



Save the Date!

PMEA 2022 Annual Conference – September 7 – 9, 2022 @ Penn Stater, State College

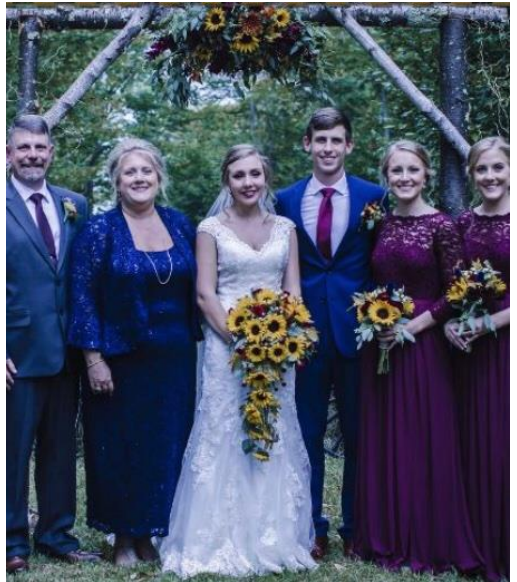
Why We Work Safely

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

SAFETY. We hear this word used multiple times a day at work, at home, and going about our daily tasks. I hear Linemen and Operations supervisors remind one another in the shop to be “safe out there.” We remind our clients, when afield, to be safe and practice good safe working methods. Our industry has come a long way since I started my career 28 years ago. As a green engineer fresh out of college, I was handed a Safety Manual, signed a signature sheet acknowledging that I received it, and proceeded to file it in my desk drawer where it remained unread for many years. No one held me accountable to know the safety rules of our company and neither did I hold myself accountable.

The culture of our industry has changed quite a lot over the last 30 years and for good reason. We talk about the hazards associated with the task at hand, work procedures, PPE requirements, and energy source controls. We utilize dielectric overshoes when the hazard of step potential could present itself. We no longer free climb poles. And the list goes on.

Unfortunately, we continue to experience serious injuries and fatalities in our industry. Results from accident investigations point to things like complacency, human performance, distraction, etc. What can we do to help us focus and refocus our efforts on a daily basis to mitigate the hazards of our trade and ensure we all go home safely at the end of each day? How can we continue to improve the culture of safety in our respective organizations? What can we do to fight complacency and distraction and improve our human performance? Here are a few suggestions.



Why I Work Safely

We all want to go home at the end of each workday the same way we arrived; healthy, uninjured, and intact with all our limbs and appendages. But what or who are we going home to? Sometimes we need a visual reminder of why we take the necessary time to work safely. Not for ourselves necessarily, but for those whom we love. Family, friends, pets, hobbies, etc. Place a picture on the wall next to the doorway in your home, in your personal or work vehicle on the dashboard or inside your hardhat as a daily visual reminder of why you work safely.

Re-open the lines of communication with fellow employees like the days prior to electronic devices. Put down the smartphone, newspaper, or magazine and engage in conversation at the start and end of each workday. Talk about what you are going to do to ensure you go home the same way you came to work. Regroup at the end of the workday and talk about the things the crew did throughout the workday that resulted in no injuries.

Our industry has made large strides when it comes to the safety of employees, but we still have a way to go. Keep the safety chatter up in the shop, celebrate safety milestones, and remind yourself why you work safely!

Chambersburg Receives SEP Designation

The Borough of Chambersburg recently received the American Public Power Association’s Smart Energy Provider (SEP) designation. Chambersburg is one of seventy across the country to be named in 2021. APPA’s SEP program recognizes utilities for demonstrating commitment to and accomplishment in smart energy program planning, energy efficiency and distributed energy resources, environmental and sustainability programs, and communication and customer experience. Utilities retain the SEP designation for two years.

Registration Open for APPA Legislative Rally

Registration is now open for the American Public Power Association's Legislative Rally, February 28 - March 2, 2022, at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. This is a fantastic opportunity to have your voice heard on the issues that impact public power. Pennsylvania attendees will meet with our two US Senators and respective Congressional members.

Who Should Attend?

- Public power staff and leaders
- Mayors, city council, and board members
- Others who want to get involved and advocate for public power

At the Legislative Rally, the American Public Power Association provides the resources, connections, and collective power to help public power communities make your voices heard in Washington, D.C.

Why Should I Attend?

As a public power advocate, you are in the best position to talk to Congress about the direct impact of federal action at the local level. Our coordinated outreach efforts are strengthened because you represent not only your public power community, but also the 49 million Americans served by public power.

Register today at <https://www.publicpower.org/event/legislative-rally#event-1>,

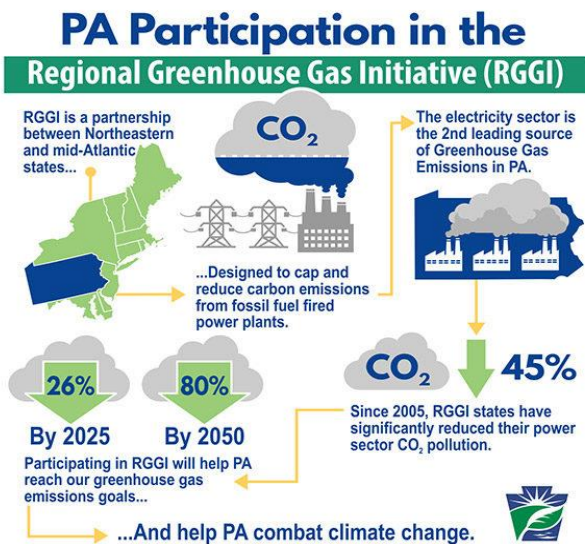
PA Legislature Blocks Joining RGGI

Pennsylvania Senate and House Environmental Resources & Energy Committees have taken action on SCCR 1, a concurrent resolution disapproving a regulation by the state Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to have Pennsylvania join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

In the Senate, Chairman Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) said the resolution disapproves EQB's Reg. No. 7-559, which was approved by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). He said that although the regulation lacks a statutory basis and is opposed by a bipartisan majority in both chambers, Pennsylvania is now joining eleven other states in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which disrespects Pennsylvania's energy production.

