

# Pennsylvania Summer Reliability

## MET-ED

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### A. Reliability Enhancement Programs

In 2015, Metropolitan Edison Company (“Met-Ed” or “Company”) plans to maintain its trend of strong system reliability by continuing a series of reliability initiatives that focus on the performance of the three-phase distribution backbone. These initiatives included aggressive tree trimming, targeted circuit rehabilitation, the replacement of porcelain cutouts with polymer cutouts, adding additional protective equipment to circuits and installing SCADA devices.

As part of its vegetation management program, Met-Ed thoroughly inspects and performs vegetation management on every circuit once every five years. The trees identified by this program were determined to be a potential cause of a future outage and were removed to prevent an interruption of electrical service to Met-Ed’s customers. Portions of a circuit that experience high customer interruption minutes due to vegetation-caused outages may be targeted to receive enhanced vegetation management, which includes removal of certain healthy limbs, based on tree species and condition, which overhang primary conductors.

The targeted circuit rehabilitation program is designed to locate equipment, such as crossarms, insulators, and cutouts that are in need of repair or replacement. The items identified by this program are then prioritized and the equipment is either repaired or replaced, as appropriate.

Met-Ed has installed a number of protective devices, such as fuses and reclosers, across the entire system. In the event that an outage does occur, these devices prevent circuit lockouts by limiting the area of an outage to smaller sections of the circuit. Met-Ed has also been proactively replacing porcelain cutouts with polymer cutouts. Crews have focused their efforts in the lockout zone of the circuit, as this represents the greatest opportunity to enhance the Company’s system. Additionally, Met-Ed continued its efforts to add SCADA devices that allow for prompt restoration during outages. In the past year, Met-Ed has also installed fault indicators that are designed to help linemen quickly locate the source of an outage.

### B. Preventative Maintenance Programs

In accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 57.198, every two years, Met-Ed files a Biennial Inspection, Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Plan. This Biennial Plan is designed to reduce the risk of outages on the Company’s system and form the basis for the Company’s inspection and maintenance objectives. The Biennial Plan includes programs to conduct vegetation management, pole inspections, distribution overhead line inspections, distribution transformer inspections, recloser inspections and substation inspections.

These well-established maintenance programs ensure the existing system will continue to operate in a safe and reliable manner and serve to identify any potential system issues so that they can be proactively addressed.

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### C. Capacity Planning

Met-Ed's electric delivery system is able to serve customers' needs without problems as a result of ongoing system enhancements and the hard work of employees and contractors. The weather is again expected to be the primary driver of customer demand this summer.

Met-Ed does not foresee significant concerns with system delivery capacity during the upcoming summer based on its performance during last summer's peak. Ongoing facility enhancements designed to improve reliability, load-bearing upgrades, and customers' adoption of energy efficiency and conservation opportunities are being viewed as additional opportunities to strengthen the system.

### D. 2014/2015 Storm Update and Lessons Learned

In calendar year 2014, Met-Ed experienced two major events, Ice Storm Nika in February and severe thunderstorms in July.

Throughout coordination efforts, working safely and efficiently is the main objective. Regional conference calls are executed to plan and prepare logistics. Effective planning allows for the precise deployment of crews, supplies, and equipment. Employees are also staggered around the clock to maximize productivity.

After each major storm event, Met-Ed leadership conducts post storm review meetings to identify and disseminate lessons learned to be used for improving the emergency response plan. Some areas for improvement identified during these meetings included additional training opportunities for dispatchers, opportunities for improved internal communication and resources on demand process improvements. Additionally, recommendations identified in Staff's Summary Report of Outage Information were further reviewed and discussed by the Electric Distribution Companies Best Practices Team.

### E. 2015 Summer Readiness

**Capacitor Inspections** – As of June 1, Met-Ed will have inspected all line capacitor banks and completed all necessary repairs or replacements to ensure at least 98% availability.

**Substation** - As of June 1, Met-Ed will have inspected all substation capacitor banks and completed all necessary repairs or replacements to ensure 100% availability.

**Aerial Patrols** – Two aerial maintenance patrols are conducted annually in Pennsylvania to inspect transmission facilities. The purpose of the routine patrols is to ensure the integrity of in-service transmission lines to maintain safe and reliable service. The first aerial patrol of transmission lines in Met-Ed was completed in March and the second will be completed by year end.

**Capacity Additions:**

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- **1.6 mile 13.2kV Distribution Line Rebuild and Upgrade** – This project is necessary to serve a new pump station in Berks County and is expected to be completed by June 30, 2015.
- **69kV Line Extension** – This project will serve Kutztown University in Berks County and is expected to be completed by June 30, 2015.
- **14 MVA 69-13.2kV Substation** – Met-Ed will install a new substation in Reading to serve the Reading Hospital, which is expected to be completed by June 30, 2015.

**Transmission Preparedness** - Met-Ed conducts an annual transmission readiness review with transmission operations to discuss the capability and reliability of the system for the summer. The Company's detailed review did not reveal any significant issues for the summer of 2015. Based on the system conditions modeled, the Met-Ed transmission system is expected to sufficiently support the forecasted peak summer loading. During the system assessment a voltage stability analysis was conducted and produced acceptable power-voltage response curves.

In addition, PJM has operational procedures identified to effectively control and mitigate contingency outage conditions on the transmission system. Met-Ed has operational procedures outlined to implement any PJM required actions and to mitigate contingency conditions on the lower voltage systems (<100kV).

**Emergency Exercises** – As part of the FirstEnergy Utilities (“FEU”) Emergency Preparedness program, Met-Ed completed a company-wide emergency exercise in the first quarter of 2015. The structure of the exercise facilitated the testing and validation of key emergency response roles, systems and processes. The primary objective of each exercise was to ensure a complete understanding of the restoration process by all participants through exposure to a variety of real-world scenarios and decision making challenges that could be experienced during actual restoration events.

