

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the overview of the project?**

PECO is investing \$20 million in and around the Lower Merion area as part of our proactive efforts to enhance the local electric distribution system for you and your neighbors.

We will replace all wires, cables, poles, devices, and transformers on the circuits associated with the Overbrook Substation, which will be retired following this work. In addition, new aerial devices called reclosers will be installed. When a problem occurs, like a fallen tree limb or a lightning strike, the recloser stops the flow of electricity on the line and automatically restores electricity where possible.

Poles will be replaced to meet current industry standards—they will be taller than current poles. Trees and vegetation will be cleared to safe distances from PECO's equipment. Clearance distances are based on tree species and types of electrical equipment and are aligned with industry standards for maintaining safe and reliable electrical service.

This project requires vegetation work in Lower Merion, including tree work that we have identified on individual properties. Tree trimming and removal promotes reliability and safety by ensuring proper clearance and minimizing vegetation that could potentially cause a power outage.

## **When will the project begin?**

Tree work is scheduled to begin in late Spring 2023 with construction to follow.

## **How long will the project last overall (tree and line work)?**

Due to the scale of this project, construction will last multiple years and will occur in phases. PECO has worked to develop a plan to minimize direct customer impact as much as possible and complete the project in a safe and timely manner.

## **What is the overall process of the project?**

The tree work will begin in late Spring 2023. Following this work, construction will begin, which includes trench and directional drilling, installation of new poles, and electrical conversion work. Once the new poles are in and PECO's work is complete, the communications companies can transfer their attachments to the telecommunications companies new poles and the old poles can be removed, after which the substation work will occur.

## **What are the benefits to PECO customers impacted by this project?**

The project will strengthen electric infrastructure to better withstand more frequent and damaging storms in our region, deliver enhanced reliability for our customers by reducing the frequency of outages and the duration of those that cannot be prevented, and support the adoption of clean energy resources, like solar power and electric vehicles.

## **Where is the work occurring?**

Work is occurring in Wynnewood, Bala Cynwyd, Sherwood, and Overbrook.

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### **How will customers be notified about work on their property?**

PECO Vegetation Management representatives make multiple attempts to contact customers to review required work in-person at the customer's property. In cases where tree removal is required, we request signatures from customers acknowledging that they have been notified. In cases where a tree must be removed or trimmed and a customer does not sign off on the vegetation work, the customer is sent a certified letter stating the approximate date that the work will occur. The work is then performed by a PECO-approved contractor.

### **How will backyard work, particularly in narrow areas with shrubbery, be performed?**

PECO's contract tree crews utilize a range of tools and techniques to minimize impact to landscapes. This includes utilizing tree climbers instead of lift trucks to avoid bringing equipment into the rear of properties. When equipment is required for worker safety or other considerations, tree crews may be able to use small, tracked lift equipment with a reduced impact. When large equipment is needed, protective matting is used to minimize landscape damage. Every effort is made to work around and protect existing landscapes. In the event that no alternatives are available for access, our team will work with property owners to develop an access plan and any needed restoration work.

### **Will this project expand to other areas?**

Over the next 25 years, we will be retiring all the substations served at 4Kv. Therefore, there will be

additional projects throughout PECO's territory that will need to be addressed.

### **Will the increased voltage affect my appliances? Who pays for this increase?**

Converting the voltage to 13Kv should not have any effect on your appliances. There is no impact on your bill from updating this service. Customers will only see the benefits from the extra distribution due to the reliability and resiliency improvements.

### **What are the work hours for this project?**

We abide by the normal working hours determined by the Township or PennDOT, which is typically Monday–Friday during the day. There may be times when a customer prefers a weekend, in which we try to accommodate.

### **Is any of the work for this project underground?**

Yes, there will be some streets that require underground work.

### **Why can't PECO put all the lines underground?**

There are advantages and disadvantages to underground service. While underground lines are not impacted by trees and other vegetation or wind, they are impacted by heavy rain and flooding. In addition, problems on underground lines are more difficult to locate and take longer, and are more expensive, to repair.