



Save these Dates!

New Location

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

PMEA 2023 Annual Conference – September 6 – 8, 2023

@ Omni Bedford Springs Resort, Bedford

The PMEA Annual Conference is on the move! Next year, plan to join us at this beautiful and historic property – the hotel has hosted 10 U.S. presidents, including visits by seven presidents during their time in office. *Watch your inbox for exciting updates and details!*

PMEA Finance Workshop – September 6, 2023 @ Omni Bedford Springs

In person this year! Plan to join and then stay for the annual conference. Registration is now open in conjunction with annual conference registration.

2023 Trainings for Line Crews – *** REGISTRATION OPEN FOR AUGUST***

Registration now open for August. Additional classes added – see below for all dates.

Classes to be included for 2023 are:

- **EPZ Grounding** - August 7 & 8 in Lansdale and August 10 & 11 in Grove City
August 14 & 15 in Chambersburg
- **Rubber Glove Certification** – September 18 -22 in Lansdale
- **Rigging** - October 23 & 24 in Lansdale and October 26 & 27 in Grove City
October 31 & November 1 in Chambersburg

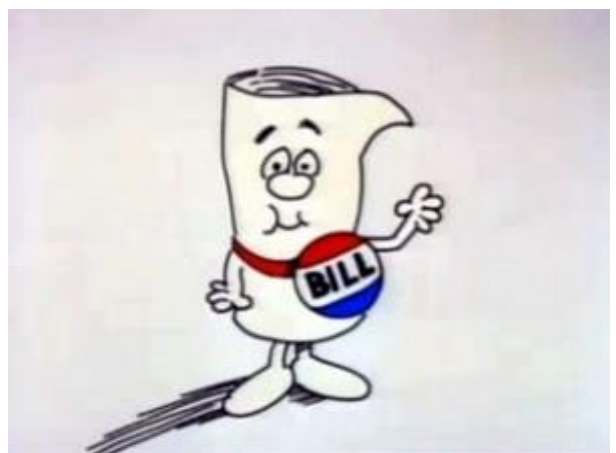
Stay tuned for more details and please remember that class sizes are limited so be certain to register as early as possible to take advantage of this free training!

Legislative Issues to Watch

Senator Jarrett Coleman (R- Bucks, Lehigh) has circulated a co-sponsorship memo for legislation intended to “streamline the deployment of broadband infrastructure”. The memo is short on details although sources indicate that it will attempt to transfer ownership of all poles to the state. The intent is to expedite “the deployment of the ‘hard wiring’ aspect of the process, while ensuring the safety of Pennsylvania’s utility networks, will help accelerate the availability of high-speed internet access across the Commonwealth.”

It is unclear if the pole transfer will include all poles including those in PMEA member municipalities and what ownership by the state will mean for pole replacement, etc. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

Representative Chris Rabb (D – Philadelphia) recently introduced HB 675 which would prohibit an authority or municipality from charging a reconnection fee if the customer's household income is greater than 300% of the Federal poverty level. A customer may also be exempt from paying a reconnection fee on overdue balances if the customer and authority or municipality have a repayment plan agreement. The bill further prohibits termination of electricity by a municipality or authority between June 1 and September 30 of each year if the customer's household income is no greater than 300% of the Federal poverty level. HB 675 amends Title 53 (Municipalities) with separate provisions also amending Title 66 (PUC).



Senator John DiSanto (R- Dauphin) sponsored SB 181 legislation to expand the capacity limits for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facilities which are currently eligible for renewable energy certificates under the state's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) Act. Currently, these facilities are limited to 5 megawatts or less. The bill will increase that limit by up to 50 megawatts.

PA House Panel Examines Ways to Collect “Fair Share” of Road Costs from EV Users

With electric vehicle sales steadily increasing and Pennsylvania’s highway maintenance costs growing, lawmakers on Monday heard testimony about ways to capture alternative fuel users’ fair share of road taxes.

Thirty states have enacted road use fees for electric vehicles, Pennsylvania House Transportation Committee Chairman Ed Neilson, D-Philadelphia, said. The challenge for Pennsylvania is determining a fair and equitable way to do so, Neilson said.

