



## **Wellsboro Electric Company**

2023 Summer Readiness

5/11/2023

### **A. Reliability Enhancement Program**

#### **a. Enhanced Vegetation Management**

The Company will perform a detailed inspection of 4 distribution circuits in 2023. This inspection will identify hazard trees for future removal by an approved tree trimming company or by Wellsboro Electric crews. Off ROW hazard trees are reviewed by the Company and removed when funds are available, and the tree is considered a priority.

#### **b. Storm Hardening**

The Company is continuing to test 1500-1600 poles each year under a Red Tag program. Any failures will be replaced the following year unless the failure is identified as requiring immediate replacement. These replacements will harden the distribution system during times of extreme weather consisting of high winds and heavy rains. We are using 45' and 50' class 2 or 3 poles along roadways and depending on the number of attachers. We continue to re-conductor several miles of 3 phase each year that will enable loop feeds.

#### **c. Fuses/Reclosers/Automatic Switches**

Fusing is installed on single phase taps for new construction to protect the three phase lines during summer storms. Wellsboro will have completed inspections of all automatic reclosers on the system for 2023 by the end of Summer, in accordance with Wellsboro Electric's I&M program. Wellsboro Electric does not use automatic switches. Fusing and the addition of reclosers will be evaluated as a need gets identified. Wellsboro has replaced all mechanical reclosers with 3 phase vacuum reclosers and S&C Trip Savers.

#### **d. Smart Grid**

Wellsboro Electric is 100% automated with Aclara meters (Hourly).

#### **e. Conservation Voltage Reduction (CVR) activity**

N/A

#### **f. Continual Improvement**

The Company has started re-conductoring lines and creating tie points in the system. This will help with balancing load as well as improving reliability. We are looking at grants under the IIJA to fund continued improvements in resiliency and automation.

#### **g. New Programs/ New technology implementation**

The Company continues to add new technology, AppSuite continues to be used for inspection of our system as well as mapping for the outside crews. In the future, we will add material management.



## B. Preventative Maintenance Programs

### a. Capacitor Inspections

Capacitors are inspected during the Company's overhead line inspection.

### b. Vegetation Management

The company oversees the tree trimming bid work done on Wellsboro Electric's system to ensure the work is completed per the Company's specifications.

### c. Substation Inspections

Substations are inspected monthly in accordance with the Company's inspection & maintenance program. Substations are inspected monthly with an infrared camera to identify hot spots. Any hot spots that are identified are reported and fixed ASAP.

### d. Aerial Patrols

Wellsboro will continue to collect data with a drone in 2023. The patrols will be performed by an external vendor with flying expertise. The data will import directly into our system. This will allow for any notes and pictures to be appended to the structure keeping a date and time stamp of when the activity was completed. This program will provide us with valuable information that cannot be seen from the ground.

### e. Infrared Inspections

The Company inspects all major equipment (ex. regulators, ocr's) twice a year and Substations are inspected monthly. Junction poles are inspected during the line inspections performed each year according to the Company's approved I&M Plan.

### f. UAV (drone) use

Refer to section d. Aerial Patrols.

## C. Capacity Planning

Wellsboro has sufficient capacity in the Hilltop substation of 50 MVA to double today's load (18 MW's). Individual circuits are monitored on the Company's distribution system. Additional system upgrades are planned to take place over the next several years to increase capacity and balance load on individual circuits. There was a 20-year long range plan developed in 2022 defining areas on the system for conductor upgrades, building additional 3 phase lines to balance loads and add tie points as well as converting the remaining step down locations on the system.



#### **D. 2022 Storm Update and Lessons Learned**

The Company experienced one major storm in December of 2022. With changing weather patterns, the Company has identified that it can expect to see larger outage numbers if a West wind over 50 mph occurs.

#### **E. 2023 Summer Readiness**

##### **a. Capacity Additions**

The tie points have improved the reliability of critical load with the current infrastructure. During 2023, there will be additional tie point locations identified and built to improve switching to isolate faults and bring blocks of customers back on-line safely and in a timely manner. The Company has started reconductoring circuits to increase capacity as well as increase reliability.

##### **b. Transmission Preparedness**

The Company does not own any transmission line.

##### **c. Event Preparedness**

Wellsboro Electric reviews storm procedures with company personnel. Material stock is evaluated periodically and is kept at appropriate levels for normal work. The Company maintains an emergency stock for larger events. The Company has one customer that participates in the Demand Response Program to help PJM maintain transmission system integrity during events.

##### **d. Training**

The Company participates in training for all levels of linemen and the Apprentice linemen participate in an online curriculum.

##### **e. Personnel**

The Company plans to maintain the complement of linemen at 7 in 2023.

#### **F. Storm Response**

##### **a. Outage Restoration Strategy**

The Company's restoration strategy is to restore customers power in a safe and efficient manner. Under larger storms we identify critical facilities (water, sewer, medical, shelters, etc.) to repair first, then three phase lines and finally single-phase lines using internal/external line crews for repairs. We'll be identifying areas where group op switches can be installed to help isolate an outage. The areas with an outage can then be sectionalized to get as many customers on-line ASAP and then work the problem and bring the final customers back when the problem has been fixed. The addition of vacuum reclosers has improved the isolation process and it keeps customers on if a fault is cleared.



**b. Communications and Outreach**

The Company uses several forms of communications for routine daily updates including phone, newspaper, mailers, and social media. The Company has a VP of Communications when larger events arise including storms. The Company has an outage map on our website that customers can access during an outage to see if an outage is impacting their area.

**c. Outage Restoration and Storm Response Best Practices Implements and/or Identified for Future Implementation**

Wellsboro participates with the EAP best practices group and incorporates changes that are relevant to the Company. The Company looks at ways to improve processes and procedures and then reviews it with Company personnel.

**G. Supply Chain Issues**

**a. Procurement concerns for equipment/materials**

The Company continues to see longer than normal lead times on certain items that are needed to maintain the system. This has been dealt with by increasing the amount of stock we have on hand or ordering items ahead of time for future needs.