

Fact Sheet

PECO Natural Gas Reliability Project Natural Gas Reliability Station in Marple Township Frequently Asked Questions

What is a reliability station?

A reliability station is a piece of PECO infrastructure designed to provide safe and reliable service to our customers. This reliability station in Marple Township will enable PECO to distribute more natural gas into Delaware County through 11.5 miles of new natural gas main. It will be the receiving point that will reinforce the supply of natural gas to Delaware County and will ensure PECO can continue to deliver safe and reliable natural gas to meet the growing needs of the customers and communities we serve.

Is the reliability station an experimental facility?

The natural gas reliability station is **not** an experimental facility. PECO has 28 natural gas gate stations and other natural gas facilities and equipment across our territory, and we continue to maintain a robust safety record. Many of these facilities are larger and more complex than the proposed natural gas reliability station. These facilities are located in both urban and more residential and rural locations. The equipment that we will be utilizing at this facility are all components that PECO already has on system and has years of experience with using. There is a slight difference in the project, in that PECO will own all of the natural gas that comes in and out of the facility and no odorant will be added at the reliability station. PECO's proven commitment to safety will not falter.

Is the reliability station safe?

As with all our facilities and projects, we have multiple safety measures in place. This facility is monitored 24/7 to ensure safe operation, which allows us to shut the station down remotely in the event of an emergency. Additionally, natural gas detectors will be on-site to monitor for any signs of a natural gas leak or issue and, if detected, the station can be shut down remotely to ensure the safety of our customers and communities.

PECO has been successfully operating stations just like this one for decades, with a deep commitment to safety. We have been recognized annually since 2014 by the American Gas Association (AGA) as an Industry Leader in Accident Prevention and our proven commitment to safety will not falter.

Can first responders access the reliability station in the unlikely event there is an emergency?

Traditionally, PECO does not allow unescorted access to our facilities for emergency responders. This procedure is common practice for Exelon. First responders are not trained in PECO or utility equipment and they would be unable to safely or properly manage the equipment.

This facility is monitored 24/7 to ensure safe operation, which allows us to shut the station down remotely in the event of an emergency and immediately dispatch a PECO crew to the location.

Why this project now?

PECO anticipates a 20% increase in natural gas usage in Delaware County and 10% increase in Marple Township over the next decade. Without this project, the natural gas system in this area will be constrained, resulting in reliability issues during the coldest days of the year for existing customers and restricting new customers from connecting to the system. Customers also will not be able to add additional load such as a gas generator or a gas fireplace, if the project is not completed.

Were other potential sites evaluated?

PECO first started to search for viable site options in 2019 and we worked with a real estate expert to evaluate fourteen sites. None of the 13 other sites met all of the necessary qualifications and were eliminated due to their size, zoning codes, availability, and proximity to Sproul and Lawrence Roads. Only the 2090 Sproul Road site met all of the qualifications.

Is 2090 Sproul Road zoned for utility use?

For the zoning requirements of the project, the Township's zoning code permits PECO's proposed use of the site. The property is zoned for utility use with a special exemption. There is a common misconception that this property is not zoned for use by a utility, but that is not the case. The Zoning code requires utilities to apply for a special exception, which means that a utility can use the space, but has to prove that the use will add value to the community. In our initial application, we believed that we would add value by increasing natural gas reliability.

What will the reliability station look like?

We have been working closely with local residents and officials to develop renderings that address residential feedback and help to bring value to the community beyond improved utility reliability. Proposed design aspects include:

- Decorative landscaping
- Textured Pavements
- Solid cement walls with masonry pillars
- Name Plate
- Monument signs
- Vertical elements such as the standing clock, clock tower and flag poles.

Such gateways are frequently used by communities and state transportation departments to provide a "traffic calming" effect which reduces traffic speeds. While an attractive addition, these installations also serve to inform motorists that they are entering a community where there is a significant change in the driving environment. The solid masonry walls and, in some areas, increased wall height, coupled with sound baffles on wall interiors provide sound mitigation.

Will the reliability station be noisy?

PECO has taken noise concerns very seriously while designing the reliability station. A third-party noise study was conducted for the reliability station. The study took into account the proposed

equipment and included field measurements for baseline conditions. Results of the study provided several noise abatement features or design recommendations. PECO has implemented many of these recommendations into its design in order to remain below the Marple Township noise ordinance levels as well as accommodate resident's concerns.

Abatement features include:

- Upgraded components with enhanced noise characteristics
- In-line silencers
- Acoustical insulation
- Noise absorptive panels on the perimeter wall

The projected noise will be below the townships noise ordinance. PECO is committed to monitoring sound levels for 12 months through a third-party contractor to ensure full compliance with the noise ordinance. PECO will perform additional mitigation efforts if necessary.