

1
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 PUBLIC HEARING
4 BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES
5 - - -
6 Room 400, City Hall
7 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
8 Wednesday, May 31, 2000
9 9:35 a.m.
10 - - -
11 BILL 000318 - Granting permission to PECO Energy to
12 construct, install, maintain and operate use,
13 repair, replace, and remove a wireless
14 communications system over, under and across City
15 streets.
16 BILL 000317 - Authorizing McDonald's Corporation to
17 construct an electrified marquee and icon.
18 BILL 000320 - Amending an Ordinance entitled "An
19 Ordinance authorizing the revision of lines and
20 grades on a portion of City Plan No. 120
21
22 BILLS 000121 and 000218 (held until 6/12/00 9 a.m.)
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1 BILL NO. 000318

2 THE CHAIR: Good morning. The
3 hearing of the Committee of the Streets and Services
4 is now in session.

5 I am Frank DiCicco, the Chair of the
6 committee. With me today this morning are the
7 Council Members Darrell Clarke, David Cohen, Richard
8 Mariano, and Frank Rizzo.

9 The Bills No. 000121 and 000218 are
10 being held until June 12 at 9 o'clock a.m.
11 the clerk will read the title of the next bill.

12 THE CLERK: Bill No. 000318, an
13 Ordinance granting permission to PECO Energy Company,
14 a Pennsylvania Corporation, and its successors,
15 assigns, agents, and contractors to construct,
16 install, maintain, and operate, use repair, and
17 replace, and remove a wireless communication system
18 and appurtenances, in, over, under, and across
19 public rights-of-way and city streets; and/or on
20 certain city-owned or controlled street light
21 fixtures, street light poles, and traffic signal
22 poles as designated by the Streets Commissioner and
23 the Commissioner of Public Property; and/or within
24 or on the existing facilities owned by other
25 entities holding a grant of permission pursuant to

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2 other city ordinances; with the use of such wireless
3 communication and system restricted solely to the
4 internal use by PECO Energy Company for activities
5 and services directly related to telemetric meter
6 reading, including meter reading, outage management,
7 metering services directly related thereto, and
8 other related services for its electric and gas
9 customers which may be approved by the Commissioner
10 of Public Property, all under certain terms and
11 conditions.

12 THE CHAIR: Is there anyone here who
13 wishes to testify on this bill?

14 Please come to the witness table.
15 Identify yourself for the record, please.

16 MR. GREGORY DUDKIN: Good morning,
17 Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name
18 is Gregory Dudkin, I am vice-president of Customer
19 and Marketing Services for PECO Energy Company.

20 THE CHAIR: Good morning. Please
21 begin your testimony.

22 MR. DUDKIN: I am here this morning
23 to testify about a new technology that is being
24 deployed in the PECO Energy service territory that
25 will improve service to approximately 1.5 million

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2 electric customers and 420,000 suburban Philadelphia
3 natural gas customers.

4 My remarks today are focused mostly
5 on the 438,000 electric service customers in
6 Philadelphia County.

7 The technology that I am referring to
8 is automatic meter reading, or AMR as it is commonly
9 known.

10 For more than two years, a PECO
11 Energy Meter Solutions Team reviewed all of the
12 available meter-reading technologies and determined
13 that the system we have adopted is the best of the
14 best, the Schlumberger Corporation using the Cell
15 Net Data Systems Technology.

16 This is a wireless data communication
17 system that will benefit consumers, as well as PECO
18 Energy, by collecting data in a timely fashion from
19 our 2 million meters in PECO Energy's service area,
20 and will result in rendering timely, accurate bills
21 to our customers.

22 We currently attempt to read
23 approximately 100,000 meters per day. Gaining
24 access to customers' homes and businesses to read
25 indoor meetings is a challenge each and every

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2 month.

3 Considering that 40 percent of meters
4 in Philadelphia County are indoors, customers will
5 no longer need to read their own meters or schedule
6 appointments to accommodate their busy schedules.

7 Furthermore, they will not have
8 estimated bills as a result of our not being able to
9 read the meters. The number of disputed bills is
10 expected to decrease by as much as 90 percent.

11 I know that the matter of estimated
12 billing has been an issue raised by members of City
13 Council when your constituents are faced with a
14 large bill after several months of estimated
15 readings.

16 While we accommodate them with
17 payment arrangements, it is a inconvenience just the
18 same.

19 Another benefit of AMR is security.
20 Unfortunately, criminals have occasionally taken
21 advantage of residents by posing as meter readers.

22 This system eliminates monthly visits
23 and, in essence, removes that risk, at least as it
24 pertains to PECO Energy.

25 We won't even need to visit a house

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2 to read the meter when the customer moves in or out
3 of a property. We will be able to read the meter
4 from our offices.

5 This will particularly benefit the
6 city's university and college dormitories, as well
7 as apartments and office buildings with their high
8 number of people moving in and out.

9 For these reasons and other
10 considerations, we are planning to begin the project
11 in Philadelphia.

12 The way the system works is through a
13 wireless network. The network is comprised of small
14 radios mounted inside each meter that communicate
15 wirelessly to hundreds of microcell controllers.

16 The microcell controllers will be
17 mounted on our utility poles, for the most part. In
18 some areas, where our facilities are underground, we
19 will mount the devices on city streetlights. I have
20 enclosed photographs for your information.

21 Data is sent through redundant
22 hardwired sources to a system controller, where the
23 data is verified and sent back to PECO for billing.

24 This technology has a proven track
25 record and is currently being successfully utilized

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2 by at least seven other utilities across the nation,
3 with about 7.7 million meters under contract.

4 Other expected benefits of this
5 system are accurate more timely meter readings,
6 elimination of estimated bills, fewer billing
7 errors, reduction in customer disputes, and the
8 inability to transition to higher levels of service
9 much quicker and easier than in today's
10 environment.

11 Future benefits will enable us to
12 identify power outages. Now, only when there is a
13 major interruption do we know unless the customer
14 calls us.

15 Additionally, in time we will be able
16 to provide customers with more information about
17 their emergency usage.

18 For instance, if a large customer
19 wanted to know weekly, daily, hourly load trends, we
20 will be able to give them that information when they
21 want it.

22 We are excited about the better
23 service that we are offering our customers through
24 the automatic meter reading system and ask that you
25 approve our request today.

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2 I appreciate your attention and will
3 answer any question that you may have.

4 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Any questions
5 for this witness?

6 Council Member Rizzo. Also let the
7 record reflect that Council Member Goode is now in
8 attendance.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Mr. Dudkin,
10 welcome.

11 There are many Water Department,
12 other utility companies read meters remotely. This
13 technology seems to be a little different than the
14 others.

15 How come there is no joint effort to
16 get on the same page and do it jointly, like we
17 colocated our cell sites on one pole, or Bell and
18 the other carriers tried to get together.

19 How come there has never been an
20 effort to do that?

21 MR. DOUG FAITH: My name is Doug
22 Faith. I am a manager in the Information Technology
23 Department for PECO Energy.

24 Mr. Rizzo, I think for the city as an
25 example, there was some recent technology that was

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2 installed by a company called Itron.

3 And there are some fundamental
4 differences in the technologies, in terms of the
5 frequency bands, the FCC license per the frequency
6 bands that they operate in.

7 The meters currently today in use and
8 read for Philadelphia Gas Works, and for the
9 Philadelphia Water Department, typically are read
10 through a man-based technology.

11 The technology we are deploying here
12 is utilizing a fixed network, which is a combination
13 of the radio frequency devices we are looking to
14 mount on the utility infrastructure, as well as
15 street lights.

16 So there are some differences in
17 terms of the functionality, the fundamental radio
18 frequency bands that they operate in.

19 The example that we could apply here
20 is that Schlumberger, who is the contractor to PECO,
21 basically, for the maintenance and operation of the
22 system of which we are buying the service from,
23 could actually provide some of those man-based meter
24 readings for the entire coverage.

25 PECO, plus the Philadelphia Gas

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2 Works, as well as the Philadelphia Water Department,
3 from a man-based perspective.

4 We couldn't read those over the Cell
5 Net Fixed Network, because fundamentally they are
6 different.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: How many cell
8 master roof locations are going to be required to
9 make the system work within Philadelphia?

10 MR. FAITH: I believe, as far as the
11 cell masters go, we are looking at about 26 cell
12 masters.

13 Most of those will be located in
14 substations, maybe some building attachments, roof
15 tops.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I am thinking back
17 when you partnered with AT&T Wireless to do the
18 locations throughout the city.

19 And there was a prohibition about
20 putting any antennas or any type of equipment within
21 the City of Philadelphia on any of the utility poles
22 located within the city.

23 And now I see you are going to do
24 cell master attachments at ground level in the City
25 of Philadelphia.

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2 You are actually going to attach this
3 box, so we will see another piece of equipment,
4 within the city.

5 How many locations like that will
6 exist?

7 MR. FAITH: I think the cell masters,
8 which are the higher level, or higher power level
9 devices, and typically you don't need nearly as many
10 of those as the microcell controllers that would
11 attach to the poles.

12 Most of those installations within
13 the city, to my knowledge, will probably be, again,
14 at PECO substation locations, mounted onto a pole,
15 with an antenna remotely mounted on the top of the
16 pole.

17 And there may be some building
18 attachments, where they could physically be mounted
19 on the roof top of a building.

20 There's only 26 of those devices,
21 though.

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So there will be a
23 combination of roof mounted and there will be a
24 combination of pole mounted, and then there is
25 another MCC power pole installation.

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2 You are talking a combination of only
3 26?

4 MR. FAITH: No; no. The cell
5 masters, the larger devices, there will be about 26
6 within the city to support the operations in the
7 city.

8 The microcell controllers, which are
9 a lower level power device, are the devices that
10 will physically mount on the street lights or on the
11 utility pole, both.

12 I think for servicing the Center City
13 area, probably we will need approximately 200 of the
14 microcell controllers mounted on streetlights.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I am sure I am
16 going to have some additional questions.

17 But I would like to know, are you
18 going to limit the reading of meters with this
19 technology?

20 Is there any other services that are
21 going to grow as a result of this installation,
22 beside reading electric meters?

23 MR. FAITH: No. The core fundamental
24 use of this network is really for meter reading and
25 for enhanced energy services associated with meter

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2 reading.

3 It is really to provide a direct
4 benefit for customer service in what we can deliver
5 as a service to our customers.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I am trying to
7 recollect -- and this will be my last question for
8 now -- there was another organization in here, where
9 Joe Doyle from the streetlighting department came
10 in, and they asked for attachments to the
11 streetlights.

12 So now you want to attach to the
13 streetlights, they want to attach to the
14 streetlights.

15 You want to attach a larger device to
16 some utility poles that are located within the --
17 the picture doesn't suggest it is in a substation by
18 the way. It looks more like a residential
19 application here.

20 You are aware of this other company
21 that wants to do something similar to that? But I
22 don't think it is to the magnitude of this size. It
23 looked like a smaller attachment to the mast arm of
24 the streetlight here, or to the arm of the
25 streetlight. So there are two people after the same

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2 spaces.

3 Mr. Chairman, do you recollect that
4 other company that was in here looking for okays to
5 hook a device to the streetlights? I forget what
6 that technology was. Mr. McBride may know.

7 MR. EDWARD D. McBRIDE: Councilman,
8 it was for Internet technology.

9 And just to give you a perspective,
10 there are 100,000 streetlights in the City of
11 Philadelphia. There's 99,000 PECO poles in
12 Philadelphia. And we are going to be attaching to
13 approximately 200 city-owned streetlights.

14 And the antenna that we are talking
15 about is, as you have a picture of it there, it is
16 quite small and, in fact, very obscure.

17 But I wanted you to have the
18 perspective of 200 versus 100,000 streetlights.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So it could either
20 be a transformer, which you really don't have, you
21 don't have anything that supports the electrical
22 system.

23 If you went out and added a
24 transformer today that's larger than this device,
25 you wouldn't need any approval from the city. So

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2 basically this is an attachment that is smaller than
3 a transformer that could --

4 MR. McBRIDE: It is much smaller. If
5 you let me get the weight.

6 THE CHAIR: Are you talking about the
7 MCC? The dimensions are here. 14 inches high,
8 11.625 inches wide, 10.375 inches deep.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I think the point
10 that I am making is, that you could go to the same
11 location, install a transformer there, and this
12 device is smaller than any transformer that you
13 would install on that pole?

14 MR. McBRIDE: Absolutely that's
15 correct.

16 THE CHAIR: Council Member Mariano.

17 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you,
18 Mr. Chairman. I have some questions, but along
19 Councilman Rizzo's line.

20 While we are talking about the
21 transformers, or these MCCs, the power pole
22 installation, these are 38 pounds. If I got you
23 wrong, Mr. McBride, please correct me.

24 You are going to put some on the city
25 lights?

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2 MR. McBRIDE: That's accurate.

3 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Why don't you
4 just put them on your own poles?

5 MR. McBRIDE: We are doing that.

6 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Most of them.

7 MR. McBRIDE: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: So I guess where
9 you are doing the city lights, you have to.

