



NEWS

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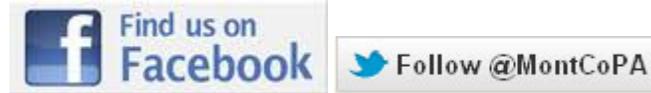
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Montgomery County Hosts Winter Storm After-Action Review

Conshohocken, PA (February 27, 2014) – Montgomery County played host to representatives from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), PECO, and county public safety directors from southeastern Pennsylvania today for a debrief on the snow and ice storms that hit the region over the past few weeks and left nearly two-thirds of Montgomery County PECO customers without power for days. The meeting took place at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus and was an opportunity to share after-action reports in an effort to learn from the incidents and improve best-practices.

Commissioners Chair Josh Shapiro, who attended at the request of PEMA Director Glenn Cannon, delivered opening remarks and thanked the Governor, PEMA, and PECO, as well as the municipal managers, public work crews, and members of the Montgomery County Public Safety Department for their coordinated efforts in the wake of the storms. He praised the way officials in the five county region, which includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia, worked together to address the needs of their constituents. “This meeting is an opportunity for us to speak openly and address the strengths and weaknesses of our response to the storms,” Shapiro said. “Learning best practices from past events allows us to do a better job in the future.”

Shapiro stressed the importance of information sharing and of improving a chain of communication for future storms and ensuring that municipalities followed the established protocols for communicating outages, closing roads, and removing down trees and wires. During the discussions, the group also identified the need to leverage advances in technology to close the loop with municipalities concerning priority road closures and power failures at critical locations. The feedback will be incorporated into an official PEMA After Action Review report.