

Lower Makefield Township
Electric Reliability Committee (ERC)
February 12, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Present: Kristin Tyler
William Bogdan
James Ferraro
Richard Gorelick
Bernard Griga
John Kingham
James Kirlin

Apologies: None

The February 12, 2015 meeting of the Lower Makefield Township Electric Reliability Committee (ERC) was called to order at 7:05 PM in the Township Offices by Chairman Kingham.

Approval of past minutes: The minutes of the meeting of January 8, 2015 were approved.

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

Old Business:

• **PECO Meeting:**

The meeting with Mr. Dorand of PECO on January 12, 2015 and the subsequent letter of [January 15, 2015](#) to PECO from the Township was discussed at length. The main points that arose from the PECO meeting and which were included in the January 15, 2015 letter were summarized as follows:

1. Reliability data: PECO refused to provide the requested information.
2. PECO upgrade plan – engineering items – more information requested.
3. Upgrade progress.
 - a. Advance information to LMT of planned upgrade work.
 - b. Copy LMT on any letters from PECO to residents advising them of enhancements that have been carried out.
 - c. Progress reports to LMT that can be posted on the LMT channels of communication with residents.
 - d. Township communications – LMT offer to PECO to establish a model working relationship by expanding LMT information portals to include PECO public information.
4. Vegetation management – LMT offer to PECO to positively assist in whatever way it can.

In the light of a PECO progress report from Mr. Dorand emailed to LMT on February 11 2015 it was agreed that, before raising any issues with the PUC, Supervisor Tyler would call Mr. Dorand. The purpose of the call would be to discuss the positive aspects that arose from the January meeting and the status of any PECO response.

It was further agreed that, without any formal approach, Mr. Gorelick would investigate the ways and means of raising the reliability issues with the PUC.

- **Planning Approach**

Mr. Kirlin presented an approach to planning the objectives of the ERC that has been developed by him and Mr. Bogdan. See the planning [documentation](#) attached to these minutes. It was agreed that the committee would consider the objectives for further discussion at the meeting on March 12, 2015.

New Business:

- **ERC publicity and presentations:** The need to publicize the workings of the ERC to residents was discussed. To this end, it was agreed that, along with other LMT committees, the ERC would attend the meeting on February 17, 2015 at the Township offices to consider the ways and means of communicating with residents, such as Twitter, that are now commonly available.

It was further agreed that, before any public presentation of the activities of the ERC takes place, there should be a presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

Next ERC Meeting:

It was confirmed that next meeting will be on March 12, 2015 following the agreed schedule for meetings to be held on the second Thursday of each month in the Township offices at 7:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Attachments:

1. [Agenda](#)
2. [Letter of January 15, 2015](#) from LMT to PECO
3. [Planning approach documentation](#)

ERC Agenda Feb 12, 2015 Meeting:

1. Approval of minutes of January 8, 2014 meeting
2. Old business:
 - a. PECO meeting Jan 12, 2015 – report
 - i. Letter to PECO of January 16, 2015 – discussion
 - ii. PECO – next steps?
 - b. Planning approach – Bogdan/Kirilin
3. New business
 - a. ERC publicity – website presence
 - b. Public meeting presentation
4. Set date, time, place for next ERC meeting
5. Motion for adjournment



Township of Lower Makefield

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Kristin Tyler, Chairman
Daniel McLaughlin, Vice Chairman
Dobby Dobson, Secretary/Treasurer
Jeffrey Benedetto, Supervisor
Ron Smith, Supervisor

January 15, 2015

PECO Energy Company
Warminster Service Building
400 Park Avenue
Warminster, PA 18974

Attention: Theodore D. Dorand, AICP
PECO External Affairs Manager, Bucks County

Dear Mr. Dorand:

On behalf of Lower Makefield Township (LMT) and our Electric Reliability Committee (ERC) I want to thank you again for meeting with us on January 12th. We trust that you found the meeting to be enlightening and that you gained some understanding of our aim to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with PECO. To this end, this letter summarizes our discussions and the points on which you may be able to provide a positive response.

As you know, in common with PECO, we have had to deal with the increasing displeasure of our residents regarding power disruptions. This is especially true where the frequency and duration of the outages have been beyond the norm. For its part, PECO has implemented an infrastructure improvement program while, in parallel with the PECO initiative, we have established the ERC. This committee is comprised of multi-talented individuals to give us independent advice on the issues affecting reliability and to develop an effective way of monitoring improvements. In fact, from the work done by this group, we have arrived at a number of important conclusions which prompted the questions which we posed to you on January 12. The points that were raised are enumerated in the paragraphs that follow to help you in your response to us.