The chairman indicated that the committee sent letters to the governor, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and IRRC outlying concerns with RGGI. Chairman Yaw said RGGI will put a "massive tax" on all coal and natural gas electric generation power plants in Pennsylvania, contributing to the premature retirement of power generation facilities and the loss of current and future jobs. He said that according to PJM Interconnection and Penn State's Center for Energy Law and Policy, RGGI will cause double-digit consumer electric price increases.

Chairman Yaw said RGGI's sole purpose was for a reduction of CO2 emissions, however it creates a less than 1 percent reduction. He said the small CO2 reduction costs thousands of jobs, and 86 percent of the coal-fired generation lost will be picked up by other states with fewer environmental regulations. "We in effect are punishing Pennsylvania businesses, sending the business of electric generation to other states for...overall less than 1 percent savings," he said. He added that the manufacturing jobs lost in Pennsylvania will go elsewhere.



The chairman said this committee is authorized by section VII of the Regulatory Review Act to disapprove the CO2 Budget Trading Program. He said that currently RGGI provides allowances that were approved by all eleven states, so Pennsylvania is essentially giving up economic and environmental control of its energy market. He noted the Senate has seven legislative days or 30 calendar days to approve the resolution and outlined the legislative process.

Chairman Yaw concluded that the natural gas industry has created a 40 percent reduction in CO2 emissions and that RGGI is the most devastating thing that can happen to Pennsylvania businesses during his time in the legislature. "For that reason, I'm obviously urging a positive vote on the disapproval resolution," he said.

Minority Chairman Carolyn Comitta (D-Chester) said she supports Pennsylvania joining RGGI and is voting no on the resolution today. She said the Air Pollution Control Act provides the administration authority to join RGGI. She said the commonwealth has a constitutional directive to conserve and protect air, water, and the environment. She added that the committee continues to block RGGI while studies show the growing impact of CO2 on the environment and overall health.

Chairman Comitta said Hurricane Ida impacted many communities in the southeast and that climate change is not getting better, making storms stronger and deadlier. She encouraged the committee to reach common environmental goals and pass legislation sponsored by Chairman Yaw to establish

the Clean Streams Fund and the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program Act, which are Senate Bill 832 and Senate Bill 465, respectively. She added that the committee should also focus on carbon capture and sequestration. She said the two parties are going to agree on RGGI and encouraged legislation for the environment and for the future of Pennsylvania.

In the House, Minority Chairman Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) noted climate change "is the most serious long-term threat to the planet" as confirmed by a "variety of institutions," most recently by the American Petroleum Institute (API). He stated that Pennsylvania is a major producer of greenhouse gases, with almost 1 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. He explained that Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is the commonwealth's best source to address climate change and encouraged the committee to vote "no" on this resolution. He stated 30 percent of Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas emissions come from the power sector, which is what RGGI is intended to reduce. He continued that RGGI is time-tested and has been implemented in eleven states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions have joined. He used the example of Hurricane Ida as a consequence of climate change that "submerged Manayunk." He added that RGGI will create jobs through the \$300 million anticipated in allocation annually.

Chairman Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler) commented that Chairman Vitali and President Joe Biden are "seeking to destroy any job that exists from fossil fuels and to destroy the quality of life that Americans have been able to enjoy because of the energy produced from fossil fuels." He added that many resources in the medical field require fossil fuels and felt RGGI was a tool of the left to try to destroy the jobs in the state that exist because of the natural resources in Pennsylvania." He noted that RGGI has not been advertised as a tax, although the \$300 million allocated annually would likely come from taxpayers.

Annual Rate Comparison Prepared by Utility Engineers



Utility Engineers, PMEA's engineer, prepared the annual rate comparison for PMEA municipalities and shared the results at the business meeting during the annual conference in State College.

The comparison provides rates by municipalities yearly for each of the past ten years (2011 – 2021). On a regional level, the eastern region has the highest average rate 163.55, followed by the western region at 143.19, and the central region at 128.37. This brings the statewide municipal average rate to 144.66.

For comparison, the highest rate for PUC investor-owned utilities is charged by Penn Power at 164.53 followed by PPL at 141.39. Not far behind are a group – Pennsylvania Electric, PECO, and MET-ED - that hover between 140+ and 136+. The average rate for the IOUs stands at 136.32.

If your municipality has not received the analysis, please contact the PMEA office or UEPC.

Associate Member Spotlight

Lekson Associates Inc. has served the electric utility industry as a premier manufacturers' representative since 1972. We are dedicated to providing reliable products by representing only those manufacturers in whom we have the highest level of confidence. We have products for distribution, transmission, substation, and lighting to provide a wide range of solutions for our customers.

LEKSON Associates

The Lekson Associates staff has many years of experience and understands the changing needs of the electric utility industry. Our experience and technical backgrounds allow us to be of service to our customers and manufacturers both before and after the sale.

Visit us at <https://lekson.com>.

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 at any time and we will use them in upcoming editions.

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