

**MINUTES OF THE
ONE THOUSANDTH THREE HUNDREDTH AND SEVENTY THIRD MEETING
ELECTRIC POWER BOARD OF THE METROPOLITAN
GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**

SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 9, 2026

A special meeting of the Electric Power Board was held at Nashville Electric Service on February 9, 2026.

Members present: Board Chair Anne Davis, Rob McCabe, Ian Prunty, Clifton Harris, and Casey Santos.

Officers present: Teresa Broyles-Aplin, David Frankenberg, Laura Smith, Dr. Trish Holliday and Brent Baker.

Board Chair Anne Davis called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. She stated that, in response to the extraordinary storm and resulting public interest, the public comment period was rescheduled to the end of the agenda, and the number of speakers was increased from five to ten.

She thanked the dedicated NES employees who worked around the clock for the past two weeks under very difficult and extreme conditions. She explained that, now that the recovery effort has concluded, the Board would turn its attention to supporting the community's recovery and beginning the process of evaluating the response in order to strengthen future efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legal Committee

Chair Davis reported that the Legal Committee met on Friday, February 6, 2026, and discussed litigation and risks.

BOARD DISCUSSION - WINTER STORM FERN RESPONSE

Ahead of the Board's discussion on NES's response to Winter Storm Fern, Teresa Broyles-Aplin and Brent Baker made brief comments. Ms. Broyles-Aplin thanked Mayor Freddie O'Connell's office and Metro agencies for their support during the storm and expressed gratitude to Governor Bill Lee, the State, and the federal delegation for providing critical resources and advocacy to aid response and recovery efforts.

She stated that while full restoration occurred on February 6th, the affects will linger within the community. She reported that more than 230,000 customers were without power which covered 294 square miles. She remarked that the severity of the ice storm, as well as the sustained cold temperatures made the storm an anomaly that challenged both the standard storm response procedures and long held industry standards. Ms. Broyles-Aplin stated that NES recognizes the hardship that Winter Storm Fern placed on customers and the areas where NES failed to help customers make informed decisions. NES understand the burden this storm has placed upon them. She explained that regulatory requirements do not allow NES to discount bills but noted that management is implementing measures to ease customers' financial burdens. These include suspending disconnects and late fees through June, offering unlimited payment arrangements for all customers through December 2026 with enhanced online and Call Center support, and, pending Board approval, donating \$1 million to the Winter Storm Recovery Fund, which would make NES the fund's largest donor to date.

Ms. Broyles-Aplin stated that the following four pillars are the areas which NES will immediately address to improve performance:

1. Enhance emergency management and leadership.
2. Address communications, outage information and outage map errors.
3. Revisit estimated time of restoration practices.
4. Strengthening system resiliency, including grid hardening and increasing vegetation management.

Mr. Baker presented a technical report outlining the quantitative aspects of system restoration. He stated that since May, dedicated teams have been engaged in developing a ten-year comprehensive storm plan that integrates LiDAR technology, described as an x-ray of the system, along with satellite analysis, integrated vegetation management, and drone-based damage assessment to enhance estimated restoration timelines.

He stated that vegetation management would be a primary area of focus, as it is a major driver of outages, particularly during ice storm events. He reported an annual trimming target of 1,200 miles of trees and vegetation and noted that the associated budget has increased to \$21 million over the past four years. He further stated that NES is undertaking a formal after-action review, the results of which will be shared and used to identify opportunities for ongoing improvement.

According to Mr. Baker, the storm resulted in approximately 800 damaged poles, with the current recovery phase expected to take several weeks. This phase will also address street light outages. He expressed gratitude that, despite several falls, there were no fatalities or major injuries during restoration efforts.

Chair Davis opened the floor to Board discussion.

Member Prunty requested additional clarification regarding the technical components of the communications process and the ghost notifications. Mr. Baker responded that communications has been identified as an area for improvement. He explained that during major restoration events, nested outages may occur, resulting in certain customers being unable to be restored as part of a larger restoration effort. He stated that lessons learned from this event emphasize the need to enhance how these nested outages are addressed in the future.

Member Prunty remarked that the sheer scale of the outages would strain any system and asked whether the volume of concurrent outages had an impact. Mr. Baker confirmed that it did and said NES will increase both texting and calling capacity, noting that both systems reached their limits until Thursday, when service returned closer to normal and customers were better able to get through.

Member McCabe expressed appreciation for the information provided regarding the operational response, noting that while many figures will require evaluation, the material presented was both substantive and impressive. He apologized to ratepayers for the inconvenience and uncertainty, as well as to NES's elected official partners. He emphasized the importance of communication and inquired about where responsibility for communication with elected officials resides within NES.