1. **Reliability data:** In our meeting we told you that we have read with interest the reliability data submitted by PECO as part of its obligations to the PUC. Furthermore we had concluded that, given the LMT circuit identification, we could use the various standard indices published for each circuit to monitor improvements affecting our area over time. Nonetheless, you made it quite clear that PECO will not release the information in any way shape or form. Even so, while we have little option but to accept PECO's position at this time, we hope that, from the items below, we can find common ground under which we can establish a more substantial working relationship.

2. **PECO Upgrade plan – engineering items:** We complimented you on the presentation given in the Yardley Borough Hall on September 9, 2014 and told you that we were pleased with your description of a “granular analysis” carried out by PECO to identify those small areas which suffer repeated and unreasonable outages. We were also interested in the upgrade measures planned by PECO. The engineering team at the meeting mentioned that about thirty engineering items had been identified such as weather hardened lines (Hendrix lines), improved telemetry and Intellirupters but time didn’t allow the team to expand on the list any further. Since a better understanding of the work to be done will be a great help to us, are you able to provide an expanded list? (A brief and general presentation by a PECO engineer to the ERC would be most appreciated.)
3. **PECO Upgrade plan – progress updates:** On the issue of progress we discussed a number of items on which you indicated a willingness to provide a positive response. These were:
 - a. **Advanced information to LMT:** We spoke of the possibility of increasing the scope of the PECO customer relations function to include advance information to LMT. Whereas we obviously know when road closures or diversions are planned by PECO, we don’t know what other power enhancement work is underway. For example, in our meeting we mentioned Silo Road in the Mirror Lake development. Outages in that area have led to a number of vociferous complaints to the Township for which we have had no answer. Even so, we know by simple observation that major work was carried out in the proximity of Silo Road to lay a new underground cable. We don’t know of course whether this was part of PECO’s enhancement plan or whether it was essential infrastructure repair work but, either way, if we had prior knowledge we could post general information for the benefit of residents. We would also sound more sensible when the questions are asked.
 - b. **PECO letters to residents:** We know that PECO routinely sends letters to customers after upgrade work has been carried out. Can that function be expanded to include a letter to the Township so that we can stay abreast of what has been done?
 - c. **Progress reports:** In addition to the measures mentioned above, routine progress reports on the enhancement work would be extremely useful. We understand of course that, as you pointed out, upgrades may be carried out at locations remote from LMT leading to the false perception that PECO is doing nothing. Even so, from our point of view, an appropriately worded bulletin on the LMT website would be far extremely helpful.
 - d. **Township communications:** In our effort to create a model relationship with PECO we would like to expand PECO’s public information portal to include the LMT website. We envisage posting general information about PECO’s work on the express understanding that all postings would be approved by both the Township Manager and PECO.

4. **Vegetation management:** The Township is willing to assist PECO in whatever way it can to augment the annual tree trimming work. We recognize that, where private property is involved, the issue may be especially troublesome but, by working together, we feel that LMT can be a positive influence for the good of all concerned. In this respect we may plan a public meeting at which a certified arborist may be invited to give a presentation. Bearing in mind that, as you pointed out, PECO has published an informational pamphlet, we would welcome PECO's participation.

Finally, we trust that, between us, we can forge a model and positive PECO/municipality relationship. We look forward to your response and the opportunity to work with you further.

