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October 1, 2013

VIA UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

RECEIVED

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

OCT 1 2013

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

**Re: Biennial Inspection, Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Plan –  
Metropolitan Edison Company for the period January 1, 2015 –  
December 31, 2016  
Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

M-2009-2094773

In accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 57.198, enclosed for filing on behalf of Metropolitan Edison Company (“Met-Ed”) is an original and one copy of the Biennial Inspection, Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Plan (the “Plan”) for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016. Please date stamp the extra copy and return it in the postage-prepaid envelope provided.

This Plan is designed consistent with the guidelines established by the National Electric Safety Code, the Codes and Practices of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Regulations, and the American National Standards Institute, Inc. The Plan also has been designed to reduce the risk of outages on Met-Ed’s system and form the basis of its inspection and maintenance goals and objectives as outlined in Met-Ed’s annual and quarterly reliability reports filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”).

Met-Ed respectfully requests that the Commission accept its Biennial Inspection, Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Plan. If you have any questions, please contact me or Tiffanne Cowan at (330) 761-4474.

Sincerely,

David J. Karafa /ms

David J. Karafa  
President, Pennsylvania Operations

Enclosure

c: D. Searfoorce

**Met-Ed**

A FirstEnergy Company

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**Biennial Inspection, Maintenance, Repair and Replacement  
Plan of Metropolitan Edison Company ("Met-Ed")**

**For the period of January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016**

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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

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## Revisions to Approved Plan

The Commission accepted Metropolitan Edison Company's ("Met-Ed") current Biennial Inspection, Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Plan ("I&M Plan") for 2013 and 2014 on April 23, 2012. The table below illustrates, in summary fashion, the proposed changes to the 2015 and 2016 plan that differ from the 2013-2014 I&M Plan.

<b>Met-Ed</b> <i>2013-2014 Plan</i>	<b>Met-Ed</b> <i>Proposed Program (effective January 1, 2015)</i>
<b>Vegetation Management – page 1</b>	
Standard specification to obtain 4 years of clearance.	Standard specification to obtain 5 years of clearance.
<b>Substation Inspections – page 12</b>	
Each monthly inspection consists of readings and patrol inspections.	Inspections will consist of three components: 1. Monthly Safety & Security, Visual Equipment and Recording of Deficiencies and Relay Operations 2. Safety/Security, Visual Equipment Inspection and Record Readings 3. Seasonal Maintenance

**Section 57.198(n)(1). Vegetation Management.** *The statewide minimum inspection and treatment cycle for vegetation management is between 4-8 years for distribution facilities. An EDC shall submit a condition-based plan for vegetation management for its distribution system facilities explaining its treatment cycle.*

Program Description

Met-Ed performs vegetation management to promote the continued safe and reliable operation of the distribution system. Vegetation management may be performed utilizing one of three methods: Standard Specification, Inspect/Maintain or Enhanced techniques. The Standard Specification for vegetation management is designed to support line reliability, maintain access, make repairs, or restore service and to support safe and reliable service. The Standard vegetation specification provides vegetation to be pruned to achieve five years of clearance, removal of selected incompatible trees within the clearing zone corridor, removal of certain defective limbs that are overhanging primary conductors, controlling selected incompatible brush mechanically and/or using herbicide, and removal of off-corridor priority trees that are dead, dying, diseased, and leaning or significantly encroaching the corridor.

Portions of a circuit that experience high customer interruption minutes due to vegetation-caused outages may be targeted to receive the Standard Specification as well as enhanced vegetation removal techniques, which includes removal of certain healthy limbs, based on tree species and condition, which overhang primary conductors.

For portions of a circuit that have not experienced significant reliability issues due to vegetation-caused outages, a proactive Inspect/Maintain process will target selective vegetation removal for continued reliable system operation. This may include the extension of a cycle which will not exceed eight years. This process involves inspection of the vegetation to evaluate the extent of potential for vegetation to interfere with energized conductors. Factors to consider in the evaluation are the voltage and height of the conductor, the type of tree, its growth rate and branching habit. Trees that will impact safety or reliability will be maintained to the Standard Specification.