Pennsylvania is dependent on gasoline taxes for about 74% of its highway funding and the amount collected through state and federal gas taxes is dwindling as gasoline-powered vehicles become more efficient and electric vehicles become more prevalent.

Meanwhile, the state Department of Transportation estimates that it will need an additional \$9.3 billion every year for road and bridge maintenance, Nick Miller, a policy analyst for the Electrification Coalition, an organization that promotes policies to support the widespread adoption of electric vehicles, said.

Pennsylvania is not alone and other states have examined mileage-based road use fees, congestion fees and increased registration fees. While those would apply to all vehicles, electric vehicle users do not pay a fuel tax and or any additional fees.



Some states have implemented flat electric vehicle fees as a “Band Aid solution,” Miller said, that range from \$50 to \$230.

With 67,500 electric vehicles registered in Pennsylvania as of March, a flat \$290 fee – in line with average annual gas tax costs – would generate about \$19.6 million. That’s a significant amount but only a fraction of Pennsylvania’s needs, Miller said.

Flat electric vehicle fees can be seen as a disincentive for consumers to make the switch to alternative fuels, Miller said, noting that the continued transition to a decarbonized energy economy is important for energy independence and for the climate.

Other options include mileage-based user fees for electric vehicles in lieu of a gas tax. Such a fee indexed to the average motorist’s gas tax contribution and mileage would come to around 2.4 cents per mile, Miller said.

Some states are also exploring charging electric vehicle users fees based on the amount of electricity used at charging stations. While that would capture fees from out-of-state drivers passing through Pennsylvania, it would be more costly to implement for users who charge their vehicles at home.

Consumers would be required to install an additional electric meter to record the amount of electricity used for vehicle charging separately from that used by other electrical devices in a home, Miller said.

Wayne Weikel, senior director of state government affairs for the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, an automotive industry association and lobbying group, said his organization has opposed flat electric vehicle fees across the country for many years, but has recently made a “180-degree” shift.

“I can say an EV fee is the worst form of collecting user fees except for all of the others we’ve thought of,” Weikel said.

Mileage-based fees fail to account for the miles consumers drive in other states and tracking drivers’ locations to exclude out-of-state mileage raises privacy concerns, Weikel said.

The problem of out-of-state mileage is also present in a system that taxes drivers based on the amount of electricity used, Weikel said.

Both systems would come with increased administrative and infrastructure costs.

A flat EV fee could be applied tomorrow and built into next year’s budget, Weikel said. He added that it would be the most stable source of revenue.

“Is it perfect? No. But does it address your funding problem in a reasonable and justifiable way to defend to your constituents? Yes, it ensures nobody’s getting a free ride and everybody’s contributing to the upkeep of the roads we use every day,” Weikel said.

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Annual Conference Registration Open

Registrations for the Finance Workshop and the Annual Conference are now open! Register today for the conference and the hotel – hotel rooms are filling quickly! The conference will be held September 6 -8, 2023, at the Omni Bedford Springs resort.

(continued on next page)

Annual Conference (continued)

This year's conference will feature the Annual Finance Workshop (in person only) with speakers focused on ACH rules, Customer Service, EV issues from a financial perspective, and powering up municipal financial policies. In addition, Paul Zummo – APPA's Director of Research & Development – will be joining us to discuss fund transfers.

In addition to an opportunity to meet many of our associate member companies, attendees will learn more about the energy market dynamics. We will also have sessions on disaster recovery planning and state grant funding opportunities coming this fall that you will certainly want to hear about! More sessions and speakers will be announced in the coming weeks so stay tuned! This year's conference is a must for public power communities!

Check your email for conference registration details or contact PMEA at bosak@papublicpower.org.

Participate in the APPA Salary Survey

APPA has launched its annual “**APPA Utility Salary Survey**,” featuring annual base pay information for 27 salaried positions and 24 hourly positions. Public power utilities who are at least 50% retail sales are eligible to participate in this survey.