Ms. Broyles-Aplin replied that NES has a Communications team and a separate team responsible for outreach to elected officials. She said the outreach team performed effectively, though the delay in receiving information affected communications. She stated that engineers and drones were deployed to assess damage and identify broken poles and downed lines, and that the assessment process required significant time to complete, which delayed the development of restoration estimates. Ms. Broyles-Aplin added that NES is evaluating how utilities that routinely experience damage of this magnitude conduct damage assessments, and how those practices might be applied to improve NES's processes. She stated that there was a gap and noted that customers needed clearer, timelier guidance and more information on whether to remain at home or seek lodging.

Member McCabe said that NES did an excellent job operationally and remarked that the storm was far worse than the prior derecho, tornadoes, and flood due to its impact on the entire community. He asked whether there was an opportunity to communicate the potential scale of the damage earlier, even before completion of the assessment, and to do so in coordination with the Mayor.

Mr. Baker responded that the team recognized early on the need to stabilize operations in order to understand the scale of the damage. He stated that a key lesson learned from this storm was that ice storms require more time to assess, and that NES will develop longer-range estimates in the future. He stated that Detroit Edison helped NES learn from some of their history and now has a better model to predict how to enact in the future. He said that NES owes it to everyone to know more about the restoration time quickly and this storm pushed everyone to modernize on all fronts.

Member McCabe praised NES employees and the Union for their heroism, emphasizing that they were also personally affected, with their homes and families suffering from the devastation. He

added that earlier detection of the potential impact might have helped set more realistic expectations.

Member Harris noted that customers contacted him after receiving texts stating their power was restored, only to find that service was still unavailable. He asked about opportunities to enhance and improve the texting system.

Mr. Baker responded that the magnitude of the storm tested all existing systems. He added that immediate work has begun to ensure that technology and field information are available to quickly communicate updates to customers.

Member Harris asked why some neighbors had power while others did not. Mr. Baker explained that crews in the field are making real-time decisions to restore power to the greatest number of customers as quickly as possible. For example, if 700 out of 1,000 customers can be restored immediately, but the remaining 300 would take longer, crews may move on to restore power to another 1,000 customers first.

Ms. Broyles-Aplin added that in certain circumstances there may be a row of houses on one circuit and across the street from them may be neighbors that are on another circuit. The way that the circuits are designed may allow for some to be restored before others.

Member Prunty asked about the estimated restoration time feature in the current software and whether it was functioning as intended. Mr. Baker responded that the existing software does not include an estimated restoration time; it is still determined manually. He added that the next technology investment, focusing on field operations and asset management, will include this capability.

Vice Chair Santos praised the outstanding work of NES linemen during the Winter Storm Fern restoration efforts. She observed that future crises are unavoidable and stressed the importance of NES identifying areas for improvement and taking proactive measures. She moved to conduct a review of the actions taken, and not taken, by NES during the storm. She added that the review should be comprehensive and conducted independently by industry experts. She added that there is a need for an unbiased report that focuses on facts, and not politics, and brings concrete and actionable findings back throughout the assessment so that NES can be prepared for the next storm or emergency and improve recovery time and service time to customers.

Upon motion by Member Santos and seconded by Member Harris, the Board approved to conduct an independent assessment of NES's actions during Winter Storm Fern with five ayes and zero nays.

Chair Davis asked for an explanation regarding the complication of the system and why some customers in more rural areas were able to have their power restored quicker than others. Mr. Baker responded that in an urban area such as Nashville, there are circuits that are intermingled on the system and includes different voltages which prevents some speed to react because there is the need to make sure all circuits are safe. We have learned during this storm that there is a need to deenergize circuits in a way that each of the voltages and any other risks are mitigated.

Member McCabe said there will probably be many suggestions about underground utilities. He mentioned that he lives on limestone and asked if a study is planned, pointing out that it would be a very expensive project. Mr. Baker stated that NES has been conducting strategic underground exploration in recent years, with existing partnerships with Metro Water on certain projects. He noted that working through limestone and rock will be difficult, and that a thorough study will provide insight into the extent of the challenge and the expected expenses.

Member Prunty stated that he often looks at comparable events and asked what storms of this magnitude can be compared to. He also inquired how leadership is evaluating other utilities to benchmark NES's performance. Mr. Baker responded that benchmarking efforts had begun over the weekend, with a data team analyzing recent storms and the size of various utilities. This work is intended to support pre-staging plans and is becoming part of NES's long-term strategy.

