

Energy Theft

—It's Dangerous and ... It's A Crime

Scope of the Problem

Energy diversion is both a crime and a public safety issue that can lead to personal and property damage. And it cuts across classes, individuals, and businesses. Examples run the gamut from industrial or small commercial enterprises that tamper with a meter to cut costs and increase profit margins, to an individual tapping into the power line in reaction to rate hikes or reacting to getting disconnected for non-payment, or some individuals just trying to “beat the system”. Though these situations may seem justified to the perpetrators, each is a crime that affects not only the utility but also its customers and shareholders. In the end, all stakeholders pay a price for energy diversion.

Revenue protection and energy diversion programs are designed to promote safety. In addition, help utilities recoup lost revenues, keep rates down for customers, and meet regulators' new demands.

Revenue Protection Task Force Utility Theft

Mission:

Improve awareness among Pennsylvania consumers, local municipal and law enforcement organizations, and Commonwealth legislative and regulatory bodies about the present and future threats posed by energy theft:

- *Personal and public safety hazards*
- *Adverse impacts on energy rates and cost burdens placed on good-paying customers*

Promote positive preventive measures focused on mitigating these risks to Pennsylvanians.



Energy Association of PA Revenue Protection Task Force

800 N. 3rd St., Suite 301
Harrisburg, PA 17102
Tel: (717) 901-0609
Fax: (717) 901-0611

Task Force OBJECTIVES:

Provide education to the public, law enforcement agencies, legislators and regulators about the facts of energy theft in terms of:

- *Frequency or quantity of theft*
 - *Adverse financial impacts of energy theft including lost revenues and costs for investigation and prosecution. This should focus on costs to be borne by responsible ratepayers.*
 - *Safety hazards including public exposures to serious injury or death and destruction of public or personal property.*
 - *Methods used for energy theft with emphasis on potential hazards of each*
- Promote improved legislation that supports legal and punitive measures to combat energy theft.*

Share information among member utility companies about successes and lessons learned in the on-going battle against energy theft:

- *New or better methods for detecting and finding instances of theft.*
- *Improved efficiencies, such as new information technologies including internet tools that expedite both discovery and resolution of theft cases.*
- *Intelligence for identifying trends and potential factors influencing future theft strategies and targets.*
- *Basic knowledge and/or experiences to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of utilities' efforts in prosecuting and settling theft cases.*