10 MR. McBRIDE: The ones that we have
11 asked permission to put on city facilities are
12 because there are no aerial facilities for us to
13 attach to of our own.

14 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: So Councilman
15 DiCicco gave the dimensions. These are 38 pounds,
16 they are 10 feet, 10 inches deep, 14 inches wide,
17 like that?

18 MR. McBRIDE: Well, I would say this
19 way.

20 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: That way.

21 Here it is, 14 inches by 11.6 by 10
22 deep, 38 pounds.

23 How high up would these go?

24 MR. FAITH: Typically, we like to get
25 them up in the 20 to 25 foot range.

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2 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Who will install
3 these, PECO personnel?

4 MR. FAITH: Actually, the
5 installation is being performed by Exelon
6 Infrastructure Services.

7 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: And explain to
8 me who Exelon is. Because I pay PECO my electric
9 bill. I don't know anybody.

10 MR. FAITH: Exelon is, essentially, a
11 subsidiary of PECO Energy. And Exelon has been
12 subcontracted by Schlumberger, who is our primary
13 contractor for this system for installation.

14 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: But who will
15 actually do the work? Will they be linemen, will
16 they be PECO linemen who get their paycheck from
17 PECO?

18 MR. FAITH: These will be Exelon
19 employees.

20 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Will they be
21 linemen, will they be electricians, will they be
22 truck drivers, City Council people? What will they
23 be?

24 MR. FAITH: I believe most of them
25 have utility background, whether they have been a

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2 lineman or some outside force.

3 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: I am not trying
4 to be smart, but a utility background, I mean, I
5 could have worked in a utility company answering a
6 telephone.

7 Will they be able to climb a pole?
8 Will then able to operate?

9 MR. McBRIDE: These are individuals
10 that are currently working on utility poles.

11 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: We are not going
12 to have anybody fall?

13 MR. McBRIDE: We wouldn't have any
14 public affairs person climbing a pole.

15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Unless you want
16 to get back up to it. I could see you climbing up a
17 pole, Mr. McBride, your size.

18 MR. McBRIDE: Not in this lifetime.

19 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: But my question
20 is safety, you know, not to be facetious.

21 I want to make sure people who are
22 qualified to do this work are actually doing this
23 work, we are not having somebody that going
24 around -- because we are going to get to that next,
25 but Rizzo opened this can of worms.

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2 Who is going to install the Cell Net
3 electric meter modules, who is going to do that
4 installation?

5 MR. DUDKIN: The meters?

6 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: The actual ones
7 that go outside my house.

8 MR. DUDKIN: Okay. That's going to
9 be a contractor.

10 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Now, the
11 contractor, when you say, "a contractor," will it be
12 an electrical contractor, a plumbing contractor, a
13 woodwork contractor, an electrical contractor?

14 MR. DUDKIN: It is a contractor
15 that's currently doing our meter reading.

16 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: And they are
17 currently doing meter reading?

18 MR. DUDKIN: Correct.

19 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: You mean, they
20 go around and read meters, now they are going to
21 open up the boxes and actually install something
22 into the electric meter outside my house.

23 So I guess this is going to be on the
24 line side or the load side of the meter?

25 MR. FAITH: Actually, the

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2 installation --

3 THE CHAIR: If you could identify
4 yourself, for the record, sir so the stenographer
5 can have it.

6 MR. FAITH: Again, my name is Doug
7 Faith. I am a manager for Information Technology.

8 The installation really requires a
9 changeout of the meter in homes. So nobody is going
10 to go in and remove the glass cover. They are going
11 to pull the old meter out --

12 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: It would be like
13 when I got upgraded from a 60 amp service, to a 200
14 amp.

15 MR. FAITH: Right.

16 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: So somebody has
17 to pull a permit, right, in the City of
18 Philadelphia?

19 Change the meters, Ed, we have to
20 pull permits; right?

21 MR. McBRIDE: This is a utility
22 function, Councilman, and this is all part of our
23 normal operating procedure. There is no permit
24 involved in this.

25 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: If it is on the

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2 load side or the line side, we are talking about it
3 comes down from your pole, and it comes in, then
4 there is the meter.

5 Now, the line side is the side that
6 comes in from the meter into my power box. I mean,
7 I got it backwards; that's the load side. The line
8 side is what comes down from the drop down.

9 Now, if you are going to take the
10 meter out, you have to get a permit.

11 MR. McBRIDE: No.

12 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Ed, I'm telling
13 you. I think that you need to have a permit.

14 I was an electrician for 25 years. I
15 still keep a current license.

16 Any time you mess with somebody's --
17 unless PECO has this --

18 THE CHAIR: Could I interrupt for a
19 minute?

20 Mr. McBride, could you explain that?
21 Do you have an explanation for that? It seemed like
22 you were ready to try to explain.

23 If someone could explain whether or
24 not a permit is needed, and, if not, why.

25 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Could we get

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2 somebody from L & I, too?

3 Do you work for L & I?

4 MS. SANDRA GOODWIN: No; I work for
5 PECO Energy.

6 THE CHAIR: Excuse me. Ma'am, could
7 you sit down and take your time.

8 Please identify yourself.

9 MS. GOODWIN: Good morning. My name
10 is Sandra Goodwin. I work for PECO Energy.

11 And to give you some further
12 information about what we're doing, during the
13 normal course of business, if someone moves out or
14 moves in, all we do is pull your meter out of the
15 socket, put plates on it which blocks the service.
16 The function to change your meter is exactly the
17 same.

18 We go out on a daily basis and change
19 meters as a normal course of our business. We're
20 not into the electrical workings of your home. It
21 is really just pulling a meter from a socket,
22 replacing it with another meter.

23 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: You are not
24 replacing the socket, then; right?

25 MS. GOODWIN: No. No. We are really

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2 just pulling our device, the same we do every day to
3 meet regulatory requirements. We will go out and
4 pull meters, test them, and replace them with new
5 meters as a course of business.

6 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Let me ask you
7 this question: If I go home tonight and I take a
8 hammer and I smash the glass around my meter, and I
9 call Mr. McBride in a panic, and he sends somebody
10 around, you don't need a permit to do that.

11 MS. GOODWIN: That's correct, you do
12 not.

13 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: But if I go hire
14 McBride Electric, and he is a licensed electrical
15 contractor -- not that there is any McBride
16 Electric; Eddie is frowning that he is not -- and he
17 is a licensed electrical contractor, when he comes
18 out to upgrade my service from 60 or 100 amps, to
19 200 amps, maybe they are even doing 400 amps, I
20 don't have a clue, he has to pull a permit. The
21 electrical contractor has to get a permit.

22 MS. GOODWIN: Yes, an electrical
23 contractor, to get into the internal wiring of your
24 home, needs a permit and must be licensed.

25 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: But if he just

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2 wants to upgrade your meter box from PECO --

3 MS. GOODWIN: Well, the meter box
4 belongs to the customer. And a licensed electrician
5 would also need a permit and have to perform that
6 work.

7 We are not performing that type of
8 work.

9 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: You are not
10 changing any wires, any drop wires from the service
11 drop down to the line side of the meter?

12 MS. GOODWIN: We are not. We are not
13 touching any of the customer property.

14 The meter box itself belongs to the
15 customer, was installed by a licensed electrician.

16 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Hopefully.

17 MS. GOODWIN: Must be UL approved,
18 would have had a permit for that work at your
19 property.

20 We are not doing electrical work at
21 your property. We are merely pulling a device out
22 of the socket, replacing it with a new one.

23 The same thing we would do if we were
24 turning your service on.

25 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Let me go on.

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2 Now, in this scenario, this group
3 comes out.

4 And who is going to be doing this
5 work? They are not going to be licensed electrical
6 contractors; right?

7 MS. GOODWIN: They are not.

8 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Now, do they
9 have experience changing meters?

10 Because when you pull a meter out, it
11 is still live, it is still hot. And when you put
12 those little plastic dummies on the end that you put
13 in with the fork stick, the males that go in the
14 females so you can't have electric, and then you put
15 your band off and lock it off with that big key that
16 nobody has except for Mr. McBride, he has one?

17 MS. GOODWIN: It is a slightly higher
18 skill set than a meter reader, who does not normally
19 touch the meter or pull it out.

20 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: He would have no
21 reason to.

22 MS. GOODWIN: But a much lower skill
23 set than an electrician.

24 So we are using the same
25 subcontractor that reads our meters, does our

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2 transfer of service work, so they already have the
3 skilled work force.

4 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: What is their
5 skill, though? I mean, they are not quite
6 electricians, but they are better than meter
7 readers. Is there a subcategory?

8 I am concerned about safety. I mean,
9 there is no Machiavellian plot here. I don't want
10 somebody coming to my house, or one of my
11 constituents' houses, pulling this meter out.

12 Because, guess what? When you pull
13 that meter out, it is under a full road.

14 And Councilman Rizzo has 13 computers
15 in his house. They crash, unless he knows they are
16 coming. And I am sure you took all of that into
17 consideration.

18 Some people may be on life support.
19 Some people it could mess up your VCR, you wouldn't
20 be able to tape. Okay?

21 Now, I don't want somebody, a meter
22 reader, doing that. I think I need a licensed
23 electrical contractor doing that, to be honest with
24 you.

25 I mean, that's your business

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2 decision, and you leave yourself open to whatever
3 kind of liability and lawsuits you have. You just
4 need to know there is a litigious -- my constituency
5 is litigious, and they are looking.

6 Everybody is safety conscious,
7 especially with electrical. We are not talking
8 about plumbing, where the worst that can happen is
9 water flows.

10 So these aren't going to be
11 electricians? That boggles my mind.

12 MS. GOODWIN: They are going to be
13 the same skill set that performs the work for PECO
14 Energy today, as well as most other utilities.

15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: But these were
16 contract employees? They are not PECO employees at
17 this point? I mean, it is not the meter readers;
18 right?

19 MS. GOODWIN: It is not the meter
20 reader.

21 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Where do these
22 people get trained to have this semi-electrical
23 skill? How do you get a semi skill?

24 I mean, what do you just go to
25 electrical apprentice school for a year and say, "I

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2 know enough to pull a meter out and not kill
3 myself"?

4 Do you know how many amperes it takes
5 to kill somebody? Do you have any idea?

6 MS. GOODWIN: No, I honestly don't.

7 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: One-tenth.

8 MS. GOODWIN: We have developed
9 training for these individuals.

10 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: PECO, or the
11 subcontractors?

12 MS. GOODWIN: PECO Energy has
13 developed the training. We monitor the training and
14 monitor the performance of all of the people in our
15 field, and that includes our subcontractors.

16 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: And these people
17 aren't PECO employees?

18 MS. GOODWIN: No, sir, they are not.
19 Some are.

20 Now, we do perform a lot of this same
21 type of work by our own employees. But some of our
22 work is subcontracted out, our meter reading and our
23 transfer service work.

24 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Now, for the
25 lawyers in this room and for the law department --

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2 not that this all matters, because I can say these
3 things because I am not a lawyer, so therefore it is
4 okay -- where are we getting these people, I mean,
5 if they are not PECO employees?

6 Do we just put this out for bid, PECO
7 puts it out for bid? And we get together, me and
8 Mr. Schrager there get together, and start a company
9 and we bid on this work. And I go, "Well, see, I am
10 an electrician. Mr. Schrager is a lawyer, he is not
11 quite an electrician, so, therefore, he would be
12 able to do this after training?"

13 Where do people come from? Are we
14 putting ads in the newspaper? I mean, they are or
15 they aren't current PECO employees?

16 MR. DUDKIN: We are putting this out
17 to bid. And --

18 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: An open bid?

19 MR. DUDKIN: The contractor is hiring
20 the folks. I am assuming they have put an ad in the
21 paper. I don't know how they have gone out to get
22 these people. But they are being properly trained
23 to do the task.

24 We are very concerned about employee
25 safety, as well as public safety. And we would not

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2 jeopardize public safety or an employee or a
3 contractor's safety with folks not properly
4 trained.

5 That's our business. We understand
6 it. We can train these folks properly.

7 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: See, I am still
8 concerned. I hate to take up all this time, but
9 this is a problem, Ed. Safety is a big deal.

10 Again, who are these people? Are
11 they PECO employees that are trying to better
12 themselves, or are they PECO employees that are
13 going to go out that used to read the meters?

14 Because that's what I thought they
15 were, and you are trying to help them and give them
16 another semi-trade. Is that what we're doing here?
17 Can we say that?

18 Are you going to hire people for \$5
19 an hour? I mean, let's ask the big question. How
20 much are these people getting paid? An electrician
21 makes about \$30 an hour.

22 MR. DUDKIN: I don't know.

23 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Mr. Dudkin, what
24 is your title here? You are the chairman? No.

25 MR. DUDKIN: Vice-President.

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2 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Vice-President
3 of marketing, and you don't know these answers? You
4 know, you come here in front of this committee, you
5 should know these answers.

6 I want to know who the people are,
7 where they live, how much they are going to be paid,
8 exactly how many hours they are going to be
9 trained.

