



# 2023 Summer Readiness Overview

---

**Pike County Light & Power Company**

Submitted by:

Edward P. Verbraak  
General Manager  
105 Schneider Lane  
Milford, Pa 18337  
[everbraak@pclpeg.com](mailto:everbraak@pclpeg.com)

Date: May 25, 2023

## 1. ENHANCED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Pike County Light & Power Company (“PCL&P” or the “Company”) is an electric distribution company (“EDC”) which has approximately 5,200 delivery customers. The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Corning Natural Gas Holding Company (“CNGHC”). PCL&P’s service territory is comprised of two boroughs, and three townships including the county government seat in Milford.

The PCL&P service territory is fed from two 34.5 kV feeders that originate from the Orange and Rockland Utilities’ (“ORU”) Deerpark Substation in Orange County, New York. The Borough of Matamoras is served by two 13.2 kV feeders from the Matamoras Substation with backup tie capability to distribution circuitry from Orange and Rockland’s Port Jervis Substation. The Matamoras Substation is normally fed by ORU’s 116-2-34 34.5 kV circuit, with backup service being provided by ORU’s 116-4-34 34.5 kV feed through an automatic transfer scheme at the Matamoras substation. The western portion of the Pike service territory is a radial feed from ORU’s 116-4-34 34.5 kV circuit.

## 2. RELIABILITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS

### a. Enhanced Vegetation Management

The Company has had an effective danger trees removal program since 2017. Danger trees are removed from within rights-of-way areas as they are identified. For danger trees outside of rights-of-way, the Company works with its customers and municipalities to obtain approval for removal. This program remains ongoing.

Although the emerald ash borer continues to impact the area served by the Company, it has not been as pervasive as in recent years as previously resulting in fewer danger trees in need of removal in 2022-2023. The Company continues to work closely with local municipalities to identify trees in need of removal because of borer infestation.

### b. Storm Hardening

The Company’s pole inspections and defective pole replacements activities are ongoing and contribute to a “Storm Hardening” of the distribution system in PCL&P’s service territory. In 2017, PCL&P revised its pole standard specification to use ANSI O5.1-2017 Class 2 poles which provide significantly greater strength as compared to PCL&P’s previous standard Class 3 poles. The upgrade in the pole class and the replacement of state-of-the-art pole top apertures have been demonstrated to be more storm resistant as evidenced by the performance of the distribution system during inclement and severe weather periods.

c. Fuses/Reclosers/Automatic Switches

There are currently four reclosers on the 34.5 kV line feeding Milford and the western areas of the company's service territory. This allows for sectionalizing the circuit to minimize the number of customers affected during fault conditions. These units are visually inspected annually and functionally tested every three years prior to the summer peak period. These tests verify the availability of the reclosers to function when system activity increases due to storm or other activity on the circuits.

d. Smart Grid

No Smart Grid technology is installed or is planned at this time on the 13 kV circuits in PCL&P's service territory.

e. Conservation Voltage Reduction (CVR) activity

PCL&P does not participate in any Conservation Voltage Reduction activity.

f. Any other relevant continual improvement activity

As part of its LTIIP program, PCLP is currently constructing a second 13.2 kV feeder to serve as an alternate source to the radial feed currently serving the western section of the Company's 13.2 kV system in Westfall.

### 3. PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

a. Capacitor and Regulator Inspections

Pike uses a combination of seven fixed and automatically switched capacitor banks to maintain system voltage throughout the year. In addition, PCL&P has five distribution voltage regulators to help maintain nominal system voltage level throughout peak and off-peak load cycles. The Company will be completing functional tests for regulators and capacitor banks prior to the summer peak period in 2023.

b. Vegetation Management

The Company's vegetation management program consists of: (1) a not to exceed five-year scheduled preventive vegetation management cycle; (2) removal of danger trees/leaders when identified or requested by a municipality/customer; and (3) a hot spot trimming program that is applied as necessary.

Scheduled preventive vegetation management work was completed in the first quarter of 2023 on both 13.2 kV distribution circuits feeding out of the Matamoras Substation. Hot spot trimming is performed on an as needed basis.

c. Substation Inspections

A Class 4 inspection was performed on the Matamoras Substation in mid-April. Class 4 inspections are PCLP's most comprehensive and are performed every 6 to 10 years. The inspection includes maintaining all electro-mechanical equipment in the station inclusive of the substation transformer bank and its associated breakers and testing of the bank's oil for contaminants that might indicated an imminent failure. No major deficiencies were identified, and all minor deficiencies were corrected as they were identified. This included but was not limited to replacement of burnt-out relay alarm lights and dry rotted gaskets on the bank itself. The ongoing monthly visual substation inspections will be completed as scheduled.

d. Aerial Patrol

PCL&P system was last flown by a drone company for pole top inspection and all Interstate 84 overhead crossings poles in 2021. An inspection is scheduled for the summer of 2023. Anomalies identified will be catalogued and corrected based upon priority.

e. Infrared Inspections

The Company's infrared inspection will be performed concurrently with the pole top inspection during the summer of 2023.

f. Any other relevant continual improvement activity

The Company inspects the overhead lines of the PCL&P distribution system every two-years. These inspections identify defects and/or abnormal conditions on the distribution infrastructure as well as verifying satisfactory transformer conditions. The distribution pole inspection program is in its sixth of a twelve-year cycle with approximately 2800 poles having been inspected since 2016.

