

## A Message from the Chair

Lower Makefield has been working closely with PECO in an effort to address electric liability issues in the Township. The Electric Reliability Committee, comprised of Township residents, was formed for the purpose of seeking a weather-hardened electric grid with the capability to deliver dependable electric power. I work closely with the Committee and PECO to assure our goals are met.

PECO undertook a system analysis in response to pressure from municipalities related to electric reliability, including Lower Makefield Township. PECO altered its system evaluation to account for “pocket areas” that experienced higher than average power outages. Following the analysis, PECO invested \$10M in an improvement plan within Bucks County. The improvements were completed in June of 2015. Those improvements include installation of tree resistant power lines, aggressive tree trimming, IntelliRupters, reclosers, and other equipment upgrades. PECO reports that the work has resulted in “significant improvements” in the outage pocket areas.

PECO also upgraded the on-line outage maps. You can now view outage information at the street level and ‘see’ any outages that exist. The maps are updated every 15 minutes. Here is a link to the outage maps: <https://www.peco.com/layouts/peco/OutageMap.aspx>. Additionally, PECO is now mobile friendly with the introduction of PECO Smart Mobile On-the-Go.

To enable more rapid power restoration in the event of widespread storm outages, PECO equipped all service vehicles with GPS to allow constant communication between the crews in the field and the engineers directing restoration.

PECO expects additional technology upgrades through full implementation of digital meters. PECO is 95% complete in the installation and they anticipate completion this winter. Customers can expect reliability and communication enhancements when these ‘smart meters’ are fully operational.

PECO presently has a rate increase request pending before the PUC. They have requested \$190M for modernization of the distribution system and an additional \$275M for weather hardening and substation upgrades. If approved, both plans are to be executed within 5 years. It would result in 4% rate increase to the average customer. The \$190M ‘modernization’ request would be seen as a rate increase. The \$275M weather hardening, substation and equipment upgrades would appear as a surcharge on a customer’s bill. PECO expects a decision from the PUC at the end of 2015.

We will continue our efforts with PECO to ensure reliable electric service in our Township and provide relevant updates at [lmt.org](http://lmt.org).

Kristin Tyler, Chairman  
Lower Makefield Township Board of Supervisors