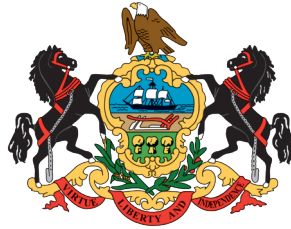


**SHELBY LABS, MEMBER
143RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES

AGING & OLDER ADULT SERVICES, SECRETARY
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES &
BANKING, CHAIR
GAME & FISHERIES
TRANSPORTATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PORTS, CHAIR

APPOINTMENT

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

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September 2, 2026

Dear Neighbor,

Earlier this summer, Representative Craig Staats and I heard from residents throughout our districts who were frustrated by repeated power outages and lengthy restoration times. We shared those concerns and asked FirstEnergy Pennsylvania Electric Company, which includes Met-Ed, for answers about the reliability of our local electric system and its plans for improvements.

I am writing today to follow up on that effort and share the response we received from FirstEnergy.

The company provided information about the causes of outages in our area, infrastructure investments, vegetation management efforts and planned reliability improvements throughout the 143rd and 145th Legislative Districts. FirstEnergy identified several areas targeted for improvements, with work scheduled through the end of 2026 and additional projects planned for 2027 and 2028.

I have enclosed FirstEnergy's complete response so you can review the company's plans directly.

Reliable electric service is essential to our homes, businesses and communities. We will continue to communicate with FirstEnergy, track the progress of the improvements outlined in their response and advocate for reliable service for the residents we represent.

As always, please contact my office if you experience an ongoing issue with your electric service or need assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelby Labs".

Shelby Labs
State Representative
143rd Legislative District



Met-Ed • Penelec • Penn Power • West Penn Power

800 Cabin Hill Dr.
Greensburg, PA 15601

September 2, 2026

The Honorable Shelby Labs
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
143rd Legislative District

The Honorable Crag Staats
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
145th Legislative District

Dear Representatives Labs and Staats,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the reliability of electric service and outage concerns in your districts. We appreciate the opportunity to provide information on the work FirstEnergy Pennsylvania Electric Company (FE PA), which includes Met-Ed, Penelec, Penn Power, and West Penn Power, is undertaking to create a stronger and smarter grid, while also improving reliability.

At FE PA, reliable electric service is one of our highest operational priorities, and we recognize that every outage represents a disruption to the daily lives and economic well-being of our customers. We remain committed to continuous investment in the electric system and to implementing programs that improve reliability and reduce the frequency and duration of service outages.

Through Energize365, FirstEnergy's multi-year grid modernization initiative, we are investing in the reliable, resilient energy system our customers depend on today while preparing for the demands of the future. From 2026 through 2030, FirstEnergy plans to invest \$18.2 billion in Pennsylvania to strengthen distribution and transmission infrastructure, enable essential increased generation, and support economic development across the Commonwealth. These investments will help create a stronger, smarter, and more secure electric grid capable of meeting growing energy demand while better withstanding extreme weather events.

In the 143rd and 145th Legislative Districts, our engineering analysis indicates that the primary driver of outages is vegetation originating outside of FE PA's rights-of-way, which accounts for approximately 53% of outages and nearly 70% of customer outage minutes. While we routinely maintain vegetation within our rights-of-way, we also proactively engage with property owners to identify and address trees located outside of those areas that may threaten electric reliability. As part of this process, the Company provides advance notification regarding proposed vegetation work and works closely with property owners when permission is required to perform trimming or tree removal on private property. While many property owners support these efforts, there are instances where permission is not granted or concerns arise regarding the scope of work. In those situations, the Company continues to engage with property owners to explain the reliability and safety benefits of the proposed work and, when necessary, may pursue additional easement or property rights processes to ensure critical vegetation management activities can be completed in accordance with applicable legal requirements. We welcome any assistance in helping educate constituents about the reliability benefits of this work and encouraging cooperation with vegetation management efforts that can help reduce outages across the community.

While vegetation remains the most significant reliability challenge in these districts, equipment and line failures also contribute to outage activity, accounting for approximately 16% of outages and 12% of customer outage minutes. Addressing these challenges requires sustained investment, which is why FirstEnergy is investing \$18.2 billion across our Pennsylvania service territories to replace aging and obsolete infrastructure, modernize the electric grid, and support a more reliable and resilient energy system.

We understand that customers expect not only reliable service, but timely restoration when outages occur. FE PA follows a structured restoration process that prioritizes public safety, beginning with life-threatening situations, downed wires, and hazards impacting emergency responders. From there, restoration efforts focus on returning service to the greatest number of customers as quickly and safely as possible while also considering impacts to critical community facilities. Leveraging advanced system monitoring tools, field resources, and established emergency response procedures, our teams work around the clock during major events to assess damage, restore service, and communicate restoration updates to customers and community leaders.