Sincerely,

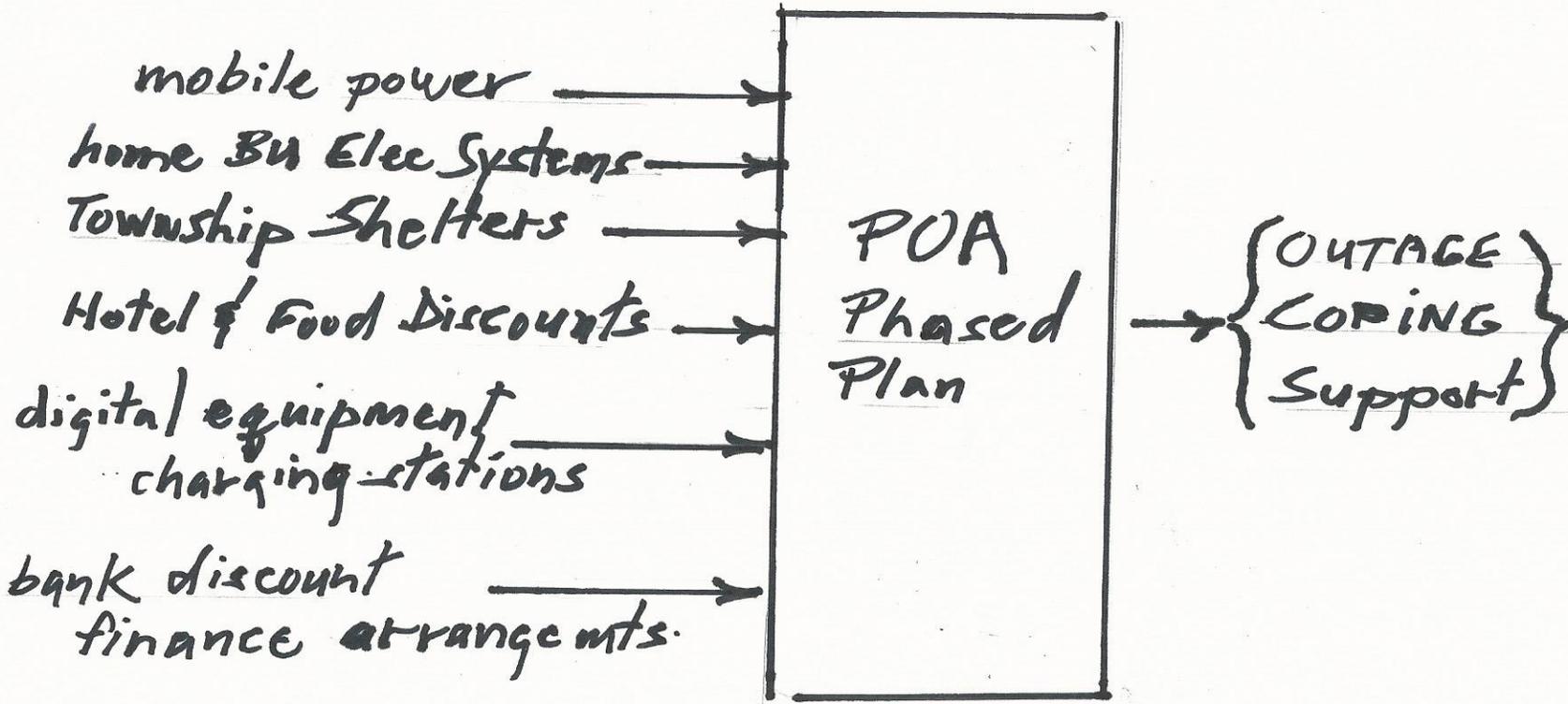
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristin Tyler', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kristin Tyler, Chairman

LMT OUTAGE Coping Support Provisions

Proposed ERC Initiative

Feb 1, 2015



Seeking an Improved Township Electric Reliability

--- A Proposed Means & Goals Process to Develop Solutions (4 Steps) ---

1. Identify Goals & Means to Improve Township Electric Reliability:

--Goal: enhanced safety of all Township citizens (34,000) during outages

--Goal: establish LMT Outage-Coping-Support-Provisions for citizens & businesses such as > commercial BU mobile electric power; portable & fixed home BU electric systems; Township shelters; charging stations for iPhones, laptops, tablets; promote and develop local hotel & food discount opportunities

--Goal: all LMT electric circuits to be in the First Performance Quartiles of the PECO electric distribution system

--Goal: maintain broad functionality of Township during outages

--Goal: future economic growth and enhanced wellbeing of Township

--Mean: develop Township services to cope with outages, such as > acquiring rapid real time outage info; removing hazardous tree debris after PECO safety authorization, provide rapid & comprehensive outage restoration data

--Mean: develop & maintain a positive and mutually supportive relationship with PECO such that > PECO will support the Township's reliability goals

--Mean: access-to and coordination-with County road emergency services, regional medical emergency services, school emergency provisions

--**Mean:** electric tariff rates to accelerate improved reliability such as > PECO R&M rate (?); finite-period DSIC (Distribution Svc Improvement Compensation) rate; system performance based rate (?); shared infrastructure improvement rate (?)

--**Mean:** seek electric grid infrastructure such as > weather hardened (?); vegetation hardened (?); or whatever PECO decides is adequate (?)

--**Mean:** Township tree & vegetation ordinance enhancements such as > PECO right-of-way; removal of trees hazardous to overhead electric power

--**Mean:** Township electric reliability planning that actively supports and promotes DOE Smart Grid improvements such as > seek State Assembly to call for all Pennsylvania Electric Distribution Companies (EDCs) to develop and provide their Smart Grid system implementation plans and schedules.

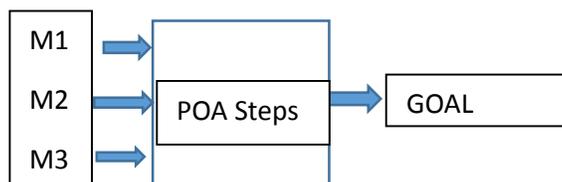
--**Mean:** acquire citizen support such as > develop and conduct programs or opportunities that would enhance citizen awareness and citizen understanding

--**Mean:** support of local State legislators

--**Mean:** support of PUC

--Other **Goals and Means** needed or changes in wording (?)

2. **Develop Mean-Goal Diagrams:** use the above list



3. **Define Priorities:** for each of the Diagrams assign a value of 1-high, 2-nearterm, and 3-longterm

4. **Develop the Plans of Action (POAs)**