



Save these Dates!

**PMEA Spring Superintendents/ Foremen Meeting –
April 11 & 12, 2024 @ The Graduate, State College**

**PMEA Reception – June 2, 2024
@ PSAB Conference, Hershey Lodge**

**PMEA 2023 Annual Conference – September 4 – 6, 2024
@ Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford**

**PMEA Business & Governance Workshop (*formerly Finance Workshop)
– September 4, 2024 @ Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford**

2024 Training for Line Crews – *TENTATIVE DATES*

Advanced Transformer

March 18 & 19 - Lansdale
March 20 & 21 - Chambersburg
March 25 & 26 - Grove City

HotStick

May 2 & 3 - Lansdale
May 6 & 7 - Chambersburg
May 9 & 10 - Grove City



Crew Leadership

July 15 & 16 - Lansdale
July 18 & 19 - Chambersburg
July 22 & 23 - Grove City

Digger

September 23 & 24 - Lansdale
September 26 & 27 - Chambersburg
September 30 & October 1 - Grove City

Substation 101

October 28 & 29 - Lansdale
October 30 & 31 - Chambersburg
November 4 & 5 – Grove City

Stay tuned for more details about the 2024 schedule of classes!

Quakertown's Microgrid Project

The Borough of Quakertown is a host site for a behind-the-meter (BTM) project to help lower their overall transmission cost and provide back-up generation sources. As a member of AMP, Quakertown is one of two sites for the BTM peaking project.

AMP partnered with PowerSecure who provided four engine Tier 4 PowerBlocks, each 3,125 kW standby (2,700 kW LTP) for a total of 12,500 kW standby (10,800 kW LTP) output. PowerSecure monitors each system continuously and tests each unit once a month to run system diagnostics. Quakertown's utility employees receive maintenance and troubleshooting training for the generators. The company is also able to send local crews to the borough site when needed.



Scott McElree, Quakertown's Manager & Chief of Police, stated "If we have a catastrophic event and need to supply power to our community, we can do that quickly with very little restrictions in order to get the community up and running".

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Quakertown (continued)

BTM generation provides local generation behind the utility's meter — resulting in reduced system peaks that reduces costs for the municipal utility's customers. BTM lowers transmission obligation because the generation is local and not delivered over transmission lines, so the community is able to avoid some transmission costs. In addition, the installations provide the added benefit of providing a source of emergency backup generation should a major outage occur, and the host communities are trained in how to use the units for that purpose.



Watch a video about the Quakertown project [here](#).

More Funding Opportunities Open

Cybersecurity

The US Department of Energy recently announced a funding opportunity to provide \$70 million to support rural cooperative, public power, and small investor-owned electric utilities to improve the cybersecurity of their utilities. This opportunity is offered by the DOE's Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity (RMUC) Program out of the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) and funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) can be downloaded from Infrastructure Exchange at: <https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foaldcc9bd5a9-00e0-438d-9225-873fb1f4dffa>

Grid Resilience

\$3.9 Billion To Modernize and Expand America's Power Grid through the US Department of Energy's (DOE) [Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships \(GRIP\) Program](#). Administered by the Grid Deployment Office, the GRIP program enhances grid flexibility and resilience against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change while supporting meaningful community and labor engagement, investing in the American workforce, and advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

This funding opportunity, the second under the GRIP program, focuses on projects that will improve electric transmission by increasing funding and advancing interconnection processes for faster build out of energy projects, create comprehensive solutions that link grid communications systems and operations to increase resilience and reduce power outages and threats, and deploy advanced technologies such as distributed energy resources and battery systems to provide essential grid services to ensure American communities across the country have access to affordable, reliable, clean electricity.

Concept papers are a required first step in the [application process](#) and are due at 5:00 p.m. ET on January 12, 2024.

EV Infrastructure

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has announced program details for Round 1A of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) funding opportunity. The proposal period will open on December 11, 2023, and close on January 26, 2024, at 5:00 PM EST. Thirty-five corridor-groups are eligible for funding in Round 1A. A map of priority locations eligible for Round 1A funding can be found [here](#)

The Funding Opportunity and additional materials for proposers' reference and use are available on PennDOT's [Apply for NEVI Funds](#) webpage. For the full Round 1A announcement, please visit PennDOT's website [here](#).

PennDOT also recently announced that the first NEVI site in Pennsylvania is under construction. For more information, you may view the full announcement [here](#).

Please note that PennDOT also now hosts an interactive [EV Registrations Map](#).

Pennsylvania Microgrids Study & Webinar

The PA Department of Environmental Protection has commissioned the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) to develop a study that defines statewide resilience needs and evaluates potential microgrid solutions to provide enhanced resilience. This project will run through June 2024, and we are asking for your input to best align the results with the needs of people in the state.

Join the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection on December 5th from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET for a virtual webinar to learn more about the project and provide feedback on prioritizing potential sites within the state.

Stakeholders participating in this webinar will be provided:

- An opportunity to learn about what microgrids are and how they can be strategically deployed to increase resilience across the state.

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Microgrids (continued)

- A look at the process that SEPA and PA DEP are taking to identify and prioritize locations for potential microgrid deployments.
- An opportunity to participate and rank key inputs used to prioritize sites.