Due to the load growth in Pike County, the company regularly takes load checks on step-down transformers during peak periods to ensure that the equipment is adequately sized for the load it is serving.

## 4. CAPACITY PLANNING

The Company is awaiting approval from First Energy to tap into the proposed Shawnee-Walker 69 kV transmission line to be completed in 2025. If approved, a line tap to this transmission line would allow PCL&P to purchase capacity from the PJM RTO (PCL&P currently purchases all its capacity from the NYISO through ORU).

## 5. 2022 STORM UPDATE AND LESSONS LEARNED

PCL&P experienced no storms that qualified as Major Events in 2022.

## 6. SUMMER READINESS

### a. Capacity Additions

As discussed previously, the Company is awaiting approval from First Energy to tap into the proposed Shawnee-Walker 69 kV transmission line to be completed in 2025 by First Energy. There are no other plans to increase capacity at this time.

### b. Transmission Preparedness

PCL&P owns no transmission facilities.

### c. Event Preparedness

The Company has submitted an Electric Emergency Response Plan in March of 2019 that provides the guidelines to prepare and manage an electric event. The Company aggressively monitors weather conditions and forecasts throughout the year. Notifications are made to municipal authorities and outside restoration resources (including damage assessors, line crews and Corning support personnel) are secured as necessary.

### d. Training

Training programs are part of PCL&P employee development plans as a means to improve their effectiveness. In addition, specific training associated is conducted throughout the year to insure performance and uniformity.

Infrastructure upgrades and maintenance are performed by a contract workforce. The training of their employees is under their responsibility and documented in the contractor's EHASP.

e. Personnel sufficient

The Company reviews personnel needs on an ongoing basis as workloads and responsibilities change. The Company hired a part-time storekeeper on May 1, 2023.

## 7. STORM RESPONSE

a. General

Since March of 2018, PCL&P responds to storms with the use of their fulltime in-house contractor, and electric line, damage assessment, and vegetation management contractors, along with Corning Natural Gas employees. In addition, PCL&P's off-hour contractor Call Center will be activated to support utilizing its on CIS and outage management systems to allow PCL&P to manage their storms appropriately.

b. Communications and Outreach

The PCL&P team meets on ongoing basis with the local municipal and county government OEM personnel to review Emergency Response Plans and discuss updates in personnel, communication protocols and upcoming maintenance or project work.

c. Outage restoration/storm response best practices implemented and/or identified for future implementation

PCL&P follows established industry standards for restoring customers after major events. The foundation of its Electric Emergency Response Plan follows ICS protocols.

Once PCL&P implements contractor operations response teams it will apply the following general sequence for the restoration of the electric delivery system:

- Working with Municipalities, wires/trees down in heavy pedestrian areas or state or emergency service road closures and municipally reported wires down or road closures.
- Mainline restoration of 34.5 kV system which includes critical facilities, including hospitals, police and fire stations, water supply and sewage.
- Mainline restoration of 13.2 kV system includes police and fire stations, water supply and sewage
- All other wires down and road closures and all distribution circuit lockouts.
- All other affected customers prioritized laterals, service transformers and individuals.

This is incorporated with the implementation of damage assessment, vegetation removal and then electric repairs and restorations.

## 8. SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES

The Company continues to experience long lead times for a variety of different items and materials. A representative sampling is listed below.

- OH distribution transformers – 30+ weeks
- UG distribution transformers - 30+ weeks
- Insulators – 16 weeks
- CT's-PT's – 52 weeks
- Anchors – 40+ weeks
- Poles
  - 45' – 20-25 weeks
  - >65' – no delivery date given

The Company has also seen lead times in excess of 60 weeks on some less prominent items kept in inventory. To account for the longer lead times on these items, the Company has increased its inventory levels and it has adjusted its purchasing policies and practices to include requisitioning used or reconditioned equipment like transformers or requisitioning equipment that is not built to the Company's engineering design standards.

While no shortages have affected the Company's ability to serve its customers, it has been forced to look beyond traditional suppliers to obtain harder to get items, including looking on such web sites as Amazon and E-Bay. While this practice would probably not help larger EDCs, for PCLP's needs, smaller lots can sometimes be found from these non-conventional sources.