

Lower Makefield Township
Electric Reliability Committee (ERC)
June 21, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Present: Bernard Griga
John Kingham
James Kirlin
Lee Pedowicz
Jason McFarland (prospective committee member)

Apologies: Kristin Tyler

The June 21, 2018 meeting of the Lower Makefield Township Electric Reliability Committee (ERC) was called to order at 7:12 PM in the offices of the Lower Makefield Township 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 April 12, 2018 were approved. (Kirlin/Pedowicz).

a. Preamble: Chairman Kingham welcomed Mr. McFarland as a prospective member of the committee particularly because of his electrical engineering background and his current work with Amtrak, a major PECO customer.

2. PECO

a. The topics to be discussed at the upcoming meeting between PECO and the Township on June 27 were discussed as follows:

- i. Inaccurate “power restored” messages: it was agreed that recorded messages informing residents that their power has been restored when it hasn’t is, to say the least, extremely annoying.
- ii. No response to voice calls: the absence of call-backs from the automated trouble reporting system is a cause for complaint.
- iii. Tardy response to downed wires: it as understood that, under storm conditions, PECO crews would be overwhelmed by the volume of calls. However, in calm weather, it appears that the PECO response is unnecessarily slow.
- iv. Cables need to be underground: it was agreed that there is a general misunderstanding by residents that underground cables lead to a trouble-free power supply. It was agreed that the failure and replacement of cables in the Yardley Hunt development is a matter to be discussed with PECO.
- v. Why doesn’t PECO remove trees on private property: it was agreed that access to private property is an issue for PECO but, at the same time, the

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Township should remind PECO that it stands willing to work with residents to help PECO whenever private property access is an impediment.

- vi. Inconsiderate tree trimming: it was agreed that, while trimming trees back to terminal growth is unsightly, it is something that PECO cannot avoid if it is to prevent vegetation impingement on its lines.
- vii. Annoyance with brief outages: it was recognized that the switching changes implemented by PECO to minimize the impact of outages, has probably led to an unavoidable increase in the number of brief outages.
- viii. It was agreed that PECO should be asked to describe work that is ongoing in and around Lower Makefield as part of its reliability improvement program.
- ix. PECO should report on the status of its smart meter program and the improvements that it has brought to PECO's operations.
- x. It was also agreed that PECO should be asked to provide reliability improvement metrics that it may have related to the LMT area.
- xi. It was also agreed that the Township should be asked whether PECO has to submit permit applications for any work that it undertakes within LMT.

b. PUC Hearing:

- i. The PUC/PECO rate-increase hearing on June 12 at the Bucks County Community College attended by ERC members Kingham, Griga and Pedowicz was discussed. The members reported that, while the formal proceedings were impressive, the depositions by various members of the public were mostly irrelevant to the matter of a rate increase. From LMT Mr. Fleming of Shady Brook farm spoke of the ongoing and positive contribution from PECO towards the annual light show; a Yardley Hunt resident asked why his underground feed was not being replaced and a resident on Taylorsville Road spoke of his extreme dissatisfaction with the outdated and outmoded methods and materials used by PECO to improve the primary circuit to his area. He also questioned PECO's business practices.

3. Other Items:

- a. **The way forward for the ERC:** The Chairman reiterated the ongoing thoughts and concerns by the committee about the ERC and its role within LMT. It was agreed that Supervisor Tyler should be asked to encourage a renewal of help from our State representatives.

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b. Power Distribution System Control Center Tours: Mr. Pedowicz undertook to establish possible dates for a tour or tours of the PJM Interconnect control operation and other power supply system operators.

4. Next ERC Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting should be on Thursday July 12 to report on and discuss the outcome of the meeting with PECO on June 27.

5. Motion for Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Attachments:

1. [Agenda](#)

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ERC Agenda June 21, 2018 Meeting:

1. Approval of minutes of Apr 12, 2018 meeting
2. PECO
 - I. Upcoming review meeting with PECO. Topics to be addressed:
 - i. Inaccurate “power restored” messages.
 - ii. No response to voice calls.
 - iii. Tardy response to downed wires.
 - iv. Cables need to be underground.
 - v. Why doesn't PECO remove trees on private property?
 - vi. Inconsiderate tree trimming.
 - vii. Annoyance with brief outages.
 - viii. Current PECO work in and around LMT.
 - ix. Smart meter status
 - II. PUC hearing report.
3. Other items
 - I. The way forward for the ERC
 - II. PJM Interconnection tour
4. Set date, time, place for next ERC meeting
5. Motion for adjournment