Member Prunty noted that vegetation management is a critical issue for utilities as they plan for extreme weather. He referenced the November board meeting, during which a helpful update and

discussion of innovative technologies to improve vegetation management efficiency were presented, and asked for management's current perspective.

Mr. Baker responded that in May, cross-functional teams were established to develop a comprehensive 10-year reliability plan, which includes integrated vegetation management. This approach focuses on applying best practices to every circuit to enhance system resiliency. The effort has already begun with LIDAR flights, which provide detailed insight into vegetation proximity to power lines. The first 500 miles of LIDAR flights were completed in August and are being used to assess vegetation risks. Additional tools and technologies are currently being evaluated, with plans to expand their use over time. Modernization remains a core commitment, and while progress has been made, further work is needed to achieve desired outcomes.

Vice Chair Santos asked, regarding vegetation management, if there is grid hardening and inquired if there will be a reassessment of the grid given this particular storm. Mr. Baker replied that as part of the comprehensive 10-year plan, the focus extends beyond vegetation management to system design and construction standards. We are currently operating within a National Electric Safety Code ice-loading zone and are evaluating whether that level remains appropriate. This includes assessing whether adjustments are needed in how we construct our lines—both overhead and underground—to further strengthen and harden the system. In addition, over the past year we have begun developing a digital twin of our system, which will help identify resiliency risks. From a hardening perspective, all modernization technologies are being evaluated.

Ms. Broyles-Aplin stated that, in addition to the after-action review, NES will focus on grid hardening, including ice-storm-rated materials, pole resilience, and isolation equipment to reduce outage impacts.

Member Prunty emphasized the Board's responsibility to a diverse constituency across Davidson County and the surrounding areas. In light of NES's investments in these communities, he asked for further clarification.

Ms. Broyles-Aplin said that NES serves Davidson County and six surrounding counties with consistent service and equal crew deployment. She noted that differing community needs require close coordination with local officials before moving projects forward.

Member Harris inquired about how NES intends to hear directly from customers. Ms. Broyles-Aplin explained that customers may address the Board during meetings and that discussions are underway to add a website-based tool to collect written feedback and review it in a structured way.

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE EMERGENCY SPENDING AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES RELATED TO POWER RESTORATION AS A RESULT OF WINTER STORM FERN

Laura Smith reported that there is a provision in the NES bylaws which states that in the event of an emergency or a natural disaster, the President and Chief Executive Officer, together with the Executive Vice President, are jointly authorized to make emergency expenditures up to \$500,000 each. She stated that with the breadth of this storm and the volume of support personnel that was brought in that \$500,000 is inadequate, therefore, Management seeks the Board's approval today for a resolution authorizing an increase of those emergency expenditures up to \$5 million per transaction. She stated, to clarify, this is only for pre-existing contracts that have already been authorized and that are necessary to respond and recover from Winter Storm Fern.

Vice Chair Santos asked if the funds are for restoration efforts that have already occurred and NES has had to pay. Ms. Smith stated yes, by the requirements of the bylaws, there will be follow-up reports to the board until all contracts are closed out.

Upon motion by Member McCabe and seconded by Member Santos, the Board approved to increase the emergency spending authority of the President and Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Vice President for operational expenditures related to power restoration as a result of Winter Storm Fern with five ayes and zero nays.

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO DONATE TO THE WINTER STORM RECOVERY FUND

Teresa Broyles-Aplin reported that Winter Storm Fern was the most devastating weather event in Nashville's history, causing widespread damage across the NES service territory and leaving more than 230,000 customers without power.

The storm's impact reached far beyond NES infrastructure. Extensive tree damage destroyed customer-owned electrical equipment, with service masts and meter bases torn from many homes. These losses resulted in unexpected out-of-pocket expenses and ongoing financial strain for affected families. As a result, Winter Storm Fern continues to create lasting hardships throughout the community.

To address the unprecedented level of destruction, the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County established the Winter Storm Recovery Fund in partnership with community organizations and philanthropic supporters. The Fund provides direct financial assistance to residents facing repair costs, property damage, and other storm-related challenges. Management recommended approving a \$1,000,000 contribution from NES's non-electric revenues to support these vital recovery efforts.

Upon motion by Member Harris and seconded by Member McCabe, the Board approved to donate \$1,000,000 to the Winter Storm Recovery Fund with five ayes and zero nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Six individuals offered public comments related to Winter Storm Fern and are listed below.

1. Emily Benedict
2. Maura Lee Albert
3. Emma May Bradley
4. Doug Roberts
5. BJ Heath
6. Jacob Kupin

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:41 a.m.

Attest:



Secretary

Approved,



Chair