

Communication of Emergency Gas and Electric Shut-Offs



Dan Searforce

Reliability and Emergency Preparedness Supervisor

dsearfoorc@pa.gov

717-783-6159

Gas – Electric Coordination

- Gas - Electric coordination of shut-offs in emergencies
- May 2012 Directive from the Bureau of Technical Utility Services (TUS)
 - All jurisdictional electric distribution companies (EDCs) and natural gas distribution companies (NGDCs)

Gas – Electric Coordination

- May 2012 TUS Directive
 - EDCs and NGDCs were to confirm they had procedures and contacts in place for emergency shut-off requests of gas or electric services
 - If they did not have procedures or contacts, they had one calendar year to establish them and confirm it with TUS
 - All EDCs and NGDCs confirmed they have procedures and contacts in place

Procedure and Communication Expectations

- Procedures and Contacts Expectations
 - EDCs and NGDCs should have documented procedures for field staff to request an emergency shut-off of gas and/or electric
 - EDCs and NGDCs should know the EDCs/NGDCs that operate in their service territory and have an emergency contact for those EDCs/NGDCs for emergency shut-offs
 - EDCs and NGDCs should periodically review the procedures/contacts

Procedure and Communication Expectations (cont'd)

- Procedures and Contacts Expectations (cont'd)
 - Field staff and/or supervisors should know these procedures and have access to the emergency contacts
 - EDCs and NGDCs should periodically review and test their procedures

Example Shut-Off Procedure

- Example Procedure – Request for Emergency Electric Shut-Off
 1. Type of emergency, e.g. leak
 2. Exact location (closest pole number ideally)
 3. Number and type of response personnel present
 4. Contact number for local incident commander (Gas Company)
 1. Are cell phones working in the area?
 2. Alternate methods of communication

Example Shut-Off Procedure (cont'd)

- Example Procedure – Request for Electric Shut-Off (cont'd)
 5. Level of response expected
 1. Immediate shut-off? – considerations include loss of life and/or imminent explosion
 2. Precautionary shut-off
 6. Caution – electric facilities shall not be considered officially de-energized until qualified EDC personnel confirm – maintain safe approach distance (10 feet minimum)

NGDC Emergency Shut-Off Considerations

- Items to consider:
 - Electric may be shut off to other key services, e.g., traffic lights, cell phone towers, hospitals, etc.
 - Local emergency management should be aware of potential power interruptions
 - Some locations cannot be remotely turned off
 - Make clear what you expect the EDC to do and confirm that with the EDC before taking further actions

Questions / Concerns

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