1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to outline the roles and responsibilities of public and private entities regarding the maintenance and restoration of residential and commercial energy during and after an emergency or disaster. This pertains particularly to the distribution of electrical power and delivery of various fuels used for heating, cooling, and vehicle operation as well as industrial and commercial applications.

Although the actual generation of electricity, if interrupted, would result in extreme difficulties both commercially and residentially, there is a great deal of redundancy at the generation point of production. All electrical generation is located outside Richland County, and there is no known generation facility in the county. It is highly unlikely that an interruption in the generation of electricity would happen, but if it did, the out-of-county generation providers have multiple layers of alternate generation methods in place. The distribution system can accommodate a variance in generation without difficulty.

The primary and support agencies will collaboratively assess emergent and catastrophic situations and will provide necessary information to emergency management regarding...
their assessment. Emergency management will assist in general situational assessment, collaborate with agencies regarding local and state assistance, and for resource allocation and prioritization related to fuel shortages, power outages, and capacity shortages that impact county residents during disasters.

Primary and supporting agencies may, based upon the particular incident or situation, participate in community and statewide liaison efforts, provide damage assessment and restoration capability information, and recommend fuel-saving actions during an incident. They may provide energy conservation guidance and general information to emergency management during response and recovery operations, and they may relay energy industry policies for energy restoration priorities during incidents.

2. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

a. Situation

i. Energy interruptions can occur due to a shortage or lack of fuels used in the utility generation process, due to a failure of the generation process, due to interruptions in the distribution process, or due to compromise of the equipment or channels used in the generation, distribution, and consumption parts of the process.

ii. It is unlikely that electrical outages will occur due to a problem with generation of electricity because robust emergency options are in place. Switching distribution to an alternate source is done remotely with little dependence upon physical presence; therefore, switching can be done quickly and effectively.

iii. Electricity outages are most likely to occur due to a disruption of the distribution channels because of physical damage to structures or lines, or substations that play a critical role in distribution.

iv. Widespread use of improperly installed or operated home generators can slow the repair and restoration of electricity.

v. Energy interruptions can occur at the consumer point of use because of damage to structures or due to failure of the distribution system to reach the consumer.

vi. Energy interruptions can occur at any time for a variety of reasons, including inclement weather and severe storms, natural non-meteorological events like earthquakes and landslides, human-caused accidents or activity, and intentional criminal acts that interrupt energy delivery.
vii. Some municipalities own and operate electrical distribution systems; this includes the villages of Shiloh, Plymouth, and Lucas and the City of Shelby.

viii. If electricity is out due to a problem at the generation point, the situation would be extremely critical and widespread; therefore, under these conditions, a regional response system and command structure would be in place. Richland County would work as a part of that regional command system.

ix. When outages occur, the provider companies activate restoration of services immediately upon report by the customer; if no report is submitted, the providers assume the power is uninterrupted. Utility companies have the capacity to determine what circuits are experiencing difficulty but not which individual residences or businesses are without power.

x. Electrical outages are managed by remote communication that is highly dependent upon telecommunications and the Internet. Many personnel implement solutions through the use of Internet-based tablets and smart phones with company applications. Outages of telecommunications and wireless communications could adversely affect restoration services if service crews needed to physically switch lines and complete other repairs without the use of remote capabilities.

xi. Providers utilize cellular phone texting and talking as back up to application-based repair procedures.

xii. Energy equipment and structures that are critical to the storage, delivery or distribution of the fuel may be damaged or destroyed, and prevent the delivery, use, or storage of fuels.

xiii. Extensive system repairs can require extreme amounts of non-local resources and time to complete, therefore extending the duration of outages in any and all areas.

xiv. Power outages can be very widespread during times of extreme weather, including but not limited to, heavy precipitation, extreme temperatures, or high wind.

xv. Outages and shortages can occur when demand exceeds supply, especially when this happens suddenly and is unanticipated by suppliers and generators.
xvi. Fuel use may be compromised when delivery systems are interrupted or nonfunctional and therefore the product cannot reach the consumer.

xvii. Suppliers and generators can be adversely affected by the same hazards as consumers, placing the generation and/or distribution challenges at that point in the process rather than at the consumer point.

xviii. Electrical power is provided by AEP Ohio, Ohio Edison, Licking REA, Firelands REA, North Central REA, and Consolidated Electric.

xix. Natural gas is provided by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corporation, and Ohio Cumberland Gas Company.

xx. Fuel (propane, fuel oil, and gasoline) is provided by Ferrell Gas, Sunrise Cooperative, Kelley’s Propane, AmeriGas, Cole Distributing, Town & Country Cooperative, and possibly other private providers.

xxi. The providers of energy products have in place storm service and disaster emergency procedures that include multi-state mutual aid agreements, contracts for service with regional or national business partners, and corporate divisions that serve the logistical needs of massive repair and restoration operations should they be needed in Richland County, Ohio. This logistical and operational support system can be activated immediately at any time.

xxii. Emergency management liaison with external emergency management officials will be provided by the Richland County Emergency Management director, supported by the Richland County Commissioners.