10 I mean, I was an electrician. I am
11 still an electrician, and I am proud of it. I sat
12 out at that apprentice school for five years. I
13 took the four-year course in five years. So I have
14 extra knowledge, and I am learning every day.

15 I can't understand how -- you could
16 short something out and blow up a meter in front of
17 you just by a little piece of tiny copper thread of
18 a strand of wire could short it out.

19 You should be better prepared.

20 Does anyone else at this table have
21 the ability to answer these questions?

22 MS. GOODWIN: I think I can help.

23 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Okay. Who are
24 these people? Who are they going to be? Are they
25 ex-PECO employees? Yes or no.

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2 MS. GOODWIN: Some are. Some are
3 absolutely ex-PECO employees.

4 Other are employees who have been
5 recruited by this contractor who are put through our
6 training program, and diligently tested and
7 monitored.

8 We perform this work 600,000 times a
9 year, or more, every year, safely.

10 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Where did you do
11 this at?

12 MS. GOODWIN: Throughout our PECO
13 service territory.

14 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: You did it in
15 Philadelphia?

16 MS. GOODWIN: Yes; we change meters
17 and install new meters --

18 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: But the people
19 who come out and change the meters in Philadelphia
20 are people that work for --

21 THE CHAIR: Councilman Mariano, I
22 think, in fairness, we should allow them to finish
23 the answer. You are kind of anticipating their
24 next.

25 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: I'm sorry, Mr.

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2 Chairman. I am not. She is not giving me --

3 THE CHAIR: Councilman, the lady is
4 going to answer your question.

5 I think what's happening, you are
6 doing it to me right now, you are anticipating your
7 next question. I would like to hear the answer, as
8 well.

9 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Mr. Chairman, I
10 am not that bright to anticipate you or her.

11 What I want to know is, and she is
12 avoiding my question, Mr. Chairman --

13 THE CHAIR: Councilman, I am only
14 asking --

15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Yes, Mr.
16 Chairman. She is avoiding --

17 THE CHAIR: Councilman, I am only
18 asking --

19 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Mr. Chairman,
20 who are these people? That's all I want to know.

21 THE CHAIR: Councilman --

22 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Who are these
23 people and how are they trained?

24 THE CHAIR: Councilman --

25 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Where do they

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2 come from?
3 THE CHAIR: Councilman --
4 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: How much are
5 they getting paid?
6 THE CHAIR: Councilman, nine -- ten
7 times you have done it to me.
8 I would like to hear the answer, as
9 well. I think your questions are good questions.
10 But I am not -- and I don't know about the rest --
11 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Well, maybe if
12 you would quit interrupting and let --
13 THE CHAIR: Councilman, you are doing
14 it again.
15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: -- her answer.
16 I want it heard.
17 THE CHAIR: Councilman, please.
18 I would like to hear the response,
19 and I think the other members of the committee would
20 like to hear the answer to your question. I am only
21 asking that if you would slow it down.
22 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Can I rephrase
23 that, and we will save us all time?
24 THE CHAIR: I am asking you to slow
25 it down because I have not heard all of the answers

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2 to your questions, and I am not certain if the other
3 members have. And I would like the record --

4 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: All right, Mr.
5 Chairman. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIR: Councilman.

7 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you.

8 THE CHAIR: I would like the record
9 to have all of the testimony.

10 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: And so would I.
11 We are trying to achieve the same ending here.

12 But if I could just one thing, they
13 have had ten minutes.

14 THE CHAIR: Councilman, you have been
15 asking questions for the better part of ten minutes,
16 and I am not cutting you off.

17 I am just asking you one more time, I
18 would like to hear the response so the record will
19 be clear.

20 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Me, too.

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

22 MR. McBRIDE: Okay fellows. Go into
23 your corners.

24 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: This is for my
25 constituency. I just need to know answers. Let me

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2 rephrase the one question. One question at a time,
3 because I don't want to confuse the Chairman or
4 anyone else here, any of the assistants or anybody
5 else.

6 Who are these people, and how much
7 are they being paid?

8 MR. McBRIDE: Councilman, these are
9 PECO employees and employees that work for the
10 contractor that is currently doing this kind of work
11 and reading our meters.

12 They are going to go through our
13 training module, just like all of our employees have
14 gone through to change meters.

15 And then Ms. Goodwin said, we do this
16 600,000 times a day, with employees that have
17 gone -- or a year, with employees that have gone
18 through the exact same training module. Exactly, no
19 different.

20 And we expect that these employees,
21 when trained, will go out and carry out the duties
22 no differently than the current employees.

23 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Mr. Chairman,
24 could I just ask a followup on that question?

25 MR. McBRIDE: Also --

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2 THE CHAIR: I would like to follow
3 up.

4 Is there any difference in the pay
5 scale that the employees who are doing that work,
6 the 600,000 or so functions that are performed
7 today, will there be any change in the pay scale as
8 it relates to what this new change or this new
9 function will be? Does anyone have the answer to
10 that?

11 Since it is basically the same kind
12 of work, and the same people, is there a change --

13 MR. McBRIDE: No, there will be no
14 change.

15 One of the things that this does, by
16 hiring these employees, is, it extends the
17 inevitability of their employment termination once
18 automatic meter reading is done.

19 You know, basically we are trying to
20 train them to change out the meters and extend their
21 employment.

22 As you may be interested, I mean,
23 this is a working group that's 74 percent minority.
24 And we are going to put them in the same exact
25 training module that we currently put our employees

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2 in.

3 As Mr. Dudkin mentioned, safety is a
4 serious priority for us. And I think Councilman
5 Rizzo knows that probably better than all of us. So
6 we don't want to put anybody in jeopardy.

7 It was mentioned earlier about the
8 computers going off and the VCR blinking. No one is
9 going to have their meter changed without proper
10 notification. So they will get an opportunity to
11 power down their house.

12 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Councilman Mariano.

14 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you,
15 Mr. Chairman.

16 How much are we paying these people
17 an hourly rate? Do we have any idea?

18 MS. GOODWIN: I'm sorry; I do not.

19 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Now, these
20 people -- I want to say this slow, because I don't
21 want anybody to get mad or anybody to misunderstand
22 this -- these people that may have worked for PECO
23 that you are training the same people, I am a little
24 confused here, really, because I am not involved
25 with the inner workings of who PECO sends out.

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2 I always thought when someone came
3 out and did anything to my house and my meter, he
4 was qualified. I just figured he was an electrician
5 or a lineman, at least an electrician if he is
6 working on that, if he is up on a pole. Maybe not.
7 Maybe you have the subcategory that I don't know
8 about. Maybe Councilman Rizzo can enlighten us on
9 that.

10 But these people that you are sending
11 to this safety training, they go to the same
12 training that the people that are coming out go to
13 now. But this never happens.

14 You still have that, where the guys
15 come out that aren't linemen, aren't electricians,
16 that are messing with -- or not messing with, but
17 are changing meters?

18 MR. McBRIDE: The people that
19 currently change out our meters now are not linemen;
20 they are energy technicians.

21 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Is that their
22 category?

23 MR. McBRIDE: Yes.

24 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Now, what kind
25 of schooling do they have to go to?

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2 MR. McBRIDE: They go through
3 whatever training modules they need to do their job.

4 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Do you know the
5 time of that? Is it a month, a year, two years?

6 MR. McBRIDE: No, I don't know.

7 And it would be based on what tasks
8 they are going to perform. And the time isn't the
9 element; it is the quality of education.

10 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Right. Could
11 you find out for the people on this committee and
12 send us that, how many hours these people need to go
13 for training?

14 Listen, I know PECO's safety. And I
15 am sure it is way above what it has to be for the
16 kind of job that PECO categorizes that in.

17 Now, before someone told me that you
18 don't have to get a -- we don't have to get
19 a meter-- do you have to get this inspected? Do we
20 need to get this inspected when we change that?

21 Do you have like an internal
22 inspection from PECO? Do you have like a crew chief
23 that comes out, and maybe there are five or six or
24 ten, and he is in charge of ten installations, and
25 he says, "Look this group here did ten. This is

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2 right, this isn't?"

3 I mean, there is safety followup
4 after they get this whatever classroom time there
5 is?

6 MS. GOODWIN: These individuals that
7 will be performing the installations are also backed
8 up with a higher skill level foreman. There are
9 also quality auditors that are following the people,
10 checking their work.

11 We are also monitoring on databases
12 to make sure that the information that they are
13 passing back for our billing is accurate. And we
14 are doing that almost on an hourly basis.

15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Let me see.
16 Now, the people that PECO are keeping here that are
17 permanent PECO employees, the ones I am concerned
18 about are the new ones and where they are coming
19 from.

20 And Mr. McBride gracefully let us
21 know that they were 70 percent minority, and I
22 commend you for doing that. But you don't have any
23 qualifications on being a city resident or a county
24 resident or a state resident, or anything like
25 that?

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2 MS. GOODWIN: No, we do not.

3 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Are you
4 receiving any state or federal funding to do this?
5 You know, is there anything coming from the state or
6 the feds to help you train these people?

7 MS. GOODWIN: No, sir.

8 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Have you looked
9 at the Welfare to Work rolls or anything? Is there
10 anybody like that on there?

11 MS. GOODWIN: I don't believe so.

12 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Is PECO involved
13 in picking these people, or are your subs just
14 putting ads in the paper and bringing these people
15 in? Is that how it is working?

16 MS. GOODWIN: The subcontractor is
17 responsible for the hiring of their staff. But we
18 also have the right to be involved as far as
19 evaluating the standard of which they are hiring.

20 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: But you actually
21 don't pick who they are?

22 MS. GOODWIN: That's correct.

23 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: I mean, they
24 pick ten people, and you say this these ten are
25 okay, but maybe this ninth is qualified, they may

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2 fail a drug test or something?

3 MS. GOODWIN: They are all required
4 to pass drug and alcohol screening prior to
5 employment.

6 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: You are not
7 recruiting for this; right? The contractor does the
8 recruiting?

9 MS. GOODWIN: The contractor is.

10 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Okay. That's
11 it. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

13 Councilman Cohen, and then Councilman
14 Rizzo.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

16 Does the city receive any particular
17 compensation for use of its poles or other equipment
18 to which some of these may be attached,
19 Mr. McBride?

20 MR. McBRIDE: Yes, Councilman. There
21 is a fee that was derived to cover the cost for the
22 city. And that was worked out with the Law
23 Department and the Public Property Department.

24 So there is a fee for attachment.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And I'm not sure I

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2 was clear at the interchange of questions and
3 answers from Councilman Mariano.

4 Tell me in what regard were you
5 discussing the use of subcontractors to replace --
6 do they replace meters, or do just PECO employees do
7 that?

8 MS. GOODWIN: It would be the
9 subcontractors that would be replacing the meters.

10 MR. MCBRIDE: These are contractors
11 that are currently working for us.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: That replace
13 meters in the normal course of business?

14 MR. MCBRIDE: Right. This would
15 extend, this project would extend, their
16 employment.

17 By retraining them to change out the
18 meters, that would effectively extend the ultimate
19 termination. Once automatic meter reading is in,
20 there would be a layoff in that work force.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You mean in the
22 meter readers' work force?

23 MR. MCBRIDE: Right. This would
24 extend their employment.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: How many meter

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2 readers do you employ directly?

3 MR. DUDKIN: I don't have that
4 information.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Could you find
6 that out.

7 MS. GOODWIN: Well, I could tell you
8 that PECO Energy does not employ any directly, that
9 that work is performed, again, by this contractor.
10 And I believe the number is right around 300.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You mean these
12 meter readers are not PECO employees? They are
13 employees of a subcontractor?

14 I mean, has PECO always used that
15 system, or is that relatively new?

16 We understood that, in the old
17 days -- I now have an outside meter in my house, so
18 I never see a meter reader. Apparently he comes in
19 the driveway and reads the meters.

20 But in the days when we saw meter
21 readers, I thought they were PECO employees.

22 MS. GOODWIN: They were until 1994.
23 And at that point we did outsource it to this
24 contractor.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: In 1994?

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2 MS. GOODWIN: Yes, sir.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And what is this
4 training you are giving to these meter readers in an
5 effort to continue their employment? What are you
6 training them for? To be able to replace meters?

7 MR. DUDKIN: Right. Just to be able
8 to replace a meter and take the appropriate
9 information down.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, once the
11 meter is replaced, it lasts a long time, doesn't
12 it?

13 MR. DUDKIN: Yes.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Because I can
15 never remember a replacement of a meter, except when
16 it went to the outdoors from the indoors.

17 MS. GOODWIN: The average lifetime of
18 a normal meter is about 30, 40 years.

19 MR. McBRIDE: Councilman, one of the
20 advantages to this system is something that is
21 raised several times a year from your office.

22 When a customer has an indoor meter,
23 and because of their schedule it can't be read --

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Right.

25 MR. McBRIDE: -- even though the

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2 meter remains indoors, after these new meters are
3 put in, there will be no estimated billing.