Methods used to manage and control vegetation include manual control methods using hand-operated tools, mechanical control using equipment mounted saws, mowers or other devices, and various herbicide application techniques such as, selective basal herbicide applications, stem foliage applications and cut stubble applications.

Further detailed information regarding Met-Ed's vegetation management program may be found in the Vegetation Management Distribution Specifications.

Inspection Plan<sup>1</sup>

	Area	Inspections and Treatments Planned Total Circuit Miles	
		2015	2016
<b>Met-Ed</b>	Hanover/York	863	863
	Lebanon	300	300
	Easton/Stroudsburg	504	504
	Reading	631	631

**Section 57.198(c). Time frames.** *The plan must comply with the inspection and maintenance standards in subsection (n). A justification for the inspection and maintenance time frames selected shall be provided, even if the time frame falls within the intervals prescribed in subsection (n). However, an EDC may propose a plan that, for a given standard, uses intervals outside the Commission standard, provided that the deviation can be justified by the EDC's unique circumstances or a cost/benefit analysis to support an alternative approach that will support the level of reliability required by law.*

Justification

Distribution vegetation management activities are performed in accordance with the following:

- Generally accepted industry practices
- ANSI Z133.1 and A-300 Standards and according to the requirements given by OSHA and the National Electric Safety Code (NESC)

The standard specification seeks to control all vegetation in the space defined as the "distribution clearing zone". The distribution clearing zone is a corridor measured at a horizontal distance of fifteen feet on either side of the pole line or the established large tree edge, whichever is greater in width. The corridor is measured vertically to fifteen feet above the highest conductor attached to the pole or structure. In addition to the standard specification, Met-Ed may apply a practice described as "enhanced maintenance" to select line sections. This practice involves removing overhanging limbs beyond the prescribed fifteen feet as well as aggressive hazard tree mitigation.

As part of Met-Ed's approach to improved tree related reliability, the Company continues to analyze the circuit electrical protection schemes and gives added attention to those line sections that serve high numbers of customers. While following the existing protection schemes, three distinct line sections have been identified and defined. Zone 1 is defined as the three-phase circuitry from the circuit breaker to the first protective device which serves the entire circuit customer load. Zone 2 is defined as the three-phase circuitry beyond the first protective device which typically serves a large

<sup>1</sup> Subject to change

percentage of the circuit customer load. Zone 3 is defined as all single phase and two-phase circuitry which serves smaller percentages of the circuit customer load.

Based on outage data from 2008 through 2012, Met-Ed has successfully improved tree-related reliability by applying enhanced maintenance on portions of Zone 1 and Zone 2. The next step in continuing to improve tree related reliability is to implement the same enhanced maintenance practices to portions of Zone 3 that are currently being utilized in portions of Zone 1 and Zone 2. Extending the effort to remove overhang and hazard trees into Zone 3 will have a similar positive impact to tree related reliability on these line sections.

The additional year of tree growth is not a concern for Met-Ed. Firelands Electric Cooperative, an Ohio Electric Cooperative, recently produced a study on the growth response of trees pruned by species. The species examined in the study are all common to the Met-Ed service territory. The maximum five year re-growth measured in the tree growth study is 14.4 feet. The minimum five year re-growth measured in the tree growth study is 5.2 feet. The re-growth of all species over a five year period averaged 9.19 feet on side trim and 10 feet on trees beneath conductors. The FirstEnergy specifications call for cycle length clearance or a minimum of twelve feet of clearance. Much of Met-Ed's overhead distribution maintenance achieves fifteen feet of clearance at the time of trimming which exceeds the 14.4 feet maximum five year re-growth of all species measured in the study.

In addition, Met-Ed has several other inspection programs in place that put trained utility personnel in a position to observe conditions on the entire distribution system. These observations include vegetation conditions that may warrant further investigation in individual circumstances.