You can find details about the meeting below:

Date: December 5, 2023 (11 am to 12:30 pm ET)

Virtual Meeting Instructions:

- Zoom Meeting Link - <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://sepapower-org.zoom.us/j/95605762849?pwd%3DYjJ0YXVya292MW8vaVA1OXdCT3NiQT09&sa=D&source=calendar&usg=AOvVaw1Z7mk2PPm-mQB5pwx9bykH>
- ID: 95605762849
- Passcode: 603726
- (US) +1 646-931-3860
- Passcode: 603726

PUC Announces Rate Changes for Winter Season

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) is alerting consumers that many utilities are adjusting their energy supply prices this fall – including all PUC regulated electric utilities on December 1st – and reminding households to understand those changes, explore options to manage winter energy bills, and #CallUtilitiesNow to discuss affordability programs.

All Pennsylvania regulated electric utilities are adjusting their PTCs on December 1 for residential non-shopping customers. 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 December 1, electric distribution companies report the following changes in their PTCs for residential customers:

- **Citizens' Electric**, *estimated decrease* from 13.333 cents to 10.964 cents per kWh (-18%);
- **Duquesne Light**, *estimated decrease* from 11.45 cents to 10.46 cents per kWh (-8.6%);
- **Met-Ed**, increase from 10.24 cents to 11.306 cents per kWh (10.4%);
- **PECO**, *estimated decrease* from 9.672 cents to 8.919 cents per kWh (-7.8%);
- **Penelec**, increase from 9.703 cents to 10.607 cents per kWh (9.3%);
- **Penn Power**, increase from 10.556 cents to 11.231 cents per kWh (6.4%);
- **Pike Co. Light & Power**, increase from 7.3005 cents to 8.67 cents per kWh (18.8%);
- **PPL**, decrease from 12.126 cents to 11.028 cents per kWh (-9%);
- **UGI Electric**, decrease from 12.128 cents to 10.26 cents per kWh (-15.4%);
- **Wellsboro Electric**, decrease from 12.393 cents to 9.206 cents per kWh (-25.7%); and
- **West Penn Power**, increase from 9.929 cents to 10.001 cents per kWh (1%).

In purchasing electricity for default service customers, the PUC notes that electric utilities are required to meet a "prudent mix" requirement of spot market, short-term, and long-term purchase contracts. Plus, over time, the utilities must procure energy at the least possible cost to customers.

However, the Commission does not regulate prices for the generation portion of electric bills. Generation prices are separate from the closely-regulated rates that utilities charge for their distribution services – the delivery of electricity to homes and businesses.

Business Customers

For small business customers, the PUC notes that most EDCs are also adjusting their PTCs on December 1 in their small Commercial and Industrial rate classes. Among the state's major EDCs, price changes in default service rates for small businesses will vary – ranging from PTC increases in the FirstEnergy service territories (Met-Ed, Penelec, Penn Power and West Penn Power) between 1% to 10% to an anticipated decrease of nearly 9% for small business customers in the Duquesne Light service territory.

You can read the full press release [here](#).

PMEA Public Power Services Program Still Available

To enhance the quality and range of services offered to our member municipalities, PMEA continues to offer the Public Power Services Program (PPSP). This program is open to all PMEA members for services related to public power only.

The PPSP is designed to provide legal, engineering, and/or management related services to PMEA members. PMEA is pleased to partner with Utility Engineers, the Meyner Center, and Salzmans Hughes for this range of services. All services requested must be public power related. Examples of possible project areas include systems design, operation or management; electric rate studies; technology implementation; organizational assessment; financial analysis; electric systems billing and collection; power purchase agreements; and more.



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Public Power Services Program (continued)

Once the PMEA member municipality has the initial consultation and an estimate of costs for a specific project, the member may submit an additional request to PMEA to assist in funding a portion of the project costs. Members will submit the specific project and budget information to the PMEA executive director (via the form provided on the website). All requests will be considered by the PMEA Board. PMEA has established a separate fund for this program and all requests related to public power will be honored until the allocated funds are exhausted.

If your municipality has a specific project/service need that is public power related and can be addressed by one or more of our partner providers, it may be eligible. An application is available on the PMEA website - www.papublicpower.org/services.

Lend Your Voice to Public Power in DC

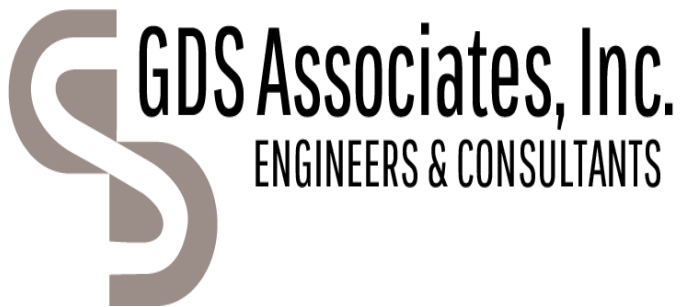


Plan now to attend the APPA Legislative Rally in Washington, DC next year and help our federal leaders understand the issues that impact our public power communities. In addition to energy related issues, come and discuss workforce challenges, specific funding needs, and other barriers to effectively serving your communities. Registration will open soon for the rally on February 26 – 28, 2024. PMEA arranges meetings with PA Congressional delegation members to share information on the most pressing issues. Additional information will be available on the APPA website, <https://www.publicpower.org/event/legislative-rally>.

Associate Member Spotlight

GDS is 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. Headquartered in Marietta, Georgia, GDS has offices in Alabama, California, Florida, Maine, New Hampshire, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.



To learn more, please visit GDS at <https://www.gdsassociates.com/> or contact Garrett Cole, Principal, garrett.cole@gdsassociates.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. We also welcome your suggestions for topics of interest for our newsletters.

Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association

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