4 And occasionally your office will
5 call us and say, "Hey, Councilman Rizzo got a high
6 bill, and because he hadn't had a reading in four
7 months because we couldn't get access, and they got
8 a \$600 bill. Can you help us with this?" And we
9 give them terms to help them pay off the bill.

10 That goes away. Now they will get a
11 bill every month, in a timely fashion, with no need
12 for meter readers to enter their property, which is
13 also, as Mr. Dudkin mentioned, a serious safety
14 concern throughout the city, people posing or acting
15 as though they are meter readers and trying to get
16 access to a property.

17 So there's two benefits right off the
18 bat from this process.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: How about if a
20 customer opts to terminate the service with PECO
21 under the electric choice provisions; will the meter
22 reading apply to those companies?

23 MR. DUDKIN: Yes.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: They will be able
25 to use the same facilities?

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2 MR. DUDKIN: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The same way they
4 use the transmission lines?

5 MR. DUDKIN: Yes.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All right. I have
7 no further questions.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Will this
9 technology -- as a matter of fact, will even
10 hopefully make the outdoor meters read monthly
11 without an estimated bill, too. You know I had to
12 get that in there, Ed.

13 Will this give you the technology to
14 shut off service without coming out? If somebody
15 doesn't pay their bill, can you hit a couple of
16 buttons and shut them off?

17 MR. FAITH: No, Councilman Rizzo, it
18 will not have the capability to physically turn on
19 and off service to a house.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Here is where I
21 would like to go with this. And I have been handed
22 a couple of notes.

23 The 26 locations, obviously you know
24 where they are going to be. And there was a
25 statement made that these pole-mounted locations

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2 would be, hopefully, constructed at substation
3 locations.

4 I would like to agree to that in
5 writing, that that is exactly what you are going to
6 do.

7 And I think, based on the size of the
8 cell master, that you would hopefully be able to
9 locate these at primarily -- and I am using
10 information that we used to develop the cellular
11 telephone locations -- that you are going to
12 primarily use the roof-mounted locations at PECO
13 facilities first.

14 I mean, that's a smart business
15 decision, save rent if you do it at your own service
16 locations.

17 And if you need a facility, could you
18 give the city the first shot at the revenue, at
19 putting that at a firehouse location, a police
20 location, a municipal building?

21 And I would like to know, if that's
22 not the case, where you plan to put these. Because
23 I am sure your engineering has already determined
24 approximately where you are going to need them.

25 And I think, based on an attachment

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2 of almost a thousand pounds, that L & I should have
3 some input on where these sites are going to be
4 attached for many concerns, fire.

5 PECO, you pride yourself on your
6 safety record. And I think that the last thing you
7 would want to do is attach something, a thousand
8 pound, maybe 750, I remember, pound device to a
9 location.

10 And I think that at least that part
11 of the component should have some interaction with
12 Licenses & Inspection, especially if you pick a
13 facility that's a public building or a location like
14 that.

15 So I think we might have to make some
16 amendments or some agreements here that those points
17 that I just made be considered.

18 PECO locations, I would like to know
19 the pole-mounted locations where they are going to
20 be.

21 Because I tell you the truth, it is
22 getting to the point now -- and I don't want to use
23 the word "clutter" to refer to your equipment -- but
24 there is clutter all over the place, with all this
25 new technology.

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2 And I think I personally -- and I
3 don't know about the rest of the committee -- want
4 to know where you plan to put them. And if you are
5 willing to say it here, then you are willing to put
6 it in writing.

7 MR. DUDKIN: We, I believe, know of
8 all the locations. We can sit down and review those
9 locations with you.

10 As far as L & I, we will comply with
11 all applicable regulations that the city has as far
12 as siting and the safety of this equipment.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Okay. It looks
14 like a good plan to me. Thanks.

15 THE CHAIR: Any other questions for
16 this witness?

17 Councilman Cohen.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is there one
19 private contractor, subcontractor, that does this
20 meter reading? I'm just not clear, because this is
21 the first time I have heard of a private contractor
22 working for the electric company.

23 Is it one? Is it a specific one, or
24 are there a series of contractors?

25 MR. DUDKIN: We have two meter

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2 reading contractors working for us. One of those
3 will be involved in the installation of the meters,
4 one of those two.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: One of those two.

6 MR. DUDKIN: Right.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What happens to
8 the employees of the other, are they different in
9 size or --

10 MR. DUDKIN: Yes. They currently
11 handle a piece of Philadelphia. Over a time, as AMR
12 gets implemented, that contract will decrease.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And these
14 contractors are really handling what you indicated,
15 the change of the meters?

16 MR. DUDKIN: Yes.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: In which you say
18 nothing is touched with respect to the electrical
19 part of the socket?

20 MR. DUDKIN: Right. Correct. It is
21 taking out, removing a meter, putting in a new
22 meter, writing down what the readings are, making
23 sure that gets into our systems.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: As far as I know,
25 the Gas Works has always maintained its own

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2 employees as readers; is that right? Do you know
3 that?

4 MR. DUDKIN: I don't know that.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Why was it it was
6 changed back in 1994?

7 MR. FAITH: Actually, back in '94, I
8 believe, there was an announcement by the senior
9 management of our company that we were going to be
10 pursuing an automated meter reading solution
11 approach in the coming years.

12 And I think essentially at that point
13 in time there was a strategic decision made that the
14 company was going to commit to automated meter
15 reading and that the future of manual meter reading
16 would probably be in question.

17 That's my recollection, having lived
18 through those years with the company.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: We're very
20 sensitive to the question of employees loosing
21 jobs.

22 In the merger discussions that took
23 place, we were told about some positions that would
24 be lost, say, at a headquarters in time as a result
25 of the merger. I don't recollect any discussion of

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2 these meter readers.

3 They are not PECO employees, you
4 said?

5 MR. DUDKIN: Right. They are not
6 PECO employees; they are contractors.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: But does the
8 contractor spend full time on PECO? Does he have
9 other clients, or is PECO the client?

10 MS. GOODWIN: No; both of the
11 vendors, both of the subcontractors, have other
12 contracts with other utilities.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: How about the two
14 contractors that change these meters?

15 MS. GOODWIN: Yes, sir, they do also
16 have other contracts within the State of
17 Pennsylvania and outside of Pennsylvania.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All right. Do you
19 know, is there going to be other testimony?

20 These meters readers, are they
21 represented by any labor organization, do you know?

22 MS. GOODWIN: No, sir, they are not.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: They are not.

24 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 THE CHAIR: Any other questions?

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2 Councilman Mariano, do you have
3 questions?

4 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: I can always
5 think of some.

6 THE CHAIR: No. Any other questions
7 for these witnesses?

8 MR. McBRIDE: Mr. Chairman, we just
9 want to clarify that the cell master is different
10 than the microcontroller.

11 The microcontroller is what is going
12 to be mounted on streetlights and utility poles.

13 The cell master, the thousand pound
14 piece of equipment that the Councilman referenced,
15 that is going to be in the substations, for the most
16 mark.

17 And, obviously, we will follow
18 whatever regulations apply outside of the
19 substations.

20 I just wanted to clarify that.

21 THE CHAIR: Will that function be
22 done by the subcontractor also, or the PECO
23 employees?

24 MR. McBRIDE: No; that will be done
25 by Exelon.

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2 THE CHAIR: Exelon. Thank you.
3 Councilman Cohen.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I think over the
5 holiday I heard a report of a TV employee who was
6 setting up to take some pictures somewhere. And his
7 antenna touched something electrical, and he was
8 badly burned over the body. The report came in just
9 within the last few days.

10 It was an accidental contact. He
11 just stopped somewhere, he saw activity going on, he
12 wanted to record it just to show what some people
13 were doing over the three-day Memorial Day holiday.

14 And if there were accidental contact
15 with any of this equipment that you are planning to
16 put on, would there be any danger to anyone?

17 In other words, suppose an antenna, a
18 TV guy, or somebody else just comes up and wants to
19 take a picture, puts up his antenna and happens to
20 hit this box.

21 MR. FAITH: Councilman, the microcell
22 controllers, the devices which would be essentially
23 mounted on the streetlights or the utility poles,
24 they are in a steel enclosure.

25 They are powered, essentially, from

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2 120 volt, similar to any other appliance in your
3 home.

4 So I guess to answer your question,
5 if something were to compromise that structure, that
6 metal structure, there could be some result from
7 that. But it's nothing to the extent of touching a
8 high tension wire.

9 And I'm not sure of the accident that
10 you referred to. It may indeed have been contact
11 with a high tension wire.

12 But the device --

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: It could have been
14 that.

15 MR. FAITH: But the device,
16 essentially, is powered similar to any other
17 appliance, your toaster, you know, your clock, VCR,
18 any electronics.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So touching the
20 outside --

21 MR. FAITH: Touching the outside
22 would not compromise that at all.

23 It is a relatively -- it is a very
24 rigid steel enclosure. And it is protected with
25 fuses; such that, if there is a short, the circuit

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2 should essentially be opened.

3 So I think the risks -- or measures
4 have been taken to mitigate risks around any
5 accident that could occur like that.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

7 MR. McBRIDE: Councilman, there has
8 been a lot of discussion this morning about safety.
9 And because you raised this, I wanted to just point
10 out that we have a group called Contractor and
11 Builder Services that has gone out with training
12 modules for all of the TV stations in the area and
13 given them explanations on how to work safely around
14 overhead wires. And, as a result of that, we have
15 been applauded for that effort.

16 So I just wanted to mention, we do --
17 we are very sensitive for that.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All right. Very
19 good.

20 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Any other
21 questions for these witnesses?

22 There's been some discussion or
23 questions raised about the location of the various
24 devices.

25 Have you identified those yet? Are

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2 you still working on those sites where those devices
3 will be located?

4 And if you have them now, fine. If
5 not, would you submit it to the Chair, those
6 substations where some of the devices will be and
7 where the smaller boxes that will be mounted on the
8 poles?

9 I would appreciate that, if you could
10 get that to the Chair. Thank you.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: With respect to
12 what the Chair just mentioned, is the location of
13 each of these items to be installed, is that cleared
14 with the Streets Department? Do they --

15 MR. McBRIDE: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Each one is
17 separately approved?

18 MR. DUDKIN: That's my
19 understanding.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is there a
21 representative of the Streets Department?

22 MR. McBRIDE: This was through Public
23 Property, Councilman.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Public Property.
25 All right.

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2 MR. McBRIDE: And a specific
3 location, like whether it is the first pole from the
4 corner of 16th and Ranstead, or the second pole, no,
5 we have not narrowed it down to that specificity.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: But you need to do
7 that ultimately?

8 MR. McBRIDE: We do that because it
9 has to be determined according to what the buildings
10 are around the area. You know, whatever the
11 topography is, that will drive it a little bit.

12 But we do have agreement generally on
13 the area that we're going to be focusing on.

14 THE CHAIR: Councilman Rizzo.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Mr. McBride,
16 Mr. Doyle from our Streetlighting Department is
17 here.

18 You mentioned that the pole
19 attachments to streetlights has been cleared by the
20 Public Property Department. The Streetlight
21 Department is within the Streets Department.

22 So has Mr. Doyle had the review on
23 what the configuration -- you are making an
24 attachment to a streetlight that the Streets
25 Department is responsible for, not the Public

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2 Property Department.

3 MR. McBRIDE: That's accurate.

4 And I had the same question,
5 actually, Councilman.

6 The original discussions were between
7 Public Property and the Streets Department. But the
8 department that we worked with to craft the
9 legislation was with Public Property, at the city's
10 request.

11 Streets Commissioner Moy was involved
12 in the early discussions, and as was Joe Doyle and
13 Mr. Siernick.

14 But then the crafting of the
15 ordinance came through Public Property and the Law
16 Department.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So when we talk to
18 the streetlighting people, they will be okay with
19 the number of locations -- how many locations,
20 again, are you going to attach to streetlights?

21 MR. McBRIDE: 200.

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: 200. And they
23 bought into that?

24 MR. McBRIDE: Yes.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

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2 THE CHAIR: Any other questions?

3 Thank you. Thank you for your
4 testimony.

5 I understand there are two other
6 individuals who wish to testify, Mr. Dougherty,
7 Mr. Dollard.

8 Good morning, and please identify
9 yourself for the record and proceed with your
10 testimony.

11 MR. JOHN J. DOUGHERTY: John J.
12 Dougherty, Business Manager, IBW Local 98,
13 electricians and technicians. Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 Jim Dollard and myself, Jim is one of
16 our teachers over at Local 98's apprentice program
17 on Spring Garden Street. I just stopped in today.

18 And it seems to be a recurring
19 problem for not only myself, but the city, in that
20 there is a lot of work that is being reclassified
21 today.

22 As we move into the 21st Century, as
23 the telecommunication process takes its course, with
24 the changing environment in the electrical field,
25 there seems to be a whole lot of players now. And

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2 they hide under veils of privatization, minority
3 participation.

4 And at Local 98, we have been
5 changing with the times. We have a skill set at
6 Local 98 that gives us the opportunity to go from
7 the electrical field, up into the most automated of
8 installations in the world today.