**Section 57.198(m). Record Keeping.** *Maintain records of inspection and maintenance activities sufficient to demonstrate compliance with its distribution facilities inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement programs.*

In order to demonstrate compliance with its distribution facilities inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement programs, Met-Ed will maintain inspection and maintenance records either electronically or in hard copy as required by state law.

**Section 57.198(n)(2). Pole Inspections.** *Distribution poles shall be inspected at least as often as every 10 – 12 years except for the new southern yellow pine creosoted utility poles which shall be initially inspected within 25 years, then within 12 years annually after the initial inspection.*

*Pole inspections must include:*

- i. Drill tests at and below ground level*
- ii. A shell test*
- iii. Visual inspection for holes or evidence of insect infestation*
- iv. Visual inspection for evidence of unauthorized backfilling or excavation near the pole*
- v. Visual inspection for signs of lightning strikes*
- vi. A load calculation*

### Program Description

Met-Ed shall visually inspect distribution wood poles on a twelve year cycle. The purpose for inspecting distribution wood poles is to identify and repair unsafe conditions or conditions that may adversely affect service reliability or system performance, and to comply with the state regulatory agencies and the National Electrical Safety Code.

This preventative maintenance inspection for wood poles will include a visual inspection as well as hammer-sounding as needed. The inspection consists of the recording of abnormal conditions from the groundline to the top of the pole including but not limited to the following:

- Damage – broken or leaning
- Equipment – crossarms, insulators, conductors, oil leaking
- Testing for decayed internal wood

In addition to the visual inspection, poles showing incipient decay or poles that are thirty-five (35) years old or older will be bored to further assess the condition of the pole. This inspection consists of the recording of tests performed and abnormal conditions detected including but not limited to the following:

- Boring – testing for internal decay
- Verification of shell thickness

Further detailed information regarding Met-Ed's inspection of wood poles may be found in the Distribution Inspection & Maintenance Practice – Wood Poles.

Inspection Plan<sup>2</sup>

	Area	Pole Inspections Planned	
		Number of Poles to Inspect	
		2015	2016
<b>Met-Ed</b> 342,080 total poles	Boyertown 22,128 total poles	1,222	1,222
	Hanover 60,010 total poles	4,886	4,886
	York 71,128 total poles	1,320	1,320
	Lebanon 45,523 total poles	2,304	2,304
	Easton 41,957 total poles	2,631	2,631
	Stroudsburg 37,826 total poles	3,287	3,287
	Reading 63,508 total poles	1,461	1,461

**Section 57.198(n)(3). Inspection Failure.** If a pole fails the groundline inspection and shows dangerous conditions that are an immediate risk to public or employee safety or conditions affecting the integrity of the circuit, then the pole shall be replaced within 30 days of the date of inspection.

Corrective Maintenance

Wood poles and supporting structures with recorded defects that Met-Ed could expect to create an immediate risk to public or employee safety or affect the integrity of the circuit shall be repaired/replaced within 30 days. All remaining deficiencies will be prioritized on a case-by-case basis.

**Section 57.198(c). Time frames.** The plan must comply with the inspection and maintenance standards set forth in subsection (n). A justification for the inspection and maintenance time frames selected shall be provided, even if the time frame falls within the intervals prescribed in subsection (n). However, an EDC may propose a plan that, for a given standard, uses intervals outside the Commission standard, provided that the deviation can be justified by the EDC's unique circumstances or a cost/benefit analysis to support an alternative approach that will support the level of reliability required by law.

Justification

The practice of performing wood pole inspections on a twelve (12) year cycle is based on accepted electric utility practices. National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) Rule 12.121.A states "lines and equipment shall be inspected at such intervals as experience has shown to be necessary." A periodicity of twelve (12) years between inspections allows enough time for proper planning and remediation prior to any emergent problems having a negative impact on personal safety, equipment integrity or service reliability.

<sup>2</sup> Subject to change based on the addition or removal of equipment.

