

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

RE: NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

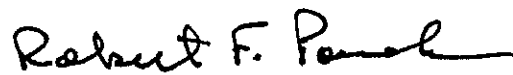
STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN ROBERT F. POWELSON

As you may know, October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. In honor of this, PECO and its parent company Exelon recently announced that they are partnering with the National Organization on Disability (NOD) on an initiative to hire individuals with disabilities. The NOD is a private, non-profit organization that focuses on increasing employment opportunities for the country's 29 million working-age disabled individuals. This initiative is particularly important considering the staggeringly high unemployment rate among this group – almost eight in 10 working-age disabled people are unemployed, and large portion of those that are employed are underemployed.

The NOD is seeking to reverse these numbers by partnering with employers, schools, the military, service providers, researchers, and disability advocates to deploy programs to increase the employment prospects for individuals with disabilities looking to enter or return to the workforce. This work is particularly important as thousands of wounded veterans attempt to transition out of the armed forces and put their military training to work for private employers.

Of course, the leadership shown by the NOD should not surprise anyone considering the visionaries involved – former Governor and Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge chairs the NOD's Board of Directors and former PUC Chairman John Quain was recently appointed to the Board.

I want to commend PECO and Exelon for being a trendsetter on this important issue and remind everyone in the audience today that you do not need to be a Fortune 150 company to make a difference in this area. I encourage all employers here today to educate themselves on what they can do to help bring employment to this country's disabled citizens.



ROBERT F. POWELSON
CHAIRMAN

DATE: October 31, 2013