9 And we have also been very inclusive
10 in our process. And we take offense when people --
11 especially when they think they are competing with
12 us -- throw out that, "Well, we are using minority
13 participation."

14 Well, Local 98 has been very active
15 in its last two to three years in trying to become
16 the most inclusive union in town.

17 And we try, because of that process,
18 we try to use the word "neighborhood participation"
19 because we feel that it is better for Philadelphia
20 to use specific kids from specific neighborhoods,
21 when applicable.

22 The bottom line is, is that we have a
23 tremendous education facility. We in the last three
24 years have taken over the telecommunication market
25 at the IBW, and most recently as May 1 took over the

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2 broadcast.

3 So now you get one-stop shopping at
4 17th and Spring Garden. There is nothing in that
5 field that you cannot get in Philadelphia and have
6 local Philadelphia kids involved in.

7 The bottom line is still dollars and
8 cents. You know, I always have a problem when
9 anyone that carries the title of business manager,
10 Vice-President, corporate head, cannot come in and
11 give you specifics. Okay?

12 I can answer any question. I don't
13 usually take the time to come down, because we have
14 a lot of qualified people around. I was in the
15 building, and just found that very offensive.

16 My guys get paid \$30 an hour. It is
17 a tiered process, through an apprenticeship
18 program. It starts out at \$10 an hour, with
19 benefits. And the membership is probably, the new
20 membership is probably, 80 percent Philadelphia.
21 And I am also very proud of that.

22 And outside of Philadelphia, it is
23 held against them. So I don't want it to be held
24 against them to be in Philadelphia.

25 We hire from the neighborhoods. We

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2 educate in the neighborhood. We want to do the work
3 in the neighborhood.

4 We don't mind that other people
5 compete with us. We don't have a monopoly on it.
6 We just want to make sure that the wage and standard
7 that we have negotiated over 100 years is also put
8 in place.

9 Paying someone \$7 an hour and asking
10 them to pull a meter, and running them through a
11 quick program, when they have no history, or no
12 understanding of safety, or maybe nine out of ten
13 times no prior work history at all can be
14 dangerous.

15 I represent people for a living. My
16 number one priority when I send a kid out on the job
17 is that he understands the job, and he has taken all
18 the safety courses that are applicable to that job.

19 I'm not comfortable with what I heard
20 today. I'm not a professional in the education or
21 safety field, but my protege at my right is. He is
22 nationally recognized. We are lucky to have him.
23 He spent a lot of time and effort making sure that
24 this city is safe.

25 I also just will give you a short

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2 history.

3 In situations it was asked, how would
4 you do these jobs.

5 Local 98 had the history of something
6 that might have, and we have been here before, a
7 very skilled portion to it, and then a very remedial
8 portion to it.

9 What we try to do is, we put the very
10 qualified person alongside a neighborhood resident
11 that would be selected for that specific job. So
12 that not only does he get life rules and work
13 rules -- it might be his first job -- but he also
14 learns the trade and he is not put in a safety
15 position.

16 We have done that with some of the
17 cable companies. And, most of the time, primarily
18 with the installation for Comcast and CCG, I put a
19 skilled technician alongside a neighborhood
20 individual, and I went to City Council for that
21 individual. And it has worked out very well.

22 And that kid no longer -- as one of
23 the previous speakers said, is facing unemployment.
24 He is facing a future now in a local union.

25 We are in the business of giving guys

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2 careers, not jobs. We are in the business of giving
3 people a job that they are able to keep a family in
4 this city for a long period of time.

5 So I appreciate taking this time.

6 And I know that I wasn't scheduled to the end.

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you for your
8 testimony. And I am sure most of us have said at
9 one time or another we do appreciate all the work
10 that your local does, in particular in hiring people
11 from the Philadelphia community.

12 Because we know that we get that
13 money back ten times over when we employ people who
14 continue to live here and spend their money in our
15 communities.

16 You mentioned something about your
17 program, and I think you cited something at the
18 lower level of the jobs are about \$10 an hour, plus
19 benefits.

20 Someone in that particular category,
21 would they be qualified to work at this work that is
22 being proposed by PECO here today, through the
23 outside contractor? Is that something that one of
24 your apprentices would be qualified to do?

25 Because I don't see that much of a

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2 difference in the spread from hearing PECO's
3 subcontractor maybe paying 7 or 7.50 an hour, and if
4 your guys can do it at around 10, 10.50 an hour. It
5 isn't really that much of a spread.

6 And I was just wondering if there is
7 a way in which we can craft this -- we can't do it
8 legislatively, obviously. But maybe through
9 negotiations we can figure out a way where we all
10 can get what we want out of this.

11 PECO can get to do what it needs to
12 do to better serve the city's customers, and
13 Philadelphia folks could be employed to do that
14 work.

15 You know, again, we can't do that
16 legislatively. But I am just kind of thinking out
17 loud here.

18 MR. DOUGHERTY: I am just going to
19 answer you out loud here.

20 Well, let me say, PECO, very good
21 company. Very high-quality personnel. Some of the
22 people that presented are friends of mine, that
23 presented their case today are friends of mine.
24 Okay?

25 We are not dealing with PECO here; we

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2 are dealing with a subcontractor that is not in the
3 electrical business.

4 I have 350 contractors sitting on a
5 sheet of paper up on Spring Garden Street that are
6 certified electrical contractors.

7 We have specific job arrangements in
8 which we make the lesser of the job more financially
9 reachable. We work -- we call them competitive
10 adjustments.

11 We have market recovery programs. We
12 have all this type of assets. That's not even been
13 explored here. Okay? We would be more than willing
14 to sit down and make them work.

15 From a safety standpoint, we would
16 have to have a journeyman in the process, because
17 our education process is every year you move up into
18 a greater grasp of the field.

19 Jimmy would have a better knowledge
20 of the actual statistics of safety.

21 But, yes, we would have a series of
22 apprentices involved in this process.

23 And I would also like to let you know
24 that most of our apprentices have already been part
25 of these neighborhood programs, they also have two

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2 years under their belt, and they have also had a
3 legitimate two to three years' worth of education
4 under their belt.

5 THE CHAIR: And you referred to
6 Jimmy. You don't mean Jimmy Kenney. Jimmy --

7 MR. DOUGHERTY: Yes, Jimmy to my
8 right.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is Jimmy going to
10 testify? Because after he does, I would like to --

11 THE CHAIR: Councilman Cohen.

12 MR. JAMES DOLLARD: Jim Dollard, IBEW
13 98, I am presently the Chairman of National
14 Electrical Code.

15 Now, the electrical code takes
16 jurisdiction in the City of Philadelphia from the
17 service point on. And I would just like to explain
18 it.

19 For example, if you've got utility
20 poles outside your house, PECO will deliver a
21 service drop, an overhead drop.

22 From that point on, if you want to
23 take your service and upgrade your service, that's
24 your responsibility. You are required to hire a
25 contractor, take it from the service point to the

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2 meter, from the meter into your service equipment.
3 PECO didn't install that throughout the city.

4 PECO has an exemplary safety record,
5 and it is just that. It is one of the best in the
6 country, I believe.

7 These are subcontractors. There are
8 so many items that come into play here, I could
9 literally talk to you for two hours, but I won't do
10 that.

11 The National Electrical Code
12 recognizes those conductors as having no overcurrent
13 protection at all. That represents a serious,
14 serious safety hazard, and it represents a serious
15 safety hazard to the trained person.

16 We're all aware of shock hazards.
17 Everybody in the room has been shocked at one time
18 or another.

19 But when you are dealing with
20 conductors that have no overcurrent protection at
21 all, there's two other very serious safety risks
22 involved, and they are arc flash and arc blasts.

23 Now, both of the them are caused when
24 you have a low impetus ground fault, which is a
25 short circuit, for all practical purposes, or a

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2 short circuit.

3 Now, I am kind of disturbed at what I
4 have heard here, that subcontractors who are
5 responsible for training their employees, the fact
6 that they are subcontractors, PECO isn't responsible
7 to train them.

8 While PECO may give criteria to the
9 subcontractors, per the OSHA standards -- which are
10 law, they are regulatory standards -- National
11 Electrical Code is a consensus document which is
12 adopted by the city, which makes it a regulatory
13 standard. It is the employer that is responsible
14 for this type of training.

15 I'm very concerned that short-time
16 employees aren't going to receive the type of
17 training that's required.

18 And each employer is going to have a
19 different dedication to safety. Many are more
20 dedicated to numbers today, unfortunately, than they
21 are safety.

22 But Councilman Mariano can explain to
23 you himself the dangers of arc flash. He was
24 involved in an incident several years ago.

25 But an arc flash can take, for

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2 example, in front of a meter, can take the ambient
3 temperature from, in this room, maybe 68 degrees, to
4 well over 15,000 degrees Fahrenheit for some
5 distance in front of the meter.

6 That will cause incurable
7 third-degree burns to the hands and, if the face is
8 exposed, the face.

9 There's so many variables here. Have
10 these employees been taught in
11 electrical-safety-related work practices, per the
12 OSHA standards, per NFPA 70E? Are they issued the
13 proper personal protective equipment?

14 The fact that PECO didn't install
15 that wiring from the service point on, are they
16 trained to recognize a problem that may exist in a
17 homeowner's meter, and the removal of that meter
18 will now not allow you to install another one, you
19 can try to install another one, but it looks a
20 little shaky?

21 The problem is, you could have a
22 young installer, somebody that's not trained very
23 well, they could literally install thousands of
24 meters, and then when they run into that one
25 problem, they may not be able to recognize it. And

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2 it would be a very, very serious problem.

3 And I'm not so sure -- I think that
4 this is going to involve a little bit more than just
5 residential occupancies. It is probably going to
6 involve small commercial type occupancies, also,
7 which are going to represent hazards of their own.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I would like to
9 follow up on something you just said. That's why
10 these hearings are so good. I didn't even think of
11 this point until you just said something that's very
12 important. Let me just, this scenario.

13 One of these contractors -- and PECO
14 themselves said that these meters last for 30 years,
15 maybe longer.

16 Now, many of the boxes, many of the
17 meter boxes, that house this may be in a state of
18 they are starting to rust, and they would last 20
19 more years if they are not disturbed.

20 Now, this person comes out to change
21 the meter out. They remove the old meter, and in
22 the process of removing the band and the meter seal,
23 they do damage to that meter box.

24 Now, they are not able to reinstall
25 the new meter, they have to red tag the meter, and

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2 it immediately then becomes the responsibility of my
3 constituent to go and hire an electrician to change
4 out that box that now will not accommodate the new
5 meter, because in the process of removing and
6 attempting to reinstall the new device, they damage
7 that housing.

8 Not that they intentionally damaged
9 it, but because it was disturbed. And, as you know,
10 around the house you are fixing things, and all the
11 sudden you wind up breaking it.

12 So my concern is, if in the process
13 of changing out a meter they cannot reinstall the
14 remote device, then the burden is on the resident to
15 hire someone.

16 And many of our con constituents
17 can't afford to go out and have a service entrance
18 cable and all of the components associated with with
19 the electric service replaced.

20 So am I correct and is my picture
21 pretty --

22 MR. DOLLARD: Yes. There are a
23 number of things that could happen.

24 And one of the things that comes to
25 my mind is, the majority of services, if we are

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2 going to talk residential, are hundred amp services,
3 many of them very old, using aluminum.

4 Aluminum conductors tend to cause
5 problems over the years. As a matter of fact, the
6 City of Philadelphia's Electrical Code specifically
7 prohibits aluminum conductors No. 10 or smaller.

8 Because there are some homes in the
9 city that are wired in aluminum, my sister lives in
10 one, and they cause quite a few problems.

11 So, you know, to identify all of the
12 problems that can occur pulling a meter out would be
13 everything from pulling the meter housing right off
14 the wall, to a conductor coming loose on the line
15 side or the load side, or, you know, the meter
16 itself, the meter enclosure that's been exposed to
17 weather for quite some time, maybe it was broken
18 when the installer put it in. Now it is going to
19 represent new hazards.

20 My main concern would be for a young
21 man or young woman that's going to be putting these
22 meters in.

23 Because I don't want to get
24 technical. But as transformers, as PECO replaces
25 newer transformers, they tend to have lower

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2 impedance ratios. That's what we call impedance
3 ratios. That means you have a higher value of short
4 circuit current available at that meter.

5 Now, what is it? Is it 10,000 amps?
6 That's rule of thumb, it is going to be around
7 10,000 amps. Maybe it is 8,000 amps. You know,
8 depending on how close you are to the transformer,
9 if there were five row homes in the pot, the
10 transformer is right outside your home, the
11 available short circuit current at your meter is
12 going to be incredibly higher than at the end.

13 So there's quite a number of
14 possibility that can occur, as you pointed out. And
15 then the owner of the home is going to be
16 responsible, because that's not PECO's
17 responsibility.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, again, that
19 other information is very important to me. And
20 thank you for that.