Regarding load calculations, Met-Ed's design personnel base line designs on FirstEnergy's Distribution Line Construction Standards and Distribution Engineering Practices. The Company's Construction Standards are created based on NESC Heavy Loading (NESC C2-2007, Section 250) since the majority of FirstEnergy's service territory lies within this zone, and since these standards provide basic guidance for most designs encountered by distribution line design personnel. The Engineering Practices provide detailed guidance for both guying and pole loading to be used when designers encounter more complex design needs, again based on NESC Heavy Loading. Per the NESC, both of these resources include safety factors such that the deterioration of poles in service shall not reduce the strength capability of the pole below the required strength. Further, as the Company receives requests from other entities to attach their facilities to Met-Ed poles, an assessment of the pole's ability to accommodate the new strength requirement is performed.

**Section 57.198(m). Record Keeping.** *Maintain records of inspection and maintenance activities sufficient to demonstrate compliance with its distribution facilities inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement programs.*

In order to demonstrate compliance with its distribution facilities inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement programs, Met-Ed will maintain inspection and maintenance records either electronically or in hard copy as required by state law.

**Section 57.198(n)(4). Distribution overhead line inspections.** *Distribution lines shall be inspected by ground patrol a minimum of once every 1 – 2 years. A visual inspection must include checking for:*

- i. *Broken insulators*
- ii. *Conditions that may adversely affect operation of the overhead distribution line*
- iii. *Other conditions that may adversely affect operation of the overhead distribution line*

### Program Description

Met-Ed shall visually inspect overhead lines and equipment on a five-year cycle. The purpose for inspecting overhead lines and equipment is to identify and repair unsafe conditions or conditions that may adversely affect service reliability, and to comply with the requirements of state regulatory agencies and the National Electrical Safety Code. This program shall be limited to overhead facilities.

Approximately one-fifth of all circuits will be inspected annually to levelize labor commitments and expenses. This preventative maintenance will consist of a visual inspection and recording of abnormal conditions including but not limited to the following types of overhead circuit equipment:

- Conductors (wire and cable) – excessive slack, condition, damage, clearances
- Supporting structures (wood poles) – deteriorated condition, sustained damage (lightning, vehicle, woodpecker holes)
- Pole hardware (including insulators) – condition, damage
- Guying – condition, damage
- Pole-mounted distribution equipment (including overhead transformers) – condition, damage

Further detailed information regarding Met-Ed's inspection of Distribution Overhead Lines may be found in the Distribution Inspection & Maintenance Practice – Overhead Circuits and Equipment.

### Inspection Plan<sup>3</sup>

	Area	Overhead Line Inspections Planned Number of Circuits to Inspect	
		2015	2016
<b>Met-Ed</b> 781 total circuits	Boyertown 39 total circuits	5	9
	Hanover 111 total circuits	21	22
	York 204 total circuits	47	39
	Lebanon 100 total circuits	22	23
	Easton 115 total circuits	35	9
	Stroudsburg 34 total circuits	6	7
	Reading 178 total circuits	30	27

**Section 57.198(n)(5). Inspection Failure.** If critical maintenance problems are found that affect the integrity of the circuits, they shall be repaired or replaced no later than 30 days from discovery.

#### Corrective Maintenance

Supporting structures with recorded defects that Met-Ed could reasonably expect to affect the integrity of the circuit shall be repaired/replaced within 30 days. All remaining deficiencies will be prioritized on a case-by-case basis.

**Section 57.198(c). Time frames.** The plan must comply with the inspection and maintenance standards in subsection (n). A justification for the inspection and maintenance time frames selected shall be provided, even if the time frame falls within the intervals prescribed in subsection (n). However, an EDC may propose a plan that, for a given standard, uses intervals outside the Commission standard, provided that the deviation can be justified by the EDC's unique circumstances or a cost/benefit analysis to support an alternative approach that will support the level of reliability required by law.

