

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-3265

L. Richard Adamovich
v.
West Penn Power Company;

Public Meeting held August 2, 2012
2256848-ALJ
Docket No. C-2011-2256848

Michael T. Salanick
v.
West Penn Power Company

Docket No. C-2011-2247926

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER WAYNE E. GARDNER

Our electric distribution companies are aware of the fact that the statewide minimum inspection and treatment cycle for vegetation management is between four and eight years for distribution facilities.¹ However, implementation of a vegetation management schedule must be balanced against the duty to provide safe, reliable, and adequate service.²

In this case, West Penn proactively revised its vegetation management program in three important ways. First, the Company will trim 100 percent of its rural service territories within five years instead of eight. Second, the Company is prioritizing trimming from the substation to the first protective device, so that 100 percent of this prioritized corridor will be trimmed within three years. Lastly, the Company expects to increase its vegetation management budget from \$7.1 million in 2010, to a projected \$25 million for 2012. I believe that West Penn's increased dedication to vegetation management leads to higher reliability for its rural customers.

I strongly encourage all of our electric distribution companies to monitor their vegetation maintenance and trimming programs and proactively modify them based on their reliability indices. Doing so is a part of ensuring that Pennsylvania's electric consumers receive safe and reliable, and adequate service.

August 2, 2012
Date


Wayne E. Gardner, Commissioner

¹ 52 Pa. Code § 57.198(n)(1).

² 66 Pa.C.S.A. § 1501.