



## And the winner is...

The winner for the naming of our newsletter is (*drumroll*) Mary Kay Mattocks, President, Grove City Borough Council! Thank you to all who submitted so many great suggestions.

Please remember that we welcome submissions of articles and pictures from our members for future newsletters! Please send your information to [bosak@papublicpower.org](mailto:bosak@papublicpower.org).

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## Green Power Requires Due Diligence

*By: John Lykens, EIT, Utility Engineers, PC – Engineers to PMEA*



“Alternative” “Green” energy producers are increasingly approaching Utility companies like your Municipal Electric organizations to site their “green” power plants (Large scale solar, wind, batteries, bio-digesters, and even peak shaving generators) within your jurisdictional boundaries. We are not referring to small behind-the-meter-generation such as roof top solar or a single wind turbine on a customer’s property, but large, utility scale alternative power plants sized above 1 MW.

There are certainly several advantages to having a source of significantly sized generation on your system such as added reliability, reducing peak demand in the case of peak shaving generators, helping to reduce the Borough’s carbon footprint, or even providing “clean” energy to Borough

consumers. These advantages, however, do not come without the need to look at or review what impact this generation may have on your electric system.

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## PMEA Mourns Loss of Colleague

It is with great sadness that the PMEA Board of Directors announces the death of Jill Stedina who passed away December 30, 2020 at age 60.

Jill previously served as a Board Member representing the PMEA Western Boroughs and was the Assistant Borough Manager for Zelienople Borough. Jill was a respected leader within the PMEA organization who was beloved by all our members and associates. She was well known in the Pennsylvania municipal management and finance arena as a highly engaged professional willing to give of her time and talent.

“Jill was a valued colleague and friend who had many impressive accomplishments throughout her life” said Board Member Vance Oakes. “Jill’s desire to be of service to her community and the Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association will leave a lasting legacy within our association. She will be greatly missed”.

Jill began her public service in 1982 working as an intern for Grove City Borough while attending Slippery Rock University. After receiving her B.S. in Public Administration Jill began full-time employment with Grove City Borough as an administrative assistant. She worked at Grove City Borough for three years until beginning her service with Zelienople Borough in 1985. Jill faithfully served Zelienople Borough for thirty-five years until her recent passing.

She is survived by her husband of 38 years, Roger W. Stedina and two children Roger M. Stedina of Crafton and Bethany Sietsma of North Carolina.

Memorial donations may be made in Jill’s honor to Habitat for Humanity, 415 East Grandview Ave., Zelienople, PA 16063, online: <https://www.habitat.org/donate>.

**Green Power (continued)**

Generators, regardless of size, not only supply power and energy to the system, but they are also a source of short circuit current when faults occur on the Borough’s electrical system. The larger the source of generation, the greater amount of short circuit current the generator can contribute to the fault. So why does that matter to the Borough? There are several reasons and they all relate to the increased short circuit current sourced from the generator(s) during fault conditions.

The first relates to the Borough’s equipment both inside the substation and out on the distribution system. All electrical equipment is manufactured with a maximum short circuit rating or short circuit duty. When short circuit current exceeds this short circuit rating, it is said to be over dutied. An over dutied circuit breaker, for instance, will fail when attempting to interrupt a fault which exceeds its maximum short circuit rating.

The second is a byproduct of the additional available short circuit current available to the Borough’s electric distribution system and that is one of Arc Flash energy. By now, all Borough’s should have completed an Arc Flash study and implemented procedures and proper PPE to mitigate the hazards associated with Arc Flash. Any significant increase in short circuit currents caused by the addition of generation, will require that the Borough perform a new Arc Flash Study to determine if the existing PPE equipment and procedures are adequate for the protection of the Borough employees. Additionally, many of the Borough’s commercial/industrial customers will need to do the same for their electrical facilities.

Lastly, many of the Borough’s Substation/Switch Stations Operating manuals were developed prior to large scale generation becoming part of their electrical distribution systems. The addition of this type of generation comes with added electrical equipment, protective relays, and protection schemes that previously did not exist. The Borough will need to provide training to their operating personnel in how to safely operate, energize and de-energize their systems when alternative generation is present on the system.

Should a large-scale alternative power project come knocking at your door, know that the Borough has some work to do prior to accepting the project. Not all projects are right for the Borough, regardless of the economic advantages. In order to make sure it is a right fit, the Borough must review their substation and distribution equipment and ensure that it is properly rated for such an addition. The Borough must also make certain that its employees and consumers are properly protected, and procedures are in place, in writing, for employees performing switching in the Borough’s substation.



