

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105

RULEMAKING – SERVICE OUTAGE
RESPONSE AND RESTORATION
PRACTICES

Public Meeting September 22, 2011
2104274-LAW
Docket No. L-2009-2104274

JOINT STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN ROBERT F. POWELSON
AND VICE CHAIRMAN JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.

Today the Commission is issuing final regulations setting reporting rules for our jurisdictional utilities for service outage and restoration practices. While these rules were not formally finalized before the historical outages resulting from the effects of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, we assure all interested parties that the Commission and utilities operated at the highest level of coordination. This can be demonstrated by the efforts of the Commission's emergency preparedness team, who spent countless hours coordinating service outage issues as well as communicating with utilities on restoration efforts.

However, anticipating flooding, various cities and municipalities, including the city of Harrisburg, directed PUC jurisdictional electric utilities to terminate service to thousands of homes and businesses throughout the affected parts of the Commonwealth. This was largely done without coordination with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) or the Commission. In the future, we urge all cities and municipalities to coordinate such large-scale utility terminations with the PUC and PEMA through the State Emergency Operations Center. It is imperative that both residential and business customers receive adequate notice of such terminations; had such coordination taken place the Commission could have worked with the utilities to ensure this notice occurred. Additionally, the PUC and PEMA need such utility outage information for response and planning purposes.

We look forward to discussing this and other topics during the Commission's Special Electric Reliability Forum to be held October 12, 2011 in Hearing Room 1 of the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg.


ROBERT F. POWELSON
CHAIRMAN


JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.
VICE CHAIRMAN

DATED: September 22, 2011