



District of Columbia Public Service Commission

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Fact Sheet: Electric Reliability in the District

One of the top priorities of the Public Service Commission (PSC) is ensuring that Pepco maintains reliability of its distribution system at a reasonable cost to consumers. The PSC has taken a proactive, comprehensive approach to preserving and enhancing electric system reliability.

Electric Quality of Service Standards

The PSC was the first jurisdiction in the Washington metro area to adopt Electric Quality of Service Standards ("EQSS") that require Pepco to meet outage performance metrics relating to frequency of system outages, average number of outages per customer, and average duration of outages. In response to declining Pepco system reliability, the PSC has proposed new rules on electric utility reliability standards that would require Pepco to improve its distribution reliability. If adopted as proposed by the PSC, the new



rules would establish an expectation for Pepco to continuously improve its reliability to match that of the nation's best performing utilities by 2020, or be subject to financial penalties for failure to achieve the new benchmarks.



Research & Monitoring

The PSC requires Pepco to file periodic reports on outages and other reliability data in order to closely monitor Pepco's performance and institute corrective actions as necessary. The PSC has ordered Pepco to provide periodic information on causes of outages, vegetation management practices, service lives of electric distribution equipment, type and time of outage response and service restoration, and the costs of enhancing system reliability. The PSC likewise has been actively monitoring outage activity and gathering information on outage causation, with

a view toward reduction of outage frequency and duration.

Next Steps

The PSC will continue to investigate and evaluate Pepco's proposed solutions for rebuilding the worst performing feeders in its electric distribution system. The PSC has issued an Order requesting comments on the feasibility of establishing service restoration standards after major storms. In the long run, the PSC expects full implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters will speed up the reporting of outages and Pepco's restoration efforts.

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The District of Columbia Public Service Commission is an independent agency established by Congress in 1913 to regulate electric, natural gas, and local telephone utility companies in the District of Columbia.

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