21 But I'm, I guess, a little more basic
22 in the process. I'm concerned that when one of
23 these contractors goes and does what you describe,
24 in the process of pulling the meter, pulls the whole
25 panel off the wall, do they walk away and, you know,

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2 wave to Mrs. Murphy and say, "Well, Mrs. Murphy, in
3 the process of changing this meter, we pulled the
4 box off the wall," now let's have it hanging by the
5 service entrance cable, or the box now, because of
6 the movement of changing and replacing the meter,
7 has now -- the rust has now broken away and they
8 have a defective box.

9 I mean, this is a question. Should
10 the subcontractor be responsible for making that
11 constituent whole, even though in some prorative
12 way. But I just wouldn't want to see them walking
13 away from something that they have loosened or
14 damaged.

15 MR. DOLLARD: Yes, Councilman.
16 Because, as you pointed out, if it hadn't been
17 pulled out, it may have lasted another 20 years, who
18 knows.

19 I would just like to address one
20 other item before you ask me a question, Councilman,
21 which I will gladly answer it. And that is in
22 training. The Councilman had asked earlier about
23 our apprentices being trained.

24 Upon entering our program, our
25 apprentices receive an intensive safety program

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2 which includes OSHA 10-hour training. I myself am
3 one of OSHA 500 authorized trainers in Local Union
4 98, which means OSHA had recognized us to teach the
5 10 and 30-hour courses, which are fairly generic in
6 nature, but do include electrical safety.

7 We also give our apprentices
8 electrical-safety-related work practices, which
9 introduces them to all of the hazards, shock, arc
10 flash, arc blast, and they are also taught how to do
11 risk hazard analysis.

12 They can take a look at an individual
13 installation, determine the risk involved, and the
14 proper personal protective equipment needed to
15 safely perform the task.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What you just said
17 is somewhat related to the question I wanted to ask
18 you.

19 From the witnesses that appeared
20 before, it seemed to me we were being presented with
21 a very simple problem, that something was going to
22 be put into a socket and taken out of a socket. And
23 like, you know, when I move the toaster from one
24 area of the kitchen to another, I may have a
25 different electric socket.

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2 I have not generally regarded that as
3 needing any special training, though once in a while
4 I have noticed maybe a flame somewhere. It comes up
5 and disappears, and I don't know what it is, and I
6 move away happily that nothing happened.

7 But we were being told it was so
8 simple, it is being done every day.

9 What you're saying is that it appears
10 to be simple on the surface, and maybe in most cases
11 it is, but that there are safety problems involved
12 when it is not what it looks like.

13 Say, if there's some defect somewhere
14 along the line, that it may be more than a problem
15 of just putting it in a socket or taking out a
16 socket.

17 Is that what you are basically
18 saying?

19 MR. DOLLARD: Yes.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: We need somebody
21 who has had that kind of education to recognize this
22 may be not putting in a plug in the socket; it may
23 be something else?

24 MR. DOLLARD: Your analogy is a good
25 one.

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2 But keep in mind, those receptacle
3 outlets that you are plugging, for example, the
4 toaster, as you said, you have got overcurrent
5 protection, you have got more than likely in your
6 basement 20 amp circuit breaker, an inverse time
7 circuit breaker, protecting that outlet.

8 Now, if there was a short circuit or
9 a ground fault, boom, you are going to get a boom.

10 But what happens is, the amount of
11 fault current is limited there by a device in your
12 basement that's going to clear it.

13 The problem with services and on the
14 load side of a PECO -- PECO doesn't provide
15 secondary overcurrent protection. It is not
16 practical for utilities to provide secondary
17 overcurrent protection.

18 And utilities don't size their
19 primary devices as low as the National Electrical
20 Code, for example, would want them to, nor would the
21 utility want to.

22 Because if they did, every time a
23 squirrel came in contact with the top of a pot and a
24 high-voltage line, they are going to need a line
25 truck out there, people lose their service. It is

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2 not good for PECO and it is really not good for the
3 customer.

4 Now, that type of installation is
5 longstanding and it is a safe installation. They
6 use a different code in most cases; it is the
7 National Electrical Safety Code. That's a safe
8 installation.

9 But when you are working on those
10 secondary conductors, there is a great potential for
11 arc blasts and arc fault.

12 And you have to be trained to
13 recognize those hazards. And I'm not so sure that a
14 training module, what's in the training module, who
15 is presenting the training module. And the training
16 is left to the individual contractor.

17 OSHA requires that the employer
18 provide that training, how those employers submit
19 it, their written safety programs. Do they have
20 written safety-related work hazard programs? Do
21 they audit their safety program? Do they audit
22 their employees with personal protective equipment?

23 The scary part is, you don't have to
24 go much further than St. Agnes Burn Center to see
25 somebody with electrical burns. And I have seen

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2 it. And, to be honest with you, I don't want to
3 visit anybody that's been burned again, because it
4 is just not a pretty site.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you very
6 much.

7 Councilman Mariano.

8 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: I just have one
9 question. Sorry, Mr. Dollard. Real quick.

10 Mr. Dollard, you are getting into a
11 real technical aspect. What I asked them, and I am
12 sure you know this answer, if they have everything
13 turned off in the house, it is very nontechnical.

14 If that person comes out and pulls
15 that meter out of the socket, even if everything is
16 turned off, can we have an arc?

17 Can electricity -- an arc is when
18 electricity jumps from one spot to another. Can
19 that happen?

20 There is always something going in
21 the house, even if we think we have everything off.

22 MR. DOLLARD: Yes, it would be very
23 difficult. If you enter the main in the basement
24 and turned it off. But then, you know, the
25 homeowner, everything is off.

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2 To be honest with you, I just don't
3 see homeowners doing that.

4 For example, I have got a security
5 system in my home, you know. I am not going to want
6 to shut it off. I have got 110 volt smoke detectors
7 in my home. If I have to shut it off, I get a
8 constant beeping.

9 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: The assistant
10 was just telling me she still has fuses in her
11 house, which I like. But for her to do that, she
12 would have to take that main fuse out. And that's
13 something she is not going to do 7 o'clock in the
14 morning, before she comes to work here.

15 So the whole idea of that, everything
16 being out, is really --

17 MR. DOLLARD: It is not going to
18 happen, no.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I have one
20 question of Mr. Dougherty.

21 Suppose there were some mechanism by
22 which we could sit you at this table and bring, say,
23 PECO there at the table. How would that work out?

24 MR. DOUGHERTY: My understanding is,
25 prior to me, Councilman, that there was the same

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2 type of job years ago, which had a relationship with
3 a subcontractor that was affiliated with Local 98.

4 And when you get a contractor that's
5 affiliated with Local 98, we have the 17-man staff
6 that makes sure that he abides by all our wage
7 standards, our safeties and our apprenticeship and
8 training regulations. So PECO does work with Local
9 98 every single day of the week.

10 In this specific case, like I said,
11 it is prior to me, but my understanding is there was
12 a relationship between a Local 98 contractor,
13 Henkles and McCoy, and PECO to do the same type job
14 a few years back.

15 Now, here is my concern. There might
16 not have been -- even though there is a large
17 difference in the wage package, there might not be
18 that big a difference in the price of the job.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Why?

20 MR. DOUGHERTY: Because there is a
21 larger profit margin for the individual
22 subcontractor, who might of, as was stated earlier,
23 might have been a former PECO employee. I think
24 they said that some of these subcontractors were
25 former PECO employees.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So the procedural
3 method would be?

4 MR. DOUGHERTY: We have a
5 relationship with Philadelphia Electric today.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And they would use
7 a contractor who has the contract with Local 98, so
8 the services that your union organization would have
9 available could be made available to that
10 contractor?

11 MR. DOUGHERTY: Without a doubt.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All right.
13 Mr. Chairman, I don't know what your intention was,
14 but I would like to see the PECO, at least some of
15 them, come back to the table.

16 THE CHAIR: Yes. I just had a
17 conversation with Mr. McBride, and they are going to
18 come back up. There were some interesting questions
19 that were raised.

20 You guys can stay.

21 MR. DOUGHERTY: Can we come back
22 after that?

23 THE CHAIR: You can stay there, if
24 you want to. It might be easier for them to come
25 up, then you will come back.

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2 MR. McBRIDE: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman.

4 THE CHAIR: Mr. McBride, Councilman
5 Cohen has a question for you.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Before you amend.

7 Suppose the City of Philadelphia, for
8 whatever reason, were not to pass this ordinance.
9 What happens to the automatic reading program? How
10 vital is this ordinance?

11 MR. McBRIDE: Councilman, I am glad
12 you asked that.

13 As Mr. Dudkin testified to, because
14 of the high number of indoor meters in Philadelphia
15 County, and because of my working relationship with
16 so many of the offices here that call about
17 estimated readings and about people trying to get
18 into their property posing as meter readers, I asked
19 that Philadelphia County, especially South
20 Philadelphia, that they start there, because that's
21 where the higher concentration of indoor meters
22 are. So we have agreed to do that.

23 We would not be in front of you, we
24 would not have this ordinance here, if it weren't
25 for the 200 locations that we need on the City of

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2 Philadelphia property streetlights.
3 We would be changing these meters,
4 and it would be invisible to this Council, because
5 we do it every day anyway.
6 As Mrs. Goodwin testified, we did
7 600,000 a year, and that would just continue. We
8 would just have done this, and the meters --
9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Could I just
10 interrupt for a minute?
11 MR. McBRIDE: Go ahead.
12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You don't actually
13 remove 600,000 meters a year, do you?
14 MR. McBRIDE: We change out 600,000
15 meters a year.
16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Wouldn't that be
17 kind of the total customer base?
18 MR. McBRIDE: No. The total customer
19 base, total meters, are about 2 million.
20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: In Philadelphia?
21 MR. McBRIDE: Right. And it would
22 just --
23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You change about
24 one-third of them?
25 MR. DOUGHERTY: No, I'm sorry. Not

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2 in Philadelphia, sir. That would be in our service
3 territory.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: How many in
5 Philadelphia?

6 MS. GOODWIN: How many meters in
7 Philadelphia?

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, yes. I am
9 puzzled by the figures that they are supposed to
10 last about 30 years. So I can't understand why
11 there would be that large number in Philadelphia.

12 MS. GOODWIN: The 600,000 are the
13 times that we pull the meter and put it back into
14 the socket.

15 And it could be that it is the same
16 meter that's going into a socket because the
17 customer has moved and we are shutting the meter
18 off.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Why do you pull a
20 meter?

21 MS. GOODWIN: Because we have to put
22 plastic boots to cut the current between the meter
23 and the service.

24 So we pull the meter, shut it off,
25 put it back in the socket.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And you say when
3 there's change of ownership or --

4 MS. GOODWIN: Yes, sir.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: -- things like
6 that.

7 MS. GOODWIN: And the question that
8 you asked, what happens to the automatic meter
9 reading program for Philadelphia County?

10 We would not be able to provide these
11 services to your constituents in the areas where we
12 need access to your facilities.

13 We certainly do not want to be
14 there. We want to give the Philadelphia
15 constituents and our customers this service first.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Just so that I
17 understand what you're saying, the latter part
18 particularly, you are saying that if this bill
19 doesn't get passed, Philadelphia would not be able
20 to have automatic reading?

21 MR. McBRIDE: That's accurate.

22 MS. GOODWIN: Yes, sir. We have no
23 way to construct it without your support.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Say the South
25 Philadelphia example you gave, would that be able to

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2 continue on?

3 MR. McBRIDE: They would have
4 indoor -- we would continue to read the meters the
5 way we do now, with meter readers going to the door,
6 asking for access.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You wouldn't be
8 able to have the automatic system?

9 MR. McBRIDE: We cannot do the system
10 without the 200 locations that we have petitioned
11 the Public Property division for.

12 Also, while I was away from this
13 table, I did verify that the rate is between 10 and
14 12 dollars an hour that the energy technicians will
15 be getting paid.

16 The structure is there is ten
17 employees to one supervisor, or foreman I guess is a
18 better way to say it.

19 There are also eight safety
20 professionals that will be doing safety audits as
21 following the workers' path, just to make sure that
22 everything was installed properly and that they are
23 comfortable with what they are doing.

24 In all of the meter changeouts that
25 we have done -- and, you know, I have been around,

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2 unfortunately, maybe too long, but 31 years -- I
3 don't know -- I know there are flash --

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: To me that's a
5 brief period.

6 MR. McBRIDE: I know. It is
7 extremely rare when there is a flash.

8 And it was commented about protective
9 clothing. The employees that are going to be doing
10 this work are going through our training module; not
11 the contractor's, ours.

12 And it is written into the contract
13 that they must adhere to our safety standards, not
14 the contractor's. They must adhere to ours.

15 They will be offered the same
16 protective clothing and they will be required to
17 wear it by the safety professionals and the
18 supervisors.

19 So it will be no different than we
20 currently do with our own employees.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: How does your
22 training standards compare, if you know the answer
23 to this question --

24 MR. McBRIDE: I do.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: -- to those that

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2 were described by Mr. Dougherty and Mr. Dollard?

3 MR. McBRIDE: You could have asked
4 them this question.

5 We have one of the highest training
6 programs, the highest caliber training programs in
7 the industry, bar none. We are right at the top, in
8 the top of all training.