#### Justification

The practice of performing overhead line inspections on a five-year cycle is based on accepted electric utility practices. National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) Rule 12.121.A states "lines and equipment shall be inspected at such intervals as experience has shown to be necessary." A periodicity of five years between inspections has historically been utilized by Met-Ed and has proven to be successful in addressing emergent problems in a timely manner, allowing for proper planning and remediation

<sup>3</sup> Subject to change based on the addition or removal of equipment.

prior to the emergent problem having a negative impact on personal safety, equipment integrity or service reliability.

In addition to an inspection every five years, there are several opportunities that allow Company personnel to view the overhead line facilities and identify any potential issues. Met-Ed's overhead line inspection program coincides with other equipment inspections, such as the annual recloser inspections. In order to address specific reliability concerns and to assess some worst performing circuit performance, additional circuit assessments are performed in addition to Met-Ed's five-year inspection program. Any emergent priority overhead line problems identified during these other inspections are similarly addressed in a timely manner.

**Section 57.198(m). Record Keeping.** *Maintain records of inspection and maintenance activities sufficient to demonstrate compliance with its distribution facilities inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement programs.*

In order to demonstrate compliance with its distribution facilities inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement programs, Met-Ed will maintain inspection and maintenance records either electronically or in hard copy as required by state law.

**Section 57.198(n)(6). Distribution transformer inspections.** Overhead distribution transformers shall be visually inspected as part of the distribution line inspection every 1 – 2 years. Above-ground pad-mounted transformers shall be inspected at least as often as every 5 years and below-ground transformers shall be inspected at least as often as every 8 years. An inspection must include checking for:

- i. Rust, dents or other evidence of contact
- ii. Leaking oil
- iii. Installation of fences or shrubbery that could adversely affect access to and operation of the transformer
- iv. Unauthorized excavation or changes in grade near the transformer

### Program Description

Met-Ed visually inspects overhead distribution transformers as part of the overhead line inspection. Above-ground pad-mounted transformers are inspected on a five-year cycle and below-ground transformers are inspected on an eight-year cycle. The purpose for inspecting distribution transformers is to identify and repair unsafe conditions or conditions that may adversely affect service reliability, and to comply with the requirements of state regulatory agencies and the National Electrical Safety Code.

Overhead distribution transformers – visual inspection and recording of abnormal conditions including but not limited to the following:

- Equipment condition – oil leakage, arresters, rust, dents or evidence of contact

Above-ground pad-mounted equipment (transformers and switchgear) – inspection and recording of abnormal conditions including but not limited to the following:

- Equipment condition – oil leakage, cabinet damage, holes, washout
- Security – locking mechanisms
- Accessibility – as required for operation and maintenance purposes, including installation of fences or shrubbery that could adversely affect access to and operation of the transformer and unauthorized excavation or changes in grade near the transformer
- Warning labels – electrical hazard warning label and landscaping instructions notice

Below-ground transformers – visual inspection and recording of abnormal conditions including but not limited to the following:

- Accessibility – verify cover is secured
- Equipment condition – visually inspect baffle

Further detailed information regarding Met-Ed's inspection of distribution transformers may be found in the Distribution Inspection & Maintenance Practice – Underground Equipment.

