

Lower Makefield Township  
Electric Reliability Committee (ERC)  
September 3, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Bernard Griga  
John Kingham  
James Kirlin  
James Ferraro

Apologies: Kristin Tyler

The September 3, 2015 meeting of the Lower Makefield Township Electric Reliability Committee (ERC) was called to order at 7:10 PM in the Township Offices 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 August 13, 2015 were approved.

**2. Meeting with PECO – LMT – August 20, 2015**

- a. The meeting with PECO on August 20, 2015, was discussed in the light of the meeting notes prepared by Supervisor Tyler and the questions for PECO developed at the ERC meeting on August 13, 2015. The meeting notes are appended to these minutes as [Attachment 2](#).

Chairman Kingham reported that the questions from the ERC submitted to PECO before the meeting were, for the most part, answered in general terms but there is reason to believe that more specific answers will be forthcoming.

- b. Since the PECO reliability reports to the PUC are generally based on historical data, it was agreed that the most relevant proof of the work done by PECO will be in the perceived improvement in reliability over the next twelve months. This will come from either the level of complaints from residents to the Township or from the experience of the ERC members.

**3. PECO Vegetation Management**

- a. The committee agreed that a link to the PECO maintenance request form should be placed on the Township website. Mr. Griga undertook to take the necessary steps on behalf of the ERC.
- b. It was agreed that the LMT arborist recommendation to work with PECO on a public education program would best be handled through a public information meeting at the Township subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors. The committee concurred with Mr. Ferraro that a public meeting would be a positive follow-up to the PECO upgrade program that could also highlight the work of the ERC.

It was also understood that, since vegetation issues generally fall under the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), establishing a public information meeting may not be quite so straightforward.

**4. Communications:**

The committee accepted the offer by Mr. Griga to review the ERC communications on the LMT website and work with the Township to enhance the usefulness of the ERC's work to residents.

**5. Next ERC Meeting:**

It was agreed that, in view of the work carried out by PECO and the need to assess the reliability of the power supply, the ERC meetings will be held quarterly instead of monthly. To this end the next meeting will be held on Thursday December 10, 2015 at 7:00pm.

**6. Motion for Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

**Attachments:**

1. Agenda
2. PECO meeting notes.

**ERC Agenda September 3, 2015 Meeting:**

1. Approval of minutes of August 13, 2015 meeting
2. Meeting with PECO – LMT – August 20, 2015
  - a. Meeting notes review
  - b. Reliability monitoring
3. PECO Vegetation management
  - a. Link to PECO maintenance request form
  - b. Work with PECO on public education
4. Communications
5. Other items
6. Set date, time, place for next ERC meeting
7. Motion for adjournment

## **PECO MEETING**

PECO held a meeting at LMT on August 20, 2015, to update local municipalities on its \$10M infrastructure improvement plan. The meeting was conducted by Ted Dorand, Bucks External Affairs Manager, Steven Singh, Director of Electric Operations for Bucks/Montgomery.

PECO provides power in Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware, York and Philadelphia Counties to 1.6M customers. PECO spends between \$500 and \$600M annually for maintenance and service improvements.

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 included installation of tree resistant power lines, aggressive tree trimming, IntelliRupters, reclosers, and other equipment upgrades. The improvements have resulted in “significant improvements” in the outage pocket areas.

PECO upgraded the outage maps that provide outage information at the street level and it is updated every 15 minutes. A customer is able to pull up a map and ‘see’ any outages that exist.

PECO has a program called ‘PECO ON THE GO,’ that alerts a customer if their electricity is out. You can download the app on your mobile device.

PECO has equipped all service vehicles with GPS to enable constant communication between the crews in the field and the engineers directing restoration. This enables more rapid power restoration.

PECO is 95% complete in the installation of digital meters. They anticipate completing installation during the winter of 2015/2016. Customers can expect reliability and communication enhancements when the 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 an average 4% increase. 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.

LMT will be placing PECO specific information on the LMT.org website including links to PECO ON THE GO, the new outage maps, tree maps and other information useful to the residents of LMT.

Kristin Tyler, Chairman

Lower Makefield Township Board of Supervisors