APPA is asking utilities to complete the survey by July 13. Each participating utility will receive the full final report, which includes a breakdown of salaries by revenue and customer class and regional salary summaries. Non-participating APPA member utilities can purchase the final report on the APPA Product Store. You can access the survey here:

<http://publicpower.2023-APPA-Utility-Salary-Survey.alchemer.com/s3/>

Spread the word and join us!

The PA Municipal Electric Association Invites you to join us for an afternoon reception*

(during the PA State Association of Boroughs Conference)

Sunday, June 4, 2023

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Cocoa Boardroom, Hershey Lodge

**Co-hosted by: Jeffrey Stonehill, Manager, Borough of Chambersburg
& Jaime Snyder, Manager, Borough of Hatfield**

**Drop by anytime during the gathering time for a drink and lite fare*

Electric Rate Changes Coming

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) alerted consumers on May 17th that on June 1 most electric utilities will be adjusting electric generation prices for residential and small business non-shopping customers. The PUC approves a utility's electric generation procurement plan, however, the PUC does not regulate the price of the generation portion of the electric bill which is driven by wholesale market factors.

The PTC averages 40% to 60% of the customer's total utility bill. However, this percentage varies by utility and by the level of individual customer usage. Beginning June 1, EDCs that have adjusted their PTCs for residential default service customers include:

- **Citizens' Electric**, with an increase from 13.4248 to 13.8078 cents per kWh (up 2.8%);
 - **Duquesne Light**, with an estimated increase from 11.25 to 11.45 cents per kWh (up 1.8%);
 - **Met-Ed**, with an increase from 9.991 to 10.24 cents per kWh (up 2.5%);
 - **PECO**, with an increase from 9.726 cents to 10.312 cents per kWh (up 6%);
 - **Penelec**, with an increase from 9.561 to 9.703 cents per kWh (up 1.5%);
 - **Penn Power**, with an increase from 10.439 to 10.556 cents per kWh (up 1.1%);
 - **PPL**, with a decrease from 14.612 to 12.126 cents per kWh (down 17%);
 - **UGI**, with a decrease from 12.54 to 11.084 cents per kWh (down 11.6%);
 - **Wellsboro Electric**, with a decrease from 12.816 to 12.393 cents per kWh (down 3.3%); and,
 - **West Penn Power**, with an increase from 8.228 to 9.929 cents per kWh (up 20.7%).
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Annual Conference – Voting

At this year's business meeting during the PMEA Annual Conference, the membership will be considering an amendment to the Bylaws. The proposed amendment will allow the board of directors of PMEA to increase from seven up to nine members. In addition to the vote on the amendment, PMEA members will be electing members to the board. Each member municipality has one vote only so please designate your voting member prior to the conference.

Highlights from PMEA Training

PMEA recently held Rubber Glove Certification training at Lansdale. The five-day course provides many opportunities for hands-on learning. Those attending the training also had a chance to check out a demo and display by Milwaukee Tools.



PA Medium- and Heavy- Duty EV Bootcamp & Display

Join the Electrification Coalition on **Tuesday, June 20, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**, for the Pennsylvania Medium- and Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle Bootcamp. This in-person event will provide the latest information on the deployment of electric trucks and buses in the Keystone State. Policymakers, EV advocates, fleet managers, local and state government officials, and other stakeholders are invited to join this informative set of discussions on policy opportunities, vehicle availability, and the wide range of benefits EVs will provide for Pennsylvanians. The event will be held at the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology 326 Market Street in Harrisburg.

Hear from leaders across Pennsylvania who are leading the charge from the state legislature, city and county governments, state agencies, and utilities. Manufacturers will bring their latest models onsite for an EV showcase, giving participants the opportunity to explore this new technology in person.

[Register Here](#)

Associate Member Spotlight

Global Power Products manufactures a variety of products for the utility market. We manufacture utility-grade, revenue-class submeters, surge suppressors, and current transformers for commercial, industrial, and residential markets. We also manufacture the GenerLink and the EZ-Connect.



For more information, visit us at www.generlink.com or www.globalpowerproducts.com. Contact Becky Hamm at becky@globalpowerproducts.com with any questions.

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. We also welcome your suggestions for topics of interest for our newsletters.

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