussion by the Board of the ERC's request regarding a meeting with PECO during the latter half of 2021. Furthermore, since the Board opted not to proceed with the ERC recommendation, are there any points we should be aware of or perhaps avoid? Mr. Grenier stated that he was not aware of any adverse issues and agreed with Mr. Simon that it is an apolitical issue and should be favorably received by the Board

Mr. Kingham asked how we should proceed to get the invitation to PECO in front of the BOS. Mr. Grenier advised that, as has been done by the ERC in the past, the request to the Board should be clear, concise and to the point. Mr. Griga asked if it was simply a matter of "changing the date" on the previous request or should we proceed anew? In

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the ensuing discussion Mr. Kingham brought up the response from PECO following its review of our summary of the automated messaging during the outage in Yardley Hunt on October 9, 2021. In fact, the PECO response had been very positive, and, in its summary, it had made some [specific commitments](#). Mr. Kingham suggested that the questions to PECO should be on these points. Mr. Pedowicz advised against being too aggressive with PECO, but Mr. Kingham pointed out that asking PECO for updates on its own specific points should not and would not be adversarial. We would simply ask for an update and a discussion on those points. Mr. Griga seconded by Mr. Simon moved that the ERC should prepare a memo to the BOS asking it to invite PECO to a meeting to provide an update on the messaging system improvements proposed by PECO. Motion passed 5-0.

- 4) **PECO response to October 9 outage messaging:** The [response from PECO to the outage messaging](#) following an outage in Yardley Hunt on October 9 is appended to these minutes as attachment no. 2. (The ERC response to the outage messaging was appended to the minutes of October 14, 2021, ERC meeting.)
- 5) **PECO helpful “Power Outage” links on the LMT website.** Mr. Grenier offered to assist in getting the various helpful PECO links put on the Township website. Mr Kingham undertook to send the items to Mr. Grenier.
- 6) **Generator installation address analysis:** Mr. McFarland confirmed that he had been through the generator installation permit list provided by the Township and plotted each one on a map. He also added that nothing of note such as trends had come out of the analysis. However, it did support the point raised in earlier meetings that, to guard against power loss, the residents of Lower Makefield have cumulatively invested some five or six million dollars in backup power systems for their homes.
- 7) **The way forward for the ERC:** It was agreed that this item should be a topic for discussion at a future meeting and could include items beyond power reliability such as green energy (solar or wind) generation and LED floodlighting at the Township sports fields.
- 8) **Other items:** Mr. Griga opened a general discussion on energy efficiency and the value of the energy usage data provided by PECO in its billing. This included various items such as smart thermostats and spray insulation of the underside of the roof. Mr. Grenier added that, in addition to power reliability, the Township or the ERC could ask PECO give a home energy efficiency presentation for the interest of all.
- 9) **Next Meeting:** In the absence of any other meetings, such as with PECO, the next scheduled meeting of the ERC is on April 14, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.
- 10) **Motion for Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

**Attachments:**

1. [Agenda](#)
2. [10/9/21 Outage Messaging response](#)

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**ERC Agenda Jan 31, 2022, Meeting – 7:30pm LMT Remote:**

1. Approval of minutes of Oct 148, 2021, meeting - Kingham
2. Apologies
3. PECO – Request to BOS for a meeting
  - I. Status – Grenier
  - II. Request to BOS to invite PECO to a meeting
4. PECO response to October 9 outage messaging
5. PECO helpful “Power Outage” links on the LMT website
  - I. Call PECO – don’t delay.
  - II. Link to outage map.
  - III. Link to PECO “Right Tree – Right Place” info.
6. Generator installation address analysis status (Pedowicz/McFarland)
7. The way forward for the ERC
8. Other items
9. Set date, time, place for next ERC meeting
10. Motion for adjournment

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**Response from PECO (Ted Dorand) sent to Kurt Ferguson by email 11/4/21**

Regarding the Yardley Hunt outage that occurred on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, I offer the following.

First, here is a chronology of the event based on our records. Times are military time (1800 hours = 6:00 PM)

1825: Customer's meter lost power  
1827: Outage in Outage Management System, (OMS); 99 customers affected. Default Cause of Unknown and Default Estimated Restoration Time. (ETR) of 2 hours is set (2030 hours)  
1831: Customer receives Initial Outage Notification (ION)  
1833: Dispatched two aerial line mechanics, (ALM) to outage  
1857: Agent sends outage notification to customer: Estimate Restoration Time 2030 and Cause Unknown.  
2035: ALM calls Operator and states they see fault indicators and requests to isolate and continue troubleshooting.  
2050: Operator receives call from Care Center asking for a new ETR as current ETR shows at 2030 hours.  
Operator changes ETR 2330; **Cause remains Unknown**  
2127: Agent sends outage notification to customer: ETR 2330 and Cause Unknown.  
2329: ALM isolates problem and restores 43 customers. **Operator changes Cause to Planned Outage**  
0030: ETR for the remaining 56 customers out of power is changed by the Operator to 0230.  
0130: Customer looks on Outage Map and sees new ETR of 0230 and Cause of outage is Planned Outage.  
0209: Operator updates Cause to Underground Problem.  
0302: Customer's meter resumes power  
0318: Outage closed stating TMAN FOUND BAD STRETCH OF CABLE Customer receives restoration message.

We conducted an internal review of the event and determined the following:

1. When ETR is changed manually, Probable Cause should also be updated so it tells a better story to the customers of why their ETR is changing.
2. Later in the outage, Probable Cause was changed to "Planned Outage". This was an error and an anomaly. Planned Outage should not be used unless there has been significant advanced notice to customer (i.e., not emergent/day of). Probable Cause should have been "Cable Fault" or "Equipment". Our Distribution Operations team, will be sending a reminder message reinforcing the importance of an accurate Probable Cause and to be mindful to populate a Probable Cause when we know the cause of the outage.
3. We are implementing additional system software upgrades which will ensure that "Outage Cause" will be included in restoration messages. Those upgrades will be complete by December.

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4. Additionally, PECO / Exelon is upgrading our Operations Control Center dispatching system and field mobile data terminal applications. The biggest benefit is that all Field crews will be required to use their Mobile Data Terminals to get work, status jobs as they are on route to a location, arrive onsite, assess damage, determine and complete needed repairs, etc.. Radio communications will be reduced and use of the Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) will be increased and reinforced. It is the system all Exelon Distribution companies will be using. This upgrade will be helpful during mutual assistance events since we will be able to communicate on a common platform and share information during events. This upgrade will go on line in late May 2021.

There is a concentrated, ongoing effort and investment underway to improve electric reliability to reduce the number of electric outages our customers experience; reduce the amount of time customers are off during an outage; and improve communications with our customers during outages. A significant component is improving the accuracy of estimated restoration times.

I hope you find this information useful,

Ted

**Theodore D. Dorand**