



Save these Dates!



PMEA 2023 Annual Conference – September 3 – 5, 2025
@ Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford

PMEA Business Workshop (*formerly Finance Workshop)
– September 3, 2025 @ Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford

2024 Training for Line Crews – **Watch your email for registration details**

Digger (Please register ASAP)

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

Substation 101 (Registration open)

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



PMEA Spring Superintendents/ Foremen Meeting
April 10 & 11, 2025 @ The Nittany Lion Inn, State College

PMEA Releases Public Power Course

During the business meeting at the annual conference this year, PMEA released a preview of the new public power course. Titled Public Power Governance 101, this educational video is designed for elected officials, staff, and stakeholders in Pennsylvania's 35 public power communities. This comprehensive module offers invaluable insights into the management and operation of municipal electric systems.

PUBLIC POWER GOVERNANCE 101



Key Topics Covered

1. Introduction to Public Power
2. Governance and Leadership
3. Operational Insights
4. Financial Management
5. Legal and Regulatory Landscape
6. Future-Focused Strategies

This program is essential for PMEA members, including newly elected officials and staff in public power communities as well as experienced leaders seeking to refresh their knowledge.

Individuals completing the course may request a certificate of completion from PMEA. Borough councils may want to watch the video together and discuss the topics. PMEA staff is also available to come to your meetings to discuss the content with council and/ or staff. If you are interested in viewing the course, please contact Diane Bosak (bosak@papublicpower.org) at the PMEA office, for a private link to the video on our PMEA YouTube channel.

Gain insights into best practices and enhance your ability to serve your community through effective public power management.

We Need Your Help...

Please take a few minutes to complete the training survey and help us set the training courses for 2025 that will be most beneficial to you. Survey link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9M6JXLT>.

Norm Baron Receives Public Power Award

Norm Baron, Utility Engineers, was recognized for his role in supporting PMEA communities over his 40-year career as an engineer. He received this year's James P Havrilla Public Power Service Award during the conference luncheon on Thursday. Jeffrey Stonehill, PMEA President, and Andy Krauss, PMEA Vice President, presented the award to Norm. Krauss emphasized how the municipalities could always "count on Norm to go up against the big IOU guys." Both Stonehill and Krauss noted that Norm has been an engineering resource for PMEA for many years and in ways that are not widely known.



The award is named after James Havrilla, a professional engineer, who worked with many, if not all, of the PMEA members over his many years. Jim, together with Norm, formed Utility Engineers PC in 2008.

Report on Transformer Shortage

The President's National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) recently made public a report on the transformer shortage. The report, [Addressing the Critical Shortage of Power Transformers to Ensure Reliability of the U.S. Grid](#), makes the following recommendations:

- Craft federal policies and designate funding targeted at increasing domestic capacity, such as tax credits, grants, accelerated depreciation, funding for new apprentice or training programs, and other incentives, using the Crafting Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act as a model;
 - Achieve greater accuracy in transformer-demand forecasting that provides a more comprehensive outlook across the next 10 to 15 years by convening all parties who drive demand;
 - Encourage long-term contracts/customer commitments between transformer suppliers and the industry sectors driving demand and establish favorable regulatory frameworks to enable them;
 - Establish a strategic virtual reserve of transformers, with the U.S. government as the buyer of last resort;
 - Promote collaboration between design engineers from utilities, engineering firms, trade associations, and domestic and foreign manufacturers to standardize transformer design, reduce complexity associated with customization, and facilitate interoperability through standardized interfaces between transformers and other grid components;
 - Ensure a sufficient supply of electrical steel by coordinating incentives for new domestic supply, governmental efficiency standards, and trade policy; and
 - Grow the pipeline of qualified workers by partnering with universities, community colleges, and trade schools on training programs, while working with federal, state, and local governments to craft tax incentives for workers who enter the field.
-

PA Awarded \$4.6 Million for Improved Electric Transmission Siting

According to a news release from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), the Commission has received a \$4.6 million grant from the Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office to enhance the process for reviewing proposed high-voltage transmission line projects.

PUC Chairman Stephen M. DeFrank, upon receiving the grant, noted: "Siting transmission facilities and managing associated costs are key components of the evolving electricity market. These federal funds will significantly support... activities such as customer outreach, staff training, and engagement in federal proceedings."



With this funding, the PUC will enhance its review process for proposed high-voltage transmission projects by:

- Strengthening communication with communities, residents, businesses, and utilities impacted by these projects.
- Increasing transparency in the PUC's review process.
- Expanding resources for conducting public input hearings and site visits.
- Providing additional training for PUC staff involved in project reviews and decision-making.
- Adding resources and expertise to effectively represent Pennsylvania's interests before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other relevant agencies.