9 Additionally, Councilman, and for the
10 committee, I might add that these meters, through
11 this contractor that's operating our system, the
12 meters that were testified earlier to, I think it
13 was 7 million, there is no problem with them. They
14 don't know of a flash accident where someone was
15 hurt. So I just checked on that. They don't know
16 of an injury.

17 Now, we are not making light of
18 this. And because we are not making light of it, we
19 are putting them through the same training that our
20 employees go through and in making them adhere to it
21 in the contract.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: But, Mr. McBride,
23 I have to tell you, the more you explain the safety
24 measures that you take -- and they are impressive --
25 the more I begin to feel that, you know, maybe there

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2 is really a need for the safety. And I know the
3 record of Local 98 over many, many years, you know,
4 decades, in electrical safety.

5 And I get a little bit concerned as
6 to why we can't achieve the best of all results,
7 which would be to have an electrical contractor, you
8 know, working with PECO, or PECO continuing to
9 employ these people directly.

10 MR. McBRIDE: Councilman, we have
11 already signed a contract.

12 We can do the build-outs in the four
13 counties. And our goal was to do this with the
14 employees that eventually would be laid off and to
15 extend their employment; give them the training that
16 we give our own employees, no different, and extend
17 their employment. Now, I thought that was a great
18 goal.

19 We are only here, again, because of
20 the 200 locations we need on city facilities. And,
21 you know, we are not in the business of putting
22 anyone at risk, customer, general public, or our
23 employees.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Councilman Mariano.

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2 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman.

4 This is for the lady at the table. I
5 am sorry; I forgot your name.

6 MS. GOODWIN: Mrs. Goodwin.

7 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you.

8 I think a lot of this could have all
9 been avoided, because I think PECO has good
10 intentions.

11 But my problem with this is, we're
12 trying to, Mr. McBride, as you say to help some
13 people here who probably are going to be out of
14 work.

15 But my main problem is, if you do it
16 the way you are looking to do it, once these people
17 go with this contractor, and this contractor may be
18 the son of a former employee, or whatever that's
19 about -- and that's for PECO to worry about, not
20 us -- when this is done, where does he go, where
21 does he going to install meters at in two years?
22 Nowhere around here; right? Are they going to
23 install meters around here anywhere?

24 If you did this with Mr. Dougherty
25 and Local 98, when this job is done, those people go

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2 back to that hiring hall and they go somewhere
3 else.

4 And they go somewhere else when that
5 job is done, and for the rest of their lives they
6 have money into a pension.

7 And we are not here to debate union
8 benefits against non-union benefits. If we are here
9 to help people, that's how you do it.

10 Safety is one thing. We can never
11 have an arc, like Mr. McBride said. That one arc --
12 take it from someone who has been electrocuted and
13 burned badly by an electrical arc -- that's not
14 something you want to experience. That skin hanging
15 off your arm or the side of your face, it is very
16 painful.

17 Like Mr. Dollard said, how many amps
18 to kill somebody, a tenth of an amp? Safety is not
19 the issue. Safety is not the issue. It is here the
20 issues should have been taken care of before we got
21 to this part.

22 And if PECO wants to help people,
23 they will talk to that guy standing in the back of
24 the room there, and we will work this out, and then
25 they will be able to work 10 more years or for their

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2 life, and hopefully they will stay in the City of
3 Philadelphia. If not, so be it.

4 But if they do, they can pay taxes
5 and help us what we need here, send some money into
6 our schools, send their kids to our public schools,
7 do things like that.

8 PECO is a great company. I am sure
9 they have above safety standards, because they have
10 to, because they have been around for so long. It
11 is no Mickey Mouse organization. PECO has been
12 around.

13 If we really want to help people,
14 that's how we help people. If we are helping
15 somebody's friend, okay, that's what you are doing.
16 But don't come here and pretend it is about
17 minorities or what it's about. That's not what it
18 is about.

19 MR. McBRIDE: I don't know what you
20 are talking about. This is a contract that these
21 people have been contracted, two companies in
22 question have been under contract with us for
23 years.

24 And the employees in question would
25 be out of work as each automatic meter reading area

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2 was put into place. They would be out of work.

3 So we were thinking this was a very
4 good way to keep them working.

5 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: I agree.

6 MR. McBRIDE: And we have a contract
7 to do this.

8 The problem is that there's 200
9 streetlights that we need to put the units on.
10 Otherwise, we would never be in front of Council.

11 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: How long is this
12 going to go on, Mr. McBride? How long are they
13 going to work?

14 MR. McBRIDE: Three years.

15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Then what
16 happens after three years?

17 MR. McBRIDE: They would be laid
18 off.

19 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: If they do the
20 latter that I suggested, they would be working for
21 possibly the rest of their life; that's all. That's
22 my question.

23 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Councilman
24 Rizzo.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Just to follow up,

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2 Mr. McBride.

3 Wouldn't this, if there was Local 98
4 and PECO Energy could get together, wouldn't some of
5 these people that are working for this subcontractor
6 have an opportunity possibly to come aboard and work
7 with these electrical contractors, and have a
8 permanent job, not in three years just get laid
9 off?

10 Knowing the Local 98, I think this
11 might be a good opportunity that you sit down and
12 try to work this out.

13 Because --

14 THE CHAIR: I understand, PECO, you
15 already have a contract in place?

16 MR. McBRIDE: We have a contract in
17 place right now with the people that are doing the
18 work. So there is no room there to change the
19 contract.

20 Additionally, as you probably know,
21 and I hope that most of the Council know, PECO hires
22 significantly high percentages of union contractors,
23 very high percentage.

24 And so this isn't an issue about
25 union versus nonunion. This is an issue about

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2 extending the employment of the people that are
3 currently there, getting the job done efficiently.

4 It has already been commented on by
5 Councilman Mariano that he concedes that our safety
6 is probably above the industry.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, you have a
8 contract with these people to do this job throughout
9 your system; correct?

10 MR. McBRIDE: Yes.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So, in other
12 words, the contract could still be honored outside,
13 Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, and exclude
14 Philadelphia? It could do that.

15 MS. GOODWIN: No, that's not true.

16 We have signed a contract with our
17 prime, with Schlumberger. They are to perform, they
18 are installing the automatic meter reading system
19 using subcontractors.

20 We have contracted with them to
21 install our entire territory. Our intent was to
22 come to the city first.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I would appreciate
24 the questions that I asked about the liability
25 during the course of installation, damage to the

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 meter boards or service entrance, that to be
3 addressed here.

4 I concern myself with the entire
5 region, but obviously my responsibility is the
6 ramification of the people that I represent.

7 So if that information -- and I am
8 sure you have taken careful notes -- could be
9 forwarded to the Chair of this committee, I would
10 appreciate it.

11 And the sites, the 26 locations where
12 they plan to be, I am not too much concerned that
13 the Streets Department doesn't have concern about
14 the 200 attachments to streetlights. But I am more
15 concerned with the other facilities, the roof mount,
16 and also the ones that plan to be located around the
17 City of Philadelphia, where they are going to be.

18 MR. McBRIDE: Okay. Well, we may not
19 have all the locations ironed out for the cell
20 masters, but we will tell you what we have.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Before they get
22 installed, we would like to know.

23 And, again, I recollect that there
24 were some permit zoning issues associated with those
25 installations when it came to the cell site

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 locations. So I would assume there might be some
3 zoning issues and also some permit issues.

4 MR. McBRIDE: We will follow whatever
5 regulations are applicable.

6 Also, Councilman, it may be an
7 advantage for you to know that, as they go around,
8 these employees go around to change out the meters,
9 if they see a meter board that's coming off the wall
10 or some other condition that should be pointed out
11 to the customers, we will have an opportunity to do
12 that.

13 The customer may not know that.

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: What I would
15 suggest, if that's the case, that no meter change be
16 done until the problem is corrected.

17 MR. McBRIDE: Well, they would do
18 that according to the way we normally do business.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: If the board is
20 hanging off the wall, I mean --

21 MR. McBRIDE: They would get a
22 notice.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: You pass.

24 MR. McBRIDE: Right.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But, again, let's

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 say it is a 30-year-old meter, you pull it out and
3 half the meter board comes out with it, again, I am
4 going to get a phone call from my constituents
5 saying, "Now I have to spend \$300 to get my meter
6 board. It was okay until PECO came," and --

7 MR. McBRIDE: Well, I would submit to
8 you that that would be handled no differently than
9 any other claim.

10 I mean, they do -- much like stepping
11 on someone's roses as you cross the lawn.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Oh, you pay for
13 those? I didn't know that. Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Councilman Mariano.

15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you,
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 Rizzo said he never stepped on the
18 roses. It is probably you, McBride, the tulips.

19 MS. GOODWIN: I can refute that.

20 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Let me ask you a
21 question. I am a little confused here. Who has
22 this contract, Schlumberger or Exelon?

23 MS. GOODWIN: Schlumberger has the
24 contract to provide the technology. There are
25 subcontracts for the installation. For the network

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 it is Exelon Infrastructure Services.

3 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Well, then, you
4 said you can't subcontract out. Why don't you just
5 subcontract to one of Mr. Dougherty's contractors,
6 and we can all go home, and your President won't be
7 embarrassed sitting back there.

8 MS. GOODWIN: All contracts with this
9 deployment have been signed.

10 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: You can't
11 reassign it --

12 MS. GOODWIN: No, sir.

13 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: -- to a more
14 qualified contractor, just because something makes
15 their qualifications a little higher.

16 MS. GOODWIN: We do not, we cannot
17 just back out on signed contracts, nor can we hold
18 our prime contractor to go back to their subs. I
19 mean, we have binding --

20 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: It seems like
21 you already did that, though.

22 MS. GOODWIN: Did what, sir?

23 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: You just told me
24 Schlumberger had the contract, and they subbed it
25 out to Exelon to do the installation.

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 MS. GOODWIN: Yes, sir.

3 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Now you did a
4 contract to do certain installations all over except
5 for these 200.

6 MS. GOODWIN: No. These 200 are
7 included. Exelon Infrastructure Services would be
8 doing the work.

9 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: And you are
10 telling me you can't reassign them 200 to somebody
11 else?

12 MS. GOODWIN: That's correct.

13 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Your contractor
14 is saying it is okay.

15 Because if I am your contractor, I am
16 saying, look, these 200 I would like to have, but
17 obviously it is a problem for everybody, so we will
18 assign it to XYZ, or whoever. It just seems like an
19 awful big waste of time.

20 Mr. McBride, I have to say this.
21 This isn't about unions or nonunions. And I know
22 you know that. This is about safety for the people
23 that call us every day on the phone.

24 You know, there might never be an
25 arc. But that one arc might be the one to kill

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 Mr. Dollard's grandmother, and that's not a good
3 thing.

4 MR. McBRIDE: Well, okay, you can
5 make that stretch, if you wish.

6 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: It is not a
7 stretch.

8 MR. McBRIDE: Well, it isn't an issue
9 of union/non-union. It is an issue of, as you have
10 raised and other people have raised, of safety. And
11 you can see that we have a very good safety
12 program.

13 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Yes, you do.

14 MR. McBRIDE: So absent that, what is
15 it?

16 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Two
17 subcontractors we are not sure about.

18 MR. McBRIDE: Well, and I think we
19 testified that --

20 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: I am speaking
21 for myself, I am not sure about.

22 MR. McBRIDE: All right.

23 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: Can I just follow
25 up on that?

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 THE CHAIR: Councilman Rizzo.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

4 It is hard for me to believe that you
5 have a contract that is so ironclad, knowing PECO
6 Energy, that your lawyers or your law firm doesn't
7 have some clause in there.

8 I can't believe you are so confident
9 that you came in here today that you might not have
10 a problem pulling this thing off, that you have
11 already assumed -- you come here assuming that you
12 are going to get the okay to make those 200
13 attachments, you are assuming that you are going to
14 get those other site locations that you signed a
15 contract that you have no way to back out.

16 If we don't give you the okay today
17 for those 200 locations, you don't have a way to
18 back out of that contract?

19 MS. GOODWIN: No.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: You have to eat
21 it?

22 MS. GOODWIN: No. Let me explain.

23 We have signed a contract with
24 Schlumberger to install, to the extent that we
25 choose to install.

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 So if we pull out a part of our
3 territory and do not automate, then that is an area
4 that they do not automate.

5 But any work that would be performed
6 to automate our meter reading system has been
7 contracted to Schlumberger.

8 So we did not, in all due respect,
9 come that confident. And we do have a contract with
10 this company. We can pull pieces of our territory
11 out.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I don't know
13 whether that's to be -- I don't want to be snowed
14 here that you have a deal that's so ironclad that
15 you can't make some adjustments to it.

16 What I'm concerned is that if we
17 don't give you those 200 locations, your system
18 doesn't work.

19 MS. GOODWIN: It would work.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: It will work?

21 MS. GOODWIN: It will work,
22 absolutely.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, what do you
24 need these 200 locations for?

25 MS. GOODWIN: To provide the service

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 to the entire city.