b. Assumptions

i. During disasters and extreme inclement conditions, consumer demands for energy will exceed the suppliers’ comprehensive capacity to deliver energy products and services.

ii. Consumers who experience energy interruptions in service or supply will report those problems to the suppliers and providers.

iii. Energy suppliers will be available to participate in response and recovery, and will provide accurate and timely information about outages, shortages, and restoration to emergency management during disasters and incidents.
iv. Energy suppliers have repair and maintenance crews and equipment available to restore services and supplies 24/7/365. In extreme conditions, these companies will have to utilize mutual aid and assistance pacts with like providers from other areas.

v. Energy suppliers have mutual aid and assistance pacts in place to assist one another after disasters and these resources will be utilized to respond and recover to disasters and extreme incidents per company policies and procedures.

vi. Hazardous conditions and high levels of damage will delay restoration efforts.

vii. Secondary effects will be experienced by the community in general due to energy shortages, including loss of traffic control device function, lack of ability to use remote banking services, Internet, credit cards, and other activities common to daily life when energy is provided without shortages or outages.

viii. Generation or distribution process and systems will require restoration in a particular order or sequence that is inconsistent with the perceived need or other prioritizations.

ix. Areas of heavy physical damage will necessitate extreme resources to facilitate or allow for initial assessment through final repair and restoration. Assistance such as plowing roads will be required to facilitate utility repairs.

x. Fuel hoarding may occur if extended outages or shortages are perceived.

xi. Individuals and others will use portable energy generation equipment ineffectively or incorrectly, and without prior planning, when outages are extended or cause human suffering. This use will cause delays in the restoration of service as utility companies maintain safe and effective operations.

xii. Critical facilities will be restored in a priority sequence when feasible.

xiii. Priority in restoration will be based upon engineering, use, and specific needs served by facilities.

xiv. Residential generators when installed according to industry standards will provide safe and effective support to homes under extended power outages.
Equipment or rental equipment shortages, hoarding, or pricing problems may occur during periods of extreme demand for individual generators, portable generators, or fuel supplies. There may be attempts to provide these items for the general population by unscrupulous proprietors who set unreasonable prices for goods or services.

3. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

a. General Overview
The Richland County Emergency Management Agency is the lead agency in ESF 12: Energy because the EMA has the resources, knowledge, and capability to coordinate and oversee the wide variety of response partners involved in this section. The EMA is the local governmental entity that serves as the central information point when it comes to energy incidents, such as the loss of power, the provision of generators or fuel for alternate power sources, the status of service lines during a disaster, and the general community need from a response perspective. While the actual service to customers of energy providers would be delivered by private enterprise or municipal services, the EMA is the entity that can provide coordination, information, and collaboration with the variety of energy providers across the county.

The actual repair and restorative service work in a disaster would be provided by the energy providers, i.e. the electric companies, natural gas providers, and fuel suppliers. These are, for the most part, privately owned companies. Some of the companies are large corporations with local or regional offices; the representatives of those companies and the EMA staff have preparedness planning relationships that will facilitate response relationships. The companies are included in the structure established by the EOP to facilitate seamless response when needed.

There may be close ties between ESF 12 Energy, ESF 1 Transportation, and ESF 3 Engineering and Public Works, and it may take collaborative action to restore and repair any of the above in a serious situation. The provision of electricity and natural gas/propane is closely related to and dependent upon access to service locations and distribution lines via local roads and highways. The ability of the local jurisdictions to maintain water service, to maintain operational roads, bridges, and culverts, and the ability to maintain ingress and egress is closely tied to the restoration and repair of energy capacity. Evacuation may be closely tied to and managed according to the operational status of electricity, heating and cooling capabilities for homes, and the predictions of utility restoration and maintenance.
Several municipalities provide electricity to specific areas. These municipal systems are distribution systems. The municipal system will be comparable to a private provider during a disaster, and will be included as the same kind of party in a disaster. The municipalities that have distribution systems include Lucas, Plymouth, Shelby, and Shiloh.

b. Relationship Between Levels of Government
The response to an energy emergency or disaster must be a collaborative effort between local government and private industry. There may be times when service providers are dependent upon government to provide access to an area before repair crews can enter. Service may have to be restored in a predetermined progression based upon system design and function. Mutual aid agreements between provider companies are in place, and are activated by the private business.

The energy providers and government will exchange information as each party fulfills its role in response or recovery. That exchange of information can be critical, and for example, used as part of the decision-making process for evacuation and re-entry, or for prioritizing the clearing of roads or repair of infrastructure. A dependable flow of information between public and private is important for optimal restoration and recovery after a significant incident.

The responders involved in response and restoration activities must be incorporated into the NIMS concept of operations and specifically into the Incident Command System (ICS) even if they are privately owned and supervised. The private entities should be trained in ICS at the higher levels to insure smooth transitions between responsible parties and assure an understanding of the organizational structure during a large incident.