**Event Preparedness** – The primary cause for significant effects to the electric transmission and distribution system is the impact of severe weather. FirstEnergy's in-house meteorologists use highly sophisticated, proprietary data and forecasting models specifically designed to provide actionable intelligence. When predicted weather meets specific criteria, planning and preparation work is immediately initiated, many times days before any impact.

As part of the preparation efforts, Met-Ed's executive leadership and operations managers locally engage the emergency restoration process. Based on available data and collaboration within Met-Ed, resource needs are evaluated and requests are submitted as needed to the FEU Emergency Operations Center for fulfillment. These requests can include, but are not limited to: line resources (both internal to FirstEnergy and external), hazard responders, damage assessors, public protectors, vegetation crews, equipment needs, and material requirements. Depending on the predicted

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magnitude of the event, staging areas are pre-identified and can be quickly activated to prepare for the efficient deployment of crews and equipment.

**Refresher Training** – All employees with emergency response roles receive appropriate refresher training at specified intervals in order to be immediately deployable when an event impacts the system. Expectations for employees to complete appropriate training and verify all equipment and personal protective equipment are available and in proper working order are communicated each year during emergency exercises and verified by Met-Ed management.

**Staffing** – Met-Ed conducts a staffing analysis annually which accounts for attrition, including retirements, to determine the proper staffing levels of craft workers. As a result of this analysis, the Power Systems Institute (“PSI”), which is a unique, two-year program that combines classroom learning with hands-on training, will be reinstated beginning with fall enrollment 2015. The PSI enrollment summary for Met-Ed in 2015 includes fifteen line workers and four substation electricians.<sup>1</sup> Students enrolling in 2015 will graduate in 2017, after which eligible graduates will go through the standard hiring process. The following colleges have partnered with Met-Ed to support these line worker and substation electrician development:

- Reading Area Community College
- Pennsylvania Highlands Community College

## F. Storm Response

**Outage Restoration Strategy** – Information obtained through the use of various tools and resources is critical to determine the type, number and location of resources needed to assure prompt restoration of service. Line personnel, damage assessors and hazard responders are integral resources in providing initial and ongoing assessments of the damage in the field. Line personnel are equipped with mobile data terminals (“MDTs”) in their vehicles and will input damage information directly into the MDT. This information is immediately available for viewing in the Outage Management System (“OMS”). The OMS is the central collection point for all relevant information concerning damage reports, assessment and configuration of the electric distribution system. During emergencies that meet triggering criteria, the circuit quarantine process is used for rapid assessment of heavily damaged circuits.

In addition to the resources discussed above, a number of tools are also available for determining the extent of outages and damage, as well as the number of customers affected. These include: aerial patrols, remote indicators, OMS and associated dashboards, customer calls, and police and fire personnel.

**Communications and Outreach** - External Affairs managers establish communications with emergency management agencies (EMAs), local officials and regulators in advance of and throughout a storm to keep them apprised of preparation and planning efforts. Communications representatives also contact the media to enlist their help in encouraging customers to prepare for the likely storm events and provide information on

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<sup>1</sup> Enrollment numbers are subject to change.

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who to call if they lose power. Proactive email alerts and phone messages are initiated to key stakeholders, critical care, and well water customer alerting them to the potential for extended power outages. These efforts and face-to-face outreach are closely aligned with the Company's service restoration efforts. The Company also provides safety messages via newspapers, radio, and as online banner ads.

**Outage Restoration and Storm Response Best Practices** – Met-Ed has implemented various best practices, tools and technology to continuously improve both the restoration process and communications with key stakeholders and customers during events.

Met-Ed is making it easier for customers to check the progress of service restoration efforts when they experience a power outage. The Company's "24/7 Power Center" *outage maps* display the status of crews restoring service after a power outage in the Met-Ed service territory. Met-Ed customers can see when crews have been dispatched, when they are working on a repair, and when additional crews or equipment are needed to complete restoration work.

In addition, customers can subscribe to *email and text message alert notifications* to receive billing reminders, weather alerts in advance of major storms, and updates on scheduled or extended power outages.

*Hazard Responder iPhone App* – This application allows for direct dispatching of critical information regarding identified hazards to a responder team in the field. The app provides location information, customer call comments, turn-by-turn directions to the location and has the ability to input information and pictures directly into assigned orders. This information is passed directly into the OMS and is available to more accurately prioritize resources and ensure the correct resource and materials are sent to the site for repairs.

*Enhanced ETR tools* – Several new and enhanced tools have been developed and implemented that improve and streamline the process of establishing ETRs. Dashboards have also been developed that make it much easier to monitor ETR performance and adherence.

*Work Prioritization Tool* – A tool that assimilates and helps prioritize emergency work based on selected inputs and parameters whose purpose is to maximize restoration progress.

*Staging Site Standardization* – A full audit of all sites is ongoing to ensure appropriate agreements are in place, facilities are mapped, needed equipment is staged at strategic warehouse locations, and appropriate vendors are immediately deployable.

*Incident Command System (ICS) Implementation* – All Met-Ed employees are currently undergoing appropriate training on basic ICS principles.

*Electronic Damage Assessment* – Damage Assessors are now trained to use the Panasonic Toughpad, a ruggedized mobile display device to provide electronic documentation of damage. The Toughpad provides the Damage Assessor with an

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electronic field copy of circuit maps, allows for more rapid damage assessments, and can be used to generate an inventory list of damaged equipment.

*Foreign Crew Texting* – Met-Ed has implemented an innovative program that allows mutual assistance crews to text order status information. The OMS will be directly updated with information received from the field.