**Legislative Report: The 2021-22 Pennsylvania Legislative Session Begins by Making History**

*By: Joseph M. Uliana, Managing Prinicipal, J.M. Uliana & Associates*

Pennsylvania’s two-year legislative session began its start on January 5<sup>th</sup> by making history. Senator Kim Ward (R- Westmoreland) became the first female Senate Majority Leader and Rep. Joanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia) was elected the first African American and woman Democratic Leader. Not only did the House and Senate have historic starts, but they also tackled some big issues in the first weeks of Session.

In the first week of February, the House and Senate passed and Governor Wolf signed into law a major \$915 million COVID Relief Bill that provides the following funding:

- \$570 million for Rental and Utility Assistance.
- \$145 million for the Hospitality Industry Recovery Program which will provide grants up to \$50,000 for restaurants, bars and other hospitality related businesses who have been hit extremely hard by the pandemic’s business restrictions. These funds will be distributed locally, by county economic development agencies.
- \$200 million in aid to educational institutions to handle the extraordinary costs of dealing with the pandemic. These funds will help Pennsylvania’s state universities, community colleges, approved private schools, chartered schools for the deaf and blind, private residential rehabilitation institutes and non-public schools.

In addition to the signing of a major COIVD Relief package in early February, Governor Wolf announced his proposed FY 21-22 state budget. In his budget, he has requested a \$37.8 billion spending plan that increases Pennsylvania’s General Fund by \$3.8 billion, or 11.1 percent. The budget is balanced by making two significant changes to Pennsylvania’s Tax Code. The Governor wants to see an increase in the state’s personal income tax (PIT) rate from 3.07 percent to 4.49 percent, which would generate \$2.964 billion in new tax revenue. He also seeks combined reporting for all Corporate Net Income Tax filers, which would generate an additional \$208.5 million. The Governor is also proposing a new tax on natural gas extraction. These proposals will be considered and debated by the legislature before the June 30<sup>th</sup> budget deadline.

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Legislative Report (continued)

State government leaders are also watching Washington to see if there will be another Federal COVID Relief Bill that will provide additional funding to help the Commonwealth deal with the costs and burdens of the pandemic. Last year, Pennsylvania received significant funding from the Federal government. These funds helped to balance the state budget when tax receipts dipped due to the economic shutdowns related to COVID 19.

While most of the attention early in the Session has been on budget issues, hundreds of bills have been introduced in the House and Senate on other subjects. As PMEA's lobbyist, our team will be monitoring and reviewing every legislative measure to see if it effects PMEA. We will also be working with PMEA's leadership to engage on those bills that directly affect PMEA, so that municipal power's voice in Pennsylvania is heard.

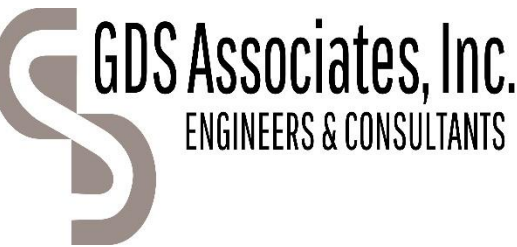


Hatfield PW Director Retires

After 13 years of dedicated service to Hatfield Borough, Public Works Director, Fred Leister, is retiring. He has invested over 40 years total to Municipal Government and serving the communities in which he was employed. Fred has been a wonderful asset to the Hatfield team and the borough wishes him well with his future endeavors.



Associate Member Spotlight



GDS Associates is headquartered in Marietta, Georgia, with offices in Alabama, Florida, Maine, New Hampshire, Texas, Wisconsin, Washington, and California. Since 1986, GDS has been a multi-service engineering and consulting firm providing services to a broad range of clients associated with, or affected by, electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater utilities. Services provided include Power Supply Planning; Wholesale and Retail Rates;

Regulatory and Financial; Transmission Planning and NERC/CIP Compliance; Distribution System Planning and Line Design; DSM and Energy Efficiency; Utility Distribution Services; Natural Gas; and other specialized services including renewable energy, sustainability, emerging smart infrastructure, data analytics, electrification, and DER integration. GDS has been involved with significant power supply planning, distribution engineering and retail rate planning projects for various PMEA members over the last decade, including cost of service studies and retail rate design, power supply hedging advisement, review of proposed solar, wind, battery storage and peaking assets and distribution engineering educational webinars and planning. Visit [www.gdsassociates.com](http://www.gdsassociates.com) for more information about GDS.

We Want to Hear From You

Please share with us your exciting projects and photos for future newsletters. Your submissions should be sent to [bosak@papublicpower.org](mailto:bosak@papublicpower.org) at any time and we will use them in upcoming editions.



Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association

112 Market St., 8th Floor,  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Tel: 717-489-2088

[info@papublicpower.org](mailto:info@papublicpower.org)