

Lower Makefield Township  
Electric Reliability Committee (ERC)  
February 2, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Present: Bernard Griga  
Lee Pedowicz  
John Kingham (Chairman)  
John Lewis

The February 2, 2023, 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 January 31, 2022, were approved as circulated and corrected (Pedowicz, Griga).

**2) Apologies:** Jason McFarland, Jason Simon

**3) ERC Responsibility and future - discussion**

Mr. Kingham began by introducing the members present to Mr. Lewis and, in view of the light meeting agenda, he proceeded to summarize the status of the committee's dealings with PECO. He emphasized the need to re-establish a positive working relationship with the utility to find out where the promised improvements to the outage messaging system now stand. This is of importance to the committee because it had concluded in 2021 that the most annoying part of any outage is not knowing when the power will be restored. To this end the committee had produced a time-line presentation of a nine-hour outage in October 2021 which, based on the messages provided by PECO, made it appear that the crews had no idea of what they were doing. This was forwarded to PECO by the Township and, in its response, PECO was encouraging. It admitted its shortcomings and outlined the steps it was taking to upgrade its messaging system. Given that it would affect the whole of the PECO system the committee viewed this in a positive light and recommended to the BOS that it invite PECO to provide an update on its progress. In the event, the recommendation was not acted on by the BOS.

Mr. Kingham then added that, in addition to keeping the Township posted on the progress of the outage messaging system upgrades, PECO could be asked to provide an update on its multi-million-dollar investment in the underground cable system feeding homes in Yardley Hunt. To illustrate his point, he gave a short presentation on the work now underway. This is appended to these minutes as attachment no. 2.

Mr. Griga raised the question of reliability and the generally unhelpful data from the PUC reliability reports. He added that it would be more useful to know the reasoning used by PECO in determining where, when and what it does as far as carrying out system improvements are concerned. Mr. Lewis stated that he understood the concern and, harking back some ten years or so to the work that was done on the poorly performing circuit feeding his home. He recognized that PECO has security constraints that prohibit the release of any circuit and reliability data beyond that which is given to the PUC.

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Mr. Lewis suggested that tracking home-generator usage data may help to understand which circuits or areas are poorly served. However, Mr. Griga pointed out that the committee has tried that approach but with very poor results. Mr. Lewis also said that it is possible to request an uptime report from PECO which, in his case, showed that his reliability level was 99% but, at the same time, he recognized the enormity of such a task. Mr. Kingham added that there are moves among some utilities to adopt a newer more meaningful approach to reliability data given the granular data that is now available via the Smart Meter system.

Continuing the discussion, Mr. Griga stated that while we should give kudos to PECO for its improvements, it would be nice to know the rationale behind its system maintenance program when deciding, for example, which trees to trim and which to leave alone. Mr. Griga also stated that it would be good to know what criteria PECO considers when deciding that a power outage is weather related because weather related events are excluded from its overall reliability assessments.

Moving on, Mr. Griga said that we should concentrate on the reasons why we need to involve PECO since, based on past public meetings that have become adversarial, PECO may decline any invitation. However, Mr. Lewis stated he believes a remote (Zoom) meeting would be an ideal platform on which to involve PECO. Not only would it give the Township a chance to introduce the new Manager, but the discussion could also be widened to discuss PECO's plans regarding any road work that may impinge upon repaving by the Township. Mr. Griga added that, if the Township knows of PECO's plans, it could also advise residents via the Township website about planned utility work.

Mr. Griga asked Mr. Lewis whether there are any items that he would like to be included in the ERC letter to the Board. Mr. Lewis said that he would like to know what investments PECO has made in the Township in recent times, how the messaging system has been improved, and what plans it has for the next 24 months. He also added that one reason there hasn't been so much interest in the ERC work is because over the past ten years the weather has been more settled. Although there have been some significant storms, the last major event was in 2012 when storm Sandy blew through.

Mr. Pedowicz raised the question of communications from PECO advising residents of upcoming work. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Kingham affirmed that, usually, PECO does send advisory letters to residents so it shouldn't be an issue. Mr. Lewis also added the Township can always communicate via various channels such as social media and email to reduce the likelihood of people calling the Township. Mr. Pedowicz added that, in view of temporary power cables laying across streets, PECO should advise the Township of any cables on the road so that, should snow plowing be necessary, the plow drivers could be made aware.

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**4) The future of the ERC:**

It was agreed that this item should be tabled pending the response from the BOS to our recommendation to have a meeting with PECO.