Inspection Plan<sup>4</sup>

	Area	Type (Total Number of Transformers)	Transformer Inspections Planned Total transformers to inspect	
			2015	2016
<b>Met-Ed</b> 180,869 total transformers	Hanover	Overhead Transformers 24,359 transformers	5,751	7,494
		Above-Ground Pad-mounted 7,947 transformers	1,901	2,587
		Below-Ground Transformers 203 transformers	36	75
	Boyertown	Overhead Transformers 11,152 transformers	2,986	2,388
		Above-Ground Pad-mounted 4,101 transformers	1,183	678
		Below-Ground Transformers 116 transformers	36	16
	York	Overhead Transformers 32,197 transformers	6,754	5,107
		Above-Ground Pad-mounted 12,704 transformers	3,312	1,381
		Below-Ground Transformers 399 transformers	55	15
	Lebanon	Overhead Transformers 16,480 transformers	3,142	3,028
		Above-Ground Pad-mounted 5,309 transformers	610	1,400
		Below-Ground Transformers 433 transformers	71	79
	Easton	Overhead Transformers 14,607 transformers	3,454	2,773
		Above-Ground Pad-mounted 4,168 transformers	1,491	617
		Below-Ground Transformers 285 transformers	124	26
	Stroudsburg	Overhead Transformers 10,843 transformers	903	1,255
		Above-Ground Pad-mounted 1,654 transformers	138	247
		Below-Ground Transformers 48 transformers	10	31
	Reading	Overhead Transformers 25,793 transformers	4,764	4,600
		Above-Ground Pad-mounted 7,662 transformers	1,959	1,122
		Below-Ground Transformers 409 transformers	67	49

**Section 57.198(c). Time frames.** The plan must comply with the inspection and maintenance standards in subsection (n). A justification for the inspection and maintenance time frames selected shall be provided, even if the time frame falls within the intervals prescribed in subsection (n). However, an EDC may propose a plan that, for a given standard, uses intervals outside the Commission standard, provided that the deviation can be justified by the EDC's unique circumstances or a cost/benefit analysis to support an alternative approach that will support the level of reliability required by law.

Justification

The practice of performing distribution overhead transformer and above-ground transformers on a five-year cycle and below-ground transformers on an eight-year cycle

<sup>4</sup> Subject to change based on the addition or removal of equipment.

is based on accepted electric utility practices and the experience of Met-Ed. National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) Rule 12.121.A states *"lines and equipment shall be inspected at such intervals as experience has shown to be necessary."*

The above periodicities between inspections have proven to be successful in addressing emergent problems in a timely manner, allowing for proper planning and remediation prior to the emergent problem having a negative impact on personal safety, equipment integrity or service reliability.

**Section 57.198(m). Record Keeping.** *Maintain records of inspection and maintenance activities sufficient to demonstrate compliance with its distribution facilities inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement programs.*

In order to demonstrate compliance with its distribution facilities inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement programs, Met-Ed will maintain inspection and maintenance records either electronically or in hard copy as required by state law.

**Section 57.198(n)(7). Recloser inspections.** *Three-phase reclosers shall be inspected on a cycle of 8 years or less. Single-phase reclosers shall be inspected as part of the EDC's individual distribution line inspection plan.*

#### Program Description

Met-Ed visually inspects distribution line reclosers annually. The purpose for inspecting distribution line reclosers is to identify and repair unsafe conditions or conditions that may adversely affect service reliability or system performance, and to comply with the requirements of state regulatory agencies and the National Electrical Safety Code.

The annual preventative maintenance consists of counter readings and field inspection. The counter readings are obtained to assess system performance based on the number of operations. The field inspection includes but is not limited to the following:

- Type of recloser and current rating
- Counter reading
- Condition – rust, dents, physical damage, leaks, lightning damage
- Equipment – surge arresters, tank-ground connections, by-pass switches, control battery, pole
- Grounds – damage, condition

Further detailed information regarding Met-Ed's inspection of reclosers may be found in the Distribution Inspection & Maintenance Practice – Line Reclosers.

### Inspection Plan<sup>5</sup>

	Area	Type	Recloser Inspections Planned	
			Total Number of Reclosers to Inspect	
			2015	2016
<b>Met-Ed</b> 1,045 total reclosers	Boyertown 58 reclosers	Single Phase 22 reclosers	22	22
		Three Phase 36 reclosers	36	36
	Hanover 224 reclosers	Single Phase 86 reclosers	86	86
		Three Phase 138 reclosers	138	138
	York 247 reclosers	Single Phase 67 reclosers	67	67
		Three Phase 180 reclosers	180	180
	Lebanon 178 reclosers	Single Phase 79 reclosers	79	79
		Three Phase 99 reclosers	99	99
	Easton/Stroudsburg 161 reclosers	Single Phase 21 reclosers	21	21
		Three Phase 140 reclosers	140	140
	Reading 177 reclosers	Single Phase 78 reclosers	78	78
		Three Phase 99 reclosers	99	99

