



# SPECIAL ELECTRIC RELIABILITY FORUM

## Commonwealth Preparation for Hurricane Irene

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# COMMONWEALTH PREPAREDNESS

- Weather calls begin several days in advance of hurricane Irene arrival and are facilitated by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)
- Numerous state agencies are on the calls – PEMA, PUC, PennDOT, Turnpike, DEP, State Police, Pa National Guard, etc. as well as Red Cross and FEMA Region III



# COMMONWEALTH PREPAREDNESS

- National Weather Service (NWS) provides briefing on potential weather impacts to Commonwealth and critical infrastructure
- Each agency briefs on current and projected actions and any unmet needs
- PEMA determines alert level based on input from NWS and state agencies
- PUC communicates with utilities before and after weather calls



# COMMONWEALTH PREPAREDNESS

- PEMA determines earlier in the week to raise the State Emergency Operations Center (State EOC) alert level to level II effective August 27, 2011
- PUC has Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers (EPLOs) report to the State EOC beginning on August 27th
- PUC EPLOs work 24X7 in State EOC (2 twelve-hour shifts per day) from August 27th until the evening of August 28th



# Hurricane Irene Hits Pennsylvania

- High winds and heavy rain begin to affect southeast PA late afternoon of August 27th
- By midnight of the 27th, approximately 220,000 customers are without power
- High winds affect eastern third of Pennsylvania throughout the overnight and morning hours of August 28th
- By 5 pm on August 28th, electrical outages have reached their peak of over 760,000

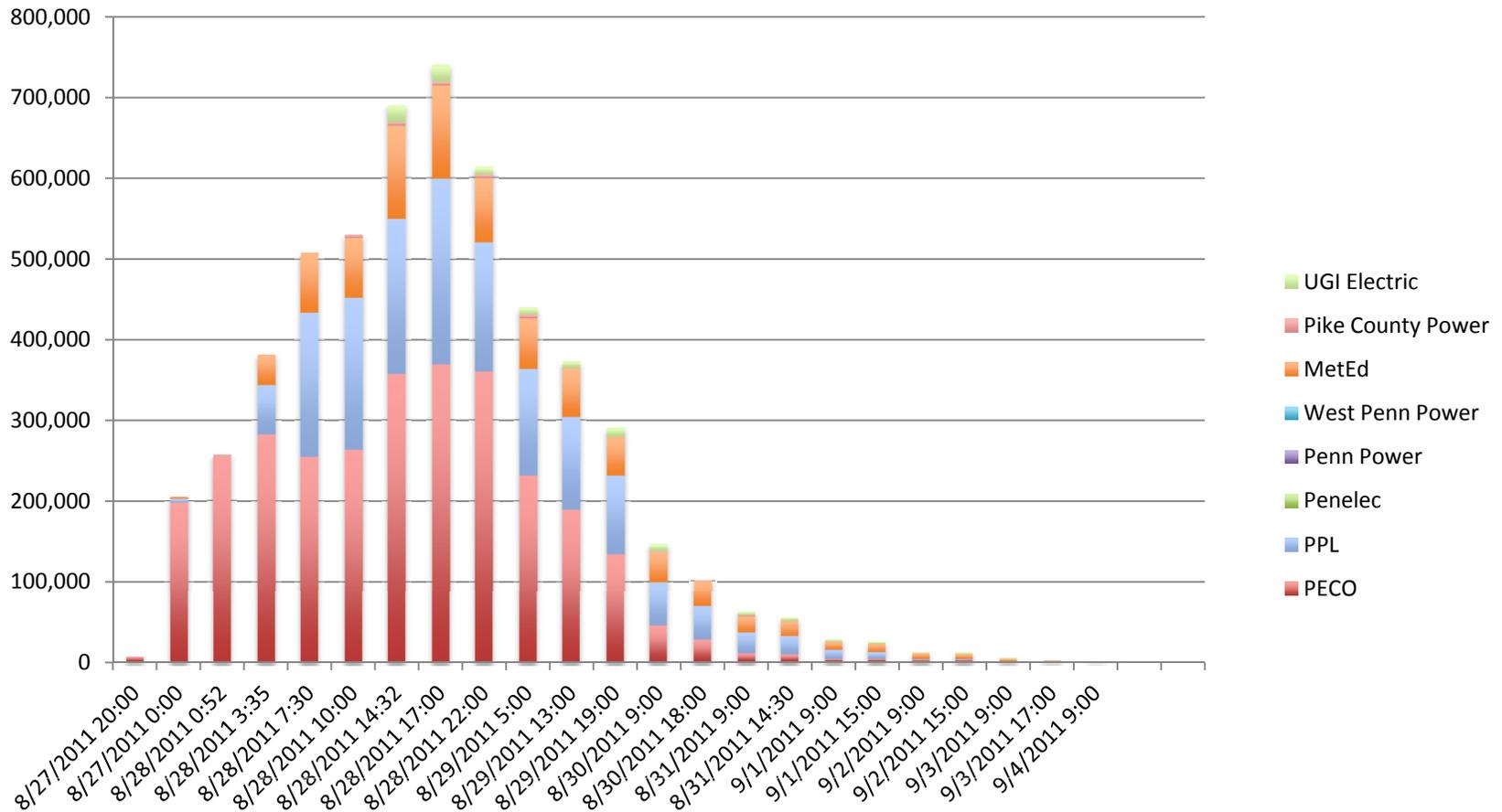


# Hurricane Irene Hits Pennsylvania

- The winds and rain die down by the afternoon of August 28th and recovery efforts begin
- State agencies continue to address life and safety issues in the State EOC
- Over 1.3 million customers suffer a loss of power at some point between August 27th and September 6th
- By August 31st, over 92% of customers are restored from the peak of 760,000



# Hurricane Irene Hits Pennsylvania





# PUC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Pre-storm the PUC Emergency Preparedness Coordinator notifies utilities and prepares EPLO team
- PUC EPLOs are trained in Incident Command and the National Incident Management System
- PUC EPLOs regularly participate in state-level weather and nuclear facility exercises in the State EOC



# PUC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- While at the State EOC, PUC EPLOs gather and disseminate information on electric, water, telephone and gas utility outages to PEMA and other agencies for planning purposes
- PUC EPLOs also work with PJM on any bulk power grid issues
- EPLOs also work with utilities on priority restoration of critical infrastructure, such as hospitals, prisons, water/wastewater plants
- During Irene response, EPLOs worked on power issues with water plants, hospitals, nursing homes and prisons



# PUC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Many water and wastewater plants were without power – this is a big priority as there are many downstream effects
- PUC EPLOs work with electric utilities, water utilities and PaWARN to address water plant power issues
- PUC EPLOs also assist with processing of waiver requests for utilities, such as oversize, overweight and consolidated Turnpike billing
- PUC also works with PA WARN and water utilities to provide potable water and water buffaloes



# PUC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Once the State EOC activation level is lowered in the late evening on August 28th, PUC EPLOs are demobilized
- Utility issues are then transitioned back to the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- Outage reporting and unmet needs continue to be addressed until September 6th



# PUC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Post-storm review preparation begins
- Additional information is requested of utilities
- PUC Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Electric Reliability Supervisor coordinate post-storm review meetings with utilities
- Lessons-learned and best practices are discussed
- Any further actions are considered