Responding effectively to outages is only one part of our commitment to customers. Equally important are the investments and proactive measures that help prevent outages and improve system performance over time. As a result, our reliability strategy in these districts focuses on a combination of infrastructure modernization, enhanced inspection and maintenance programs, and targeted vegetation management efforts. The following information outlines the actions currently underway and planned to improve reliability for your constituents.

Infrastructure Investments

FE PA has several projects scheduled through our Long-Term Infrastructure Improvement Plan (LTIP), as well as multiple ongoing maintenance programs. Through the end of 2026, FE PA will continue a series of reliability projects across the 143rd and 145th Legislative Districts, which includes replacing aging equipment on several power lines, upgrading and strengthening electric circuits in the Ottsville, Glendon, and Ferndale areas, and relocating certain power lines to improve access for maintenance and outage restoration. These improvements are designed to enhance reliability, increase system resiliency, and help reduce the frequency and duration of outages.

Reliability Improvements

FE PA is making significant investments focused specifically on improving reliability. These investments include upgrading and replacing aging infrastructure, such as poles, crossarms, and power lines; installing advanced monitoring and automated switching technology that helps identify and isolate outages more quickly; creating additional connections between circuits to improve operational flexibility and restoration capabilities; and expanding inspection and maintenance programs to proactively identify and address reliability concerns. Together, these improvements are designed to reduce the frequency and duration of outages while strengthening the overall resilience of the electric system.

Priority Areas for Improvements

While reliability improvements are being implemented across both districts, engineering analysis has identified the circuits served by the Ferndale and Ottsville substations as key areas of focus, due to the number of customers served, outage trends, and the unique characteristics of the local electric system. Together, these substations serve more than 4,500 customers throughout northern Bucks County, where portions of the electric system traverse heavily wooded and rural areas that can present reliability challenges, particularly during severe weather events. Accordingly, many of the most significant

reliability investments planned within the 143rd and 145th Legislative Districts are concentrated on these circuits. Examples include relocating power lines to more accessible locations along Beaver Run Road, upgrading aging poles, crossarms, and power line equipment on key circuits, replacing conductors along Headquarters Road, installing advanced automated devices that can help identify and isolate outages more quickly, creating additional circuit connections to provide alternate paths for power delivery during outages, and completing voltage conversion projects that improve system performance and operational flexibility. These investments are intended to strengthen system resiliency, enhance restoration capabilities, and deliver more reliable electric service to customers.

Vegetation Management Efforts

Circuits in both districts are maintained on a four-to-five-year vegetation management cycle. During the current maintenance cycle, more than 76,000 trees have been trimmed or removed. Our vegetation management program leverages advanced analytics, remote sensing technology, and reliability performance data to identify areas at higher risk for tree-related outages and drive informed, risk-based maintenance decisions. These higher-risk areas become the primary focus of mitigation activities, including the identification and removal of off-right-of-way trees that pose a threat to electric reliability. In addition, the Company conducted a survey of high-risk line sections and identified remaining dead ash trees impacted by emerald ash borer. As part of an accelerated risk-reduction strategy, removal of these identified trees is planned during the final two quarters of 2026.

Timeline for Improvements

Many of these reliability improvements will be completed during 2026, including replacing aging equipment, upgrading power lines, improving access to electric facilities to expedite repairs, addressing issues identified during system inspections, and continuing the removal of hazardous trees that can cause outages. Additional improvement projects are planned through 2027 and 2028 as we continue to strengthen the electric system serving the 143rd and 145th Legislative Districts.

FE PA remains committed to making the investments necessary to strengthen the electric infrastructure serving Bucks County and improve reliability for the residents and businesses of the 143rd and 145th Legislative Districts. Through ongoing system modernization, targeted reliability improvements, enhanced vegetation management, and regular maintenance programs, we are working to build a stronger, more resilient electric grid that can better meet our customers' needs today and in the future.

Thank you for your interest in this important matter and for your continued advocacy on behalf of your constituents. We value our partnership with you and your respective staff and look forward to maintaining an open dialogue regarding reliability performance, planned infrastructure investments, and the progress of improvement projects within your districts.

We will continue to keep you informed of our efforts as we work to enhance service reliability and deliver the safe, dependable electric service your communities expect and deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hawkins", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Hawkins,
President, FirstEnergy Pennsylvania Electric Company