**Section 57.198(c). Time frames.** The plan must comply with the inspection and maintenance standards in subsection (n). A justification for the inspection and maintenance time frames selected shall be provided, even if the time frame falls within the intervals prescribed in subsection (n). However, an EDC may propose a plan that, for a given standard, uses intervals outside the Commission standard, provided that the deviation can be justified by the EDC's unique circumstances or a cost/benefit analysis to support an alternative approach that will support the level of reliability required by law.

#### Justification

The practice of performing annual recloser inspections is based on accepted electric utility practices and the experience of Met-Ed. National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) Rule 12.121.A states "lines and equipment shall be inspected at such intervals as experience has shown to be necessary." A periodicity of one year between inspections has proven to be successful in addressing emergent problems in a timely manner, allowing for proper planning and remediation prior to the emergent problem having a negative impact on personal safety, equipment integrity or service reliability.

<sup>5</sup> Subject to change based on the addition or removal of equipment.

**Section 57.198(m). Record Keeping.** *Maintain records of inspection and maintenance activities sufficient to demonstrate compliance with its distribution facilities inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement programs.*

In order to demonstrate compliance with its distribution facilities inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement programs, Met-Ed will maintain inspection and maintenance records either electronically or in hard copy as required by state law.

**Section 57.198(n)(8). Substation inspections.** Substation equipment, structures and hardware shall be inspected on a cycle of 5 weeks or less.

Program Description

Met-Ed inspects its distribution substations twelve times annually. The purpose of these monthly inspections of the distribution substations is to ensure that any developing substation problems are identified and addressed in a timely manner in support of system reliability and electrical safety.

There are three types of the preventative maintenance inspections that are performed at Met-Ed substations during a twelve month period. The chart below illustrates the type of inspection performed each month<sup>6</sup>:

Inspection Type	Month											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Safety and Security of Facilities/Visual Equipment Inspection/Reporting and Recording of Deficiencies and Relay Operations (Class C)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Safety/Security, Visual Equipment Inspection and Record Readings (Class B)			X			X			X			X
Seasonal Maintenance (Class A)						X						X

The following is a summary of each type of inspection that is conducted at Met-Ed substations:

1. *Safety and Security of Facilities and Visual Equipment Inspection of Electrical Equipment and Reporting/Recording Identified Deficiencies and Relay Operations (Class C).* Monthly visual inspection of substation equipment, structures and hardware that also includes the recording of abnormal conditions or deficiencies. This inspection includes but is not limited to the following:
  - General condition – read and record ambient temperature
  - Perimeter fence inspection (gate locks, fence and gate grounds, warning signs)
  - Yard and facility inspection (equipment grounds, vegetation condition, general yard condition, equipment condition, oil levels and leaks, structure/hardware condition, hotspots, conductors/switches/connections)
  - Building inspection (security, integrity, indication lights)
  - Visual inspection of major equipment (power transformers, circuit breakers, instrument transformers, etc.)
  - Relays, electronic controls, and panel meters for alarms and targets
  - Batteries and chargers

<sup>6</sup> For illustrative purposes only.