**5) Next Meeting:** The next ERC meeting will depend on any upcoming meeting PECO.

**6) Motion for Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Attachments:**

1. [Agenda](#)
2. [Underground power Yardley Hunt](#)

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Attachments

**ERC Agenda Feb 2, 2023, Meeting – 7:30pm LMT Remote:**

1. Approval of minutes of Jan 31, 2022, meeting - Kingham
2. Apologies
3. ERC Responsibility and future - discussion
4. Other items
5. Set date, time, place for next ERC meeting.
6. Motion for adjournment



230201  
Underground powe

# LMT Electric Reliability Committee

**Underground Cable Failure & Replacement Review**

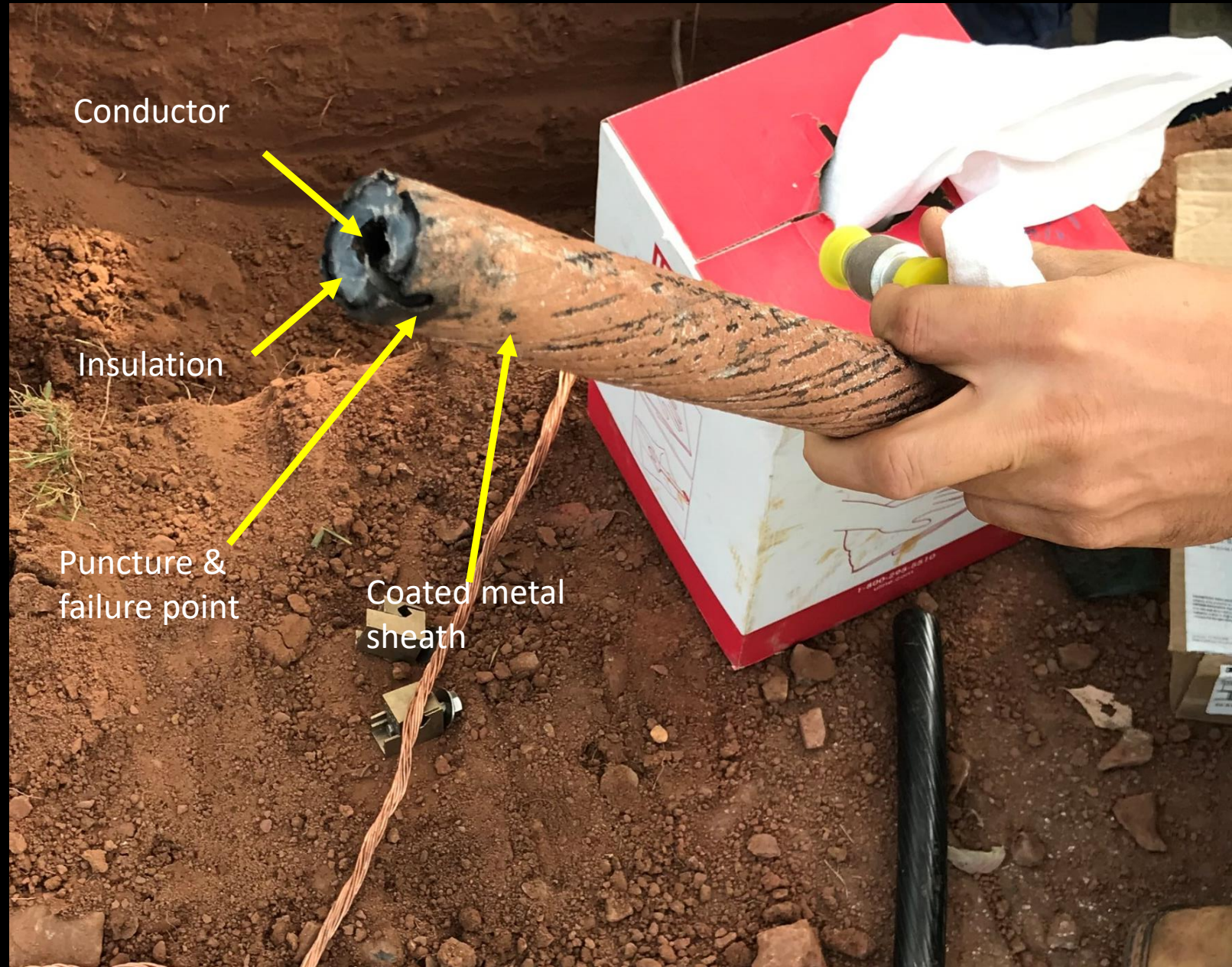
**Feb 2023**

1. This review is related to the PECO underground power service to the 600+ homes in Yardley Hunt
2. It is purely from a resident's point of view based on public observations of failures past and present, visible to all, and on the current work being undertaken by PECO to replace the underground service
3. BACKGROUND:
  - The underground service to the development is from the high-voltage overhead lines on Yardley-Langhorne and Edgewood Roads and has been in situ for almost fifty years.
  - The underground power is then distributed to the green lawn-front transformers which then feed power at lower voltages to clusters of houses – perhaps six houses in a cluster.





- The underground cables have been in situ since the development of Yardley Hunt in the 'seventies and have obviously suffered deterioration with age.
- The cables are extremely tough – typically a single copper conductor encased in insulation and protected by a grounded metal screen and a hard plastic composite outer later.
- The depth of burial appears to be around 2ft
- The attached shows a failed cable in Yardley Hunt – possibly due to lightning
- (A lightning strike doesn't stop at the grass)





Typically, failed cables are temporarily bypassed by cables laid in the street until repairs can be made – sometimes for months





The new work is time-consuming and is carried out in stages as follows:

- Horizontal boring using a tracked machine, drilling rods and high-pressure water
- Tough plastic tube (conduit) is then fed through the bores
- The new cable is then fed through the conduit
- And finally, when all of the cable has been laid it is connected to the high voltage system





Conduit and new cable in place