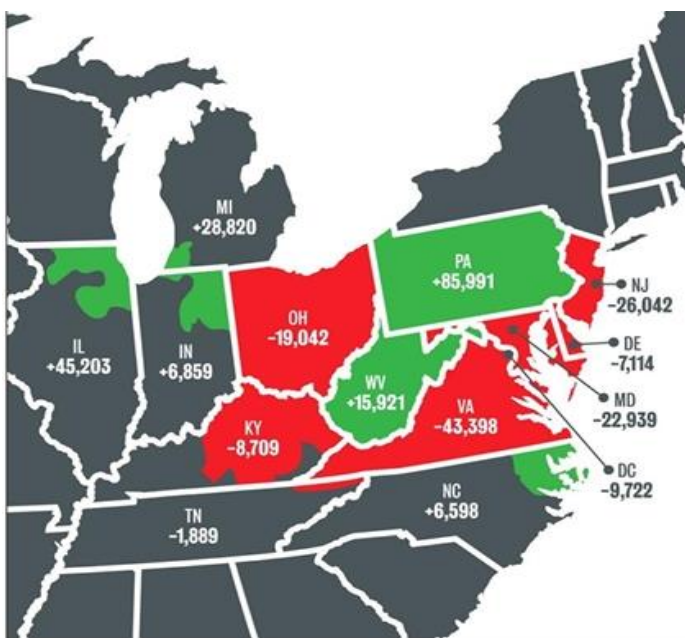
The Commission emphasized that these grant funds are intended to enhance the regulatory process and foster public discussion about high-voltage transmission projects. Each siting application will be evaluated based on the facts and evidence to determine whether individual projects serve the public interest.

PJM Grid in Peril Report Released

Pittsburgh Works released a report on PJM, the largest grid in the country, and the challenges in meeting supply and demand needs. PJM expects a 20-25% increase in demand by 2030 – this at a time when more generation plants are being closed. The Commonwealth is the largest contributor to the PJM grid (as shown in the graphic below). The report, [The PJM Grid in Peril: What Will Keep the Lights On?](#), highlights the critical issues while also noting that PJM has previously drawn attention to the crisis.

Among the findings, according to the report's summary:

- **Fossil Fuels and Nuclear Power Dominate:** Together, they provide nearly all the power (92%) on the PJM grid.
- **Limited Renewable Energy Production:** Most of the PJM states produce little wind and solar power, less than 5%.
- **Reliance on a Just Few States:** Most PJM states already do not generate enough electricity to meet their own demand and must rely on other states like Pennsylvania.
- **Government Policies Increasing Risk:** Despite the growing reliance on electricity, government policies are pushing to close fossil fuel plants at the same time many states are requiring 50% or more of their power consumption to come from renewables.



- **Potential Supply Shortage by 2030:** The combination of the growing demand for electricity, the closing of fossil fuel generating plants, and insufficient new reliable generation is “nearly certain” to lead to a supply shortage by 2030, if not sooner, according to PJM. “That math is not good,” PJM says.
- **Pennsylvania’s Critical Role:** Pennsylvania is the keystone that makes PJM work. Gov. Shapiro’s electricity proposals threaten to further disrupt the PJM grid, which supplies power to 65 million people and more than 20% of the U.S. economy.

Pittsburgh Works is an organization consisting of union leaders and executives from the manufacturing, energy, and utility sectors as well as economic development professionals, and is committed to working to ensure an economy to provide opportunity to all.

For a copy of the report, got to <https://pghworks.com/pittsburgh-works-together-releases-new-report-the-pjm-grid-in-peril-what-will-keep-the-lights-on/>.

In an op-ed piece published in [Pittsburgh Post Gazette](#) in August, Terry Fitzpatrick, CEO of the Energy Association of PA, notes that “PJM Interconnection operates the regional electric grid serving 13 states and the District of Columbia. It issued a report last year warning that, under current trends, there may not be enough electric generating capacity to keep the lights on by 2028–2030”.

He further adds, that “[T]he problem results from a combination of circumstances.” That combination includes increased demand – think EVs, data centers, and AI – together with climate policies in other states forcing the premature closing of power plants.

He continues: “[A]s a result, PJM’s interconnection queue now consists almost entirely of renewable energy and battery projects. These technologies alone can’t replace the reliability value of power plants capable of operating around the clock.

Pennsylvania’s energy policies have not caused this problem. We generate more electricity than any other state in PJM, and we have not forced the closure of natural gas and coal plants.

Fitzpatrick offers that the most viable solution would be for the others states and the federal government to ease up on climate policies to help stabilize and preserve electricity supplies. “But Pennsylvania lawmakers can’t control those decisions, and these other jurisdictions show no sign of changing course.”

He concludes by noting that since restructuring of the industry more than 20 years ago, “we have relied on incentives in PJM’s wholesale markets to ensure enough power plants were built to guarantee adequate electricity supplies. That worked until recently, but we now face the prospect that these markets have been damaged and can no longer be relied on to ensure adequate supplies.” Fitzpatrick adds that government intervention may become necessary to support power plants capable of “24/7” operations to “offset the mandates and subsidies given to renewable energy.”

Terry Fitzpatrick is the president and CEO of the Energy Association of PA and a former chairman of the PA PUC.

Annual Conference Highlights

The PMEA Business Workshop and Annual Conference highlighted many of the issues facing public power communities today. With a packed agenda and an array of national and state level speakers, attendees had an opportunity to learn more about issues such as landlord and tenant responsibilities for utility bills, market update and outlook on energy pricing, a national perspective from APPA's CEO Scott Corwin, and so much more.

PowerPoint presentations are available for a limited time on the PMEA website – www.papublicpower.org – under the Members Section.



2024 Will Be Better If You Share Your News....

Please share with us your exciting new projects, photos, personnel updates, and any other news you want to spread the word about. We know there is much happening in our member communities! 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

1801 Market St., Suite 300
Camp Hill, PA 17011
Tel: 717-489-2088
info@papublicpower.org