2. *Safety and Security, Visual Equipment Inspection and Record Readings (Class B)*. In addition to the safety and security and visual equipment inspection that is performed monthly, every three months an additional visual inspection that includes the recording of readings is performed. This inspection includes but is not limited to all items listed under the Class C inspection as well as the following types of substation equipment:
  - Recording of amps and load readings
  - Recording of counter and gauge readings
  - Inspection/test of carrier communication equipment
  - Inspection of microwave/radio sites and engine generators – generator alarms and battery
  
3. *Seasonal Maintenance - Summer and Winter Readiness (Class A)*. In addition to the monthly and three-month inspections, every six months a more comprehensive inspection of the substation and substation equipment is performed. This inspection includes but is not limited to all items listed under the Class C and B inspections as well as the following types of substation equipment:
  - Servicing fire protection equipment
  - Servicing eye wash stations
  - Yard lighting
  - Servicing filters and HVAC systems
  - Servicing of equipment cabinet heaters
  - Servicing engine generators

Further detailed information regarding Met-Ed's inspection of substations may be in found Section 20P – Substation Patrol Inspection of the Substation Practice Manual.

Inspection Plan<sup>7</sup>

	Area	Substation Inspections Planned	
		2015	2016
<b>Met-Ed</b> 219 total substations	York 76 substations	912	912
	Lebanon 33 substations	396	396
	Easton 47 substations	564	564
	Reading 63 substations	756	756

<sup>7</sup> Subject to change based on the addition or removal of equipment.

**Section 57.198(c). Time frames.** *The plan must comply with the inspection and maintenance standards in subsection (n). A justification for the inspection and maintenance time frames selected shall be provided, even if the time frame falls within the intervals prescribed in subsection (n). However, an EDC may propose a plan that, for a given standard, uses intervals outside the Commission standard, provided that the deviation can be justified by the EDC's unique circumstances or a cost/benefit analysis to support an alternative approach that will support the level of reliability required by law.*

Justification

Providing a trained, physical presence within the substation on a regular, periodic basis has proven very successful in detecting the degradation of facilities not always captured by existing local and remote surveillance and monitoring tools. A periodicity of one month between inspections has proven to be successful in addressing emergent problems in a timely manner, allowing for proper planning and remediation prior to the emergent problem having a negative impact on person safety, equipment integrity or service reliability.

Acceptance of this program would allow FirstEnergy to establish a uniform maintenance program across all FirstEnergy Pennsylvania Operating Companies. This includes enhancing the current program by adding a seasonal inspection (Class A) twice a year (spring and fall) for all substations.

As a result of advancement in today's technologies, substation equipment inspections have been refined to leverage these advancements in order to ensure the highest levels of safety and reliability of substations and substation equipment in a more efficient manner. With today's technology, equipment inspections along with patrol inspection results can now be captured by field personnel on site and integrated and tracked electronically in the maintenance database. Enhanced software programs allow condition-based maintenance to target specific equipment and trigger maintenance based on equipment condition. The counter readings that are obtained during the three-month inspection (Class B) are then utilized to trigger this condition-based maintenance. Predictive and condition-based programs not only extend the operating life of the equipment, they also optimize the necessary maintenance interval, improve service reliability, and reduce down time that is typically experienced when equipment is taken off line which reduces exposure of the grid, all with consistency and efficiency.

As part of this revised program, monthly patrol inspections of distribution substations will continue to be performed in order to focus on safety and security as well as in identifying equipment deficiencies that could have a negative impact on reliability. Load and counter readings will be recorded every three months in order to allow local engineering to conduct planning and load study activities. A seasonal inspection will be added for the spring and fall.

**Section 57.198(m). Record Keeping.** *Maintain records of inspection and maintenance activities sufficient to demonstrate compliance with its distribution facilities inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement programs.*

In order to demonstrate compliance with its distribution facilities inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement programs, Met-Ed will maintain inspection and maintenance records either electronically or in hard copy as required by state law.

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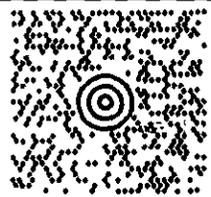
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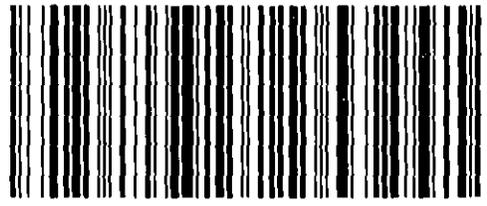


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