3 It is a distributed network, and we
4 need to put those components throughout the city to
5 reach the meters.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: My point is, if
7 you don't install all the devices here, the three
8 different components, your system will work?

9 MS. GOODWIN: Yes.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: In other words,
11 you are spending all this money on this, these
12 gadgets here, the rooftop mounts, the pole mounts,
13 the 200 locations on streetlights, and you don't
14 need them?

15 MR. McBRIDE: It won't work anywhere
16 that the attachments in question aren't put on.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So if you don't
18 get the okay to make these 200 attachments, you
19 would go ahead and start installing all these meters
20 that won't work?

21 MS. GOODWIN: No, sir. We would not
22 install the meters this area. We would continue to
23 read those meters manually.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So then,
25 obviously, there is some room to here to make sure

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 we are getting the quality technicians, the
3 contractors that we have heard all this discussion
4 about today.

5 So there is some room to sit down and
6 talk about this?

7 MR. McBRIDE: Councilman, the issues
8 we heard today were safety. And I have heard it
9 repeatedly stated --

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Not from me.

11 MR. McBRIDE: I have heard it
12 repeatedly conceded to that we have a very good
13 safety record, we are very safety conscious.

14 The other issue was wages. And I
15 found out that our wages are right around the
16 apprentice rate.

17 If the safety is met and the wages
18 are as we testified to, I'm not sure what the issue
19 is, other than putting another layer into the
20 process.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Mr. McBride, I
22 don't think the concern is about the safety record
23 of PECO Energy.

24 I think the concern is that you are
25 proposing that a contractor that you are going to

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 hire is going to adopt those same high-quality
3 safety standards that PECO Energy operates by.

4 I think what you are hearing here
5 today is that there is some concern about the
6 organization that PECO is engaging with. And it is
7 only suggested that you're going to be able to
8 maintain that high level.

9 And I know personally that
10 subcontractors that work in all utility companies,
11 in many cases, don't work the same way that the work
12 forces that work for the utility company work.

13 MR. McBRIDE: I may not be clear
14 here.

15 But no matter what we do, whether we
16 continued on the path that we're going down now or
17 we entered into an agreement with an electrical
18 contractor, aren't they both subcontractors?

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: They are both
20 subcontractors.

21 MR. McBRIDE: So where is the
22 difference?

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But I think that
24 there has been a very clear difference described
25 from a person that is changing meters today, and

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 then being elevated to this new level of now, all of
3 the sudden, that person is no longer a meter reader,
4 this person is now a technician that has the ability
5 to remove and replace an automated meter. So I
6 think there is a difference.

7 Because electrical contractors are
8 licensed. In most cases, the principal of the
9 company is a licensed electrician and the employees
10 work under that license.

11 MR. McBRIDE: It has also been
12 testified to that we have been doing this for over
13 100 years, and the people doing it are not
14 electrical contractors. They are people trained
15 just like we are going to train these meter readers.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: For 100 years,
17 though, the people doing it were a department of
18 PECO referred to as the Meter Department, all PECO
19 employees that worked for PECO Energy, not a kid
20 that was delivering papers a week before, and now he
21 is a meter reader; and two weeks after he is no
22 longer a meter reader, he is now changing meters.
23 So I think there is a difference.

24 For 100 years the people that did
25 that task were all highly trained personnel employed

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 by PECO Energy; correct?

3 MS. GOODWIN: May I offer something?

4 No, that's not quite correct.

5 These subcontractors are using the
6 same hiring practices in hiring the same skill as
7 PECO.

8 And we ourselves, when we employ
9 people as PECO, most, most often hire people to read
10 meters, and then their career path was to move
11 through into the meter department and become what we
12 called energy technicians.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: In my opinion,
14 that is a big difference between growing an employee
15 within an organization, a meter reader that becomes
16 a driver, becomes back then we called them customer
17 installation person, and then a meter installer.

18 I think there is a big difference
19 between growing an employee, training an employee,
20 than having a subcontractor allegedly use the same
21 hiring practices that PECO Energy.

22 I respectfully don't agree with you.
23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Councilman Ortiz. And
25 after Councilman Ortiz's testimony, I am going to

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 hold on any further testimony on this bill.

3 I have four highly paid city
4 employees who have been sitting here since 9 o'clock
5 on a bill, two bills, I think we could probably do
6 in five or ten minutes to get their testimony.

7 And I apologize. I normally do it
8 that way. We missed it this morning. So I
9 apologize.

10 Councilman Ortiz.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: What is the time
12 line you have for this?

13 MS. GOODWIN: We began the
14 installation in Delaware County in May, just about a
15 month ago. Our plan was to begin the installation
16 end of June, first part of July in the city.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And the contractor
18 that you hired, is he from Philadelphia or
19 Pennsylvania? I know that this question might have
20 been asked.

21 The contractor, where is he from?

22 MR. McBRIDE: It is the company that
23 we currently contract meter reading services to. I
24 don't know where their actual base is.

25 They have been under contract with us

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 since 1994.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And they are
4 installing these instruments that the Chairman
5 showed me on the poles; is that it?

6 MR. McBRIDE: No. No; that's the
7 subsidiary of PECO Energy Company.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: A subsidiary of
9 PECO?

10 MR. McBRIDE: Yes.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Not a separate
12 company?

13 MR. McBRIDE: No. It is a subsidiary
14 of PECO that is putting the microcell controllers
15 on.

16 The discussion here is about the
17 current company that we have under contract for
18 meter reading services.

19 To extend the employment of the
20 current employee body there, we are going to send
21 them to our module for safety on how to change a
22 meter and then extend our employment, which was our
23 goal.

24 THE CHAIR: We are going to hold off
25 on any further testimony of this bill.

1 BILL NO. 000317

2 The clerk will read the title of the
3 next two bills, so we can get the city folks out of
4 here. I know they are anxious to get back to their
5 office.

6 THE CLERK: Bill No. 317, an
7 Ordinance authorizing the McDonald's Corporation,
8 150 South Warner Road, King of Prussia, 19406,
9 tenant of the property 942 Market Street,
10 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19107, to construct and
11 maintain an electrified marquee and
12 three-dimensional icon attached to the building and
13 projecting over the south footway of Market Street
14 and the east footway of 10th Street, all under
15 certain terms and conditions.

16 THE CHAIR: Good morning. Please
17 identify yourself for the record.

18 MS. NANCY SEN: Good morning,
19 Chairman and members of the committee. My name is
20 Nancy Sen. I am an Engineering Supervisor with the
21 Streets Department. And I am here to testify on
22 Bill No. 000317 on behalf of the Streets
23 Department.

24 Returned here is the bill authorizing
25 McDonald's Corporation to construct and maintain the

1 BILL NO. 000317
2 following encroachments on and above the public
3 footways at the southeast corner of 10th and Market
4 Streets: An electrified marquee and the
5 three-dimensional icon over the entrance to the
6 building at the corner of 10th and Market Street;
7 planters and fabric-covered awnings encroaching into
8 the 10th Street footway at four window areas on the
9 face of the building; architectural embellishments
10 running along the 10th Street and Market Street
11 faces of the building; and a permanent cloth banner
12 projecting over the Market Street footway.

13 All of these encroachments leave
14 adequate width and clearance of unobstructed footway
15 on both Market Street and 10th Street. Therefore,
16 the Streets Department has no objection to the
17 passage of the bill.

18 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

19 Any questions for this witness?

20 Anyone else wishes to testify for or
21 against the bill?

22 Hearing none, the clerk will read the
23 title of the next bill of the next bill.

24 THE CLERK: Bill No. 320, an
25 Ordinance amending Section 2 of an Ordinance, Bill

1 BILL NO. 000320
2 No. 990305, approved June 24, 1999, entitled, "An
3 Ordinance Authorizing the Revision of Lines and
4 Grades on a Portion of City Plan No. 120," by
5 striking from the City Plan and vacating Carlisle
6 Street from Oxford Street to Cecil B. Moore Avenue,
7 and by reserving and placing on the City Plan a
8 right-of-way for drainage purposes, water main
9 purposes, gas main purposes, and public utility
10 purposes within the lines of Carlisle Street being
11 stricken from the City Plan and vacated under
12 authority of this Ordinance, under certain terms and
13 conditions; by extending the time for compliance
14 with the conditions stated therein.

15 MR. PAUL LONEY: Good morning,
16 Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My name is
17 Paul Loney, Survey Bureau Manager of the Department
18 of Streets. And the Department of Streets would
19 like to offer the following testimony on Bill No.
20 000320.

21 This is not an Administration
22 Ordinance, but an Ordinance requested by Mr. Rick
23 Goldstein, Hangley, Aronchick, Segal & Pudlin,
24 attorneys at law, One Logan Square, 12th Floor,
25 Philadelphia, PA, 19103.

1 BILL NO. 000320

2 The purpose of this Ordinance is to
3 extend the time period to assemble the site for the
4 Jump Street Project on North Broad Street.

5 This ordinance is supported by the
6 Department of Streets and is recommended to your
7 committee for favorable recommendation.

8 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

9 Any questions for this witness?

10 Council Member Clarke.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
12 Mr. Chair. Good morning.

13 Mr. Loney, I have a question with
14 respect to notification. Although Carlisle Street
15 is not a very widely used street, there are some
16 people in the immediate community that use that.

17 Is there any sort of notification
18 process to the surrounding residents?

19 MR. LONEY: Yes. One of the
20 processes of the Ordinance is the Board of Surveyors
21 hold public hearings. Regrettably, City Council
22 only advertises in the newspaper. But our charge is
23 to go out there and actually post notices in the
24 neighborhood, and, therefore, invite everybody to
25 come in to that Public Hearing, which was held last

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 summer.

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. Thank
4 you.

5 THE CHAIR: Any other questions of
6 this witness?

7 Anyone else here who wishes to
8 testify?

9 Hearing none, thank you, and I
10 apologize. I should have done that sooner this
11 morning.

12 We are going to recess the Public
13 Hearing on the bills in the Streets and Services
14 committee until immediately following the conclusion
15 of the Committee of the Whole.

16 Thank you.

17 (Public Hearing stands in recess.)

18 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: The Committee on
19 Streets and Services is now reconvening from our
20 earlier session.

21 Is Mr. Dougherty in the room, or is
22 anybody else? We are still going to be hearing
23 testimony on the bill.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He would like to
25 conclude his testimony at this time.

1 BILL NO. 000318

2 THE CHAIR: Any further testimony on
3 any of the bills?

4 Hearing none, this concludes the
5 Public Hearing of the Committee on Streets and
6 Services.

7 (Public Hearing adjourned.)

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1
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 PUBLIC MEETING
4 of the
5 COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES
6 - - -
7 WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2000
8 - - -
9 Public Meeting conducted by the Committee
10 on Streets and Services, held in Room 400, City
11 Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the above date,
12 to consider action on the following:
13 BILLS 000318, 000317, 000320
14 - - -
15 PRESENT:
16
17 COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO, Chair
18 COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO
19 COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
20 COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ
21 COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
22 - - -
23
24
25

1 PUBLIC MEETING

2 THE CHAIR: We now move into the
3 public meeting on the Committee on Streets and
4 Services.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz
6 on a motion for Bill No. 317.

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Chairman, I
8 move that Bill No. 317 be moved out of committee
9 with a favorable recommendation, and a
10 recommendation that the Rules of Council be
11 suspended so as to permit first reading in the next
12 session of City Council.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 THE CHAIR: It has been properly
15 moved and seconded that Bill No. 317 be reported out
16 a committee recommendation and that the Rules of
17 Council be suspended.

18 All those in favor signify by saying
19 aye.

20 Those opposed.

21 The ayes have it. The bill is
22 approved.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 Ortiz.

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Chairman, I

1 PUBLIC MEETING

2 move that Bill No. 318 be moved out of committee
3 with a favorable recommendation and a recommendation
4 that the Rules of Council be suspended so as to
5 permit first reading in the next session of City
6 Council.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: It has been
9 properly moved and seconded that Bill No. 318 be
10 reported out of committee with a favorable
11 recommendation and that the Rules of Council be
12 suspended.

13 All those in favor signify by saying
14 aye.

15 Those opposed.

16 The ayes have it, the bill is
17 approved.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Ortiz.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Chairman, I
21 moved that Bill No. 320 be moved out of committee
22 with a favorable recommendation and a recommendation
23 that the Rules of Council be suspended so as to
24 permit first reading at the next session of City
25 Council.

1 PUBLIC MEETING

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 THE CHAIR: It has been properly
4 moved and seconded that Bill No. 320 be reported out
5 of committee with a favorable recommendation and
6 that the Rules of Council be suspended.

7 All those in favor of the bill
8 signify by saying aye.

9 Those opposed.

10 The bill is approved.

11 This concludes the public meeting of
12 the Committee on Streets and Service. And I want to
13 thank everyone for their testimony, I think.

14 (Public Meeting adjourned at 12:35
15 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of Wednesday, May 31, 2000, were
reported fully and accurately by me, and that this
is a correct transcript of same.

RE: COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES

DEBRA A. WHITEHEAD, RPR