Various local and state agencies may be involved in energy issues. The local senior citizen services may be involved from a home care and special needs prioritization, or from a meal delivery or emergency medical access perspective. The Richland County Engineer will fill a role in road and highway issues as well as other engineering specialization response actions.

In very large incidents, the regional response systems implemented by energy companies may necessitate the local response organization to look outside the established priorities to incorporate the larger energy provider prioritization of work goals and objectives.

At the state level, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency may be involved in determining energy
response and recovery procedures, priorities, and actions, and may be a helpful resource for local responders.

c. Phases of Emergency Management
Work with the energy companies should be included in all phases of emergency management.

During preparedness, the energy providers must be included in planning, such as in writing an EOP or developing a list of potential response resources. The energy providers should train and practice with public safety and other responders to insure the proper implementation of emergency operations procedures. The energy providers should take training in NIMS and ICS to be able to work alongside and within the command structure of the other responders.

During response, the energy providers should participate in all phases of the response and should work within the ICS. Energy providers should supply technical advisors to various sections of the response, as well as provide help with situation and resource assessment in the Planning Section. The energy providers should provide representatives in the public information units as well as assisting the Safety Officer when needed, and in providing assistance in Logistics for maintenance and sustenance of their repair crews in the system.

During recovery, the energy providers should assist in establishing restoration to normal status in communities, as well as to provide property owners with recovery information to help with property repairs and compliance with current industry standards and construction methods.

In mitigation, the energy companies participate to lessen the vulnerability of their systems to disaster. Participation in the mitigation planning process by setting distribution system repairs and upgrades as well as completing improvement projects like burying lines is important.

Energy companies and the public sector are likely partners through the entire emergency management cycle; in a well planned community, the two entities are well acquainted and familiar with one another’s emergency operations plans.

4. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

a. The Richland County EMA will be the primary agency in ESF 12: Energy because the EMA is the most likely link between all the private entities involved in energy issues. The EMA will not perform the work regarding energy restoration, but will instead serve as a coordinating and communicating party to facilitate effective work results. The EMA will see to it that the various energy providers are
included in communication, beginning at warning and notification and through the conveyance of recovery information as the cycle of emergency management progresses.

The Richland County EMA will establish and maintain communication with the energy provider companies and others involved in this section before, during, and after disasters. When an incident takes place, the EMA will insure that energy companies and the information they have is included and considered in the incident assessment process, both initially and following. The EMA will make sure that energy issues are shared with the company representatives, on site or otherwise, as incident action plans are developed and implemented. The EMA will work with the energy providers to establish public information for release during incidents, and will assist and support the energy companies as able.

b. The energy provider supporting agencies includes all the companies that provide electricity, natural gas, propane gas, or other fuels used in residential heating and cooling, operation of generators and alternate energy supply, or operation of vehicles and critical equipment. Some providers are private industries, regulated and unregulated, as well as cooperatives, municipalities, and others.

These support agencies will cooperate and collaborate with the Richland County EMA, other responders, government entities, and private parties during response and recovery. They will supply information through formal and informal channels to aid and facilitate the overall recovery of the communities. They will participate in the incident planning process with reference to establishment and implementation of incident goals and objectives, incident priorities, and safety concerns. They will provide contact information, answer important questions, and assist the EMA by providing communication and information to the Emergency Operations Center, Incident Command, the Public Information Center, or other locations.

5. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

a. The resources of all operational units will be managed by individual departmental or company procedures and policies.

b. All mutual aid agreements between supporting agencies will be managed according to by those parties.

c. All energy status and assessments will be determined by the supporting agencies under their own operational diagnostic and assessment policies and procedures.

d. The energy providers will supply personnel and/or ready information to the Incident Commander so that proper incident assessment can be done, and a
reasonable incident action plan can be developed around incident goals and objectives set by the IC (Incident Commander). This technical advice may be delivered through a technical advisor role in the ICP (incident command post), or through digital or telecommunications with the IC or Planning Chief. Similar information exchange should happen in the Planning Section; the Energy Technical Advisor could serve both as Command Staff and as the Energy Technical Unit in the Planning Section.

If an incident is primarily an energy-based incident, an energy representative may actually serve as part of a single or unified Incident Command.

e. An energy representative may serve as part of the Command Staff. A public information officer may be an energy company representative when the incident is largely energy related; a PIO assistant may be provided in a larger incident when energy restoration information is a large part of the public information but the incident response is multi-disciplinary. In a significant energy –based incident where electricity or gases provide a significant danger, there may be an energy representative who is part of a Safety Officer unit. There may be assistant safety officers appointed as needed, and may be located at various locations. Lastly, an energy Liaison Officer may be a part of incident command to relay continuous and critical restoration information back and forth with command, or with Operations.

f. Energy representatives could likely be a part of the Operations Section of a response organization. This could include linemen and equipment as strike teams, or linemen and others in the form of task forces to canvas and repair-as-found. There may be an Energy Branch, Division, Group, or single units within the Operations Section. Safety personnel may be included at various locations as part of Operations as needed by the incident.

g. Logistics may include service representatives to maintain and repair energy company equipment and vehicles. They may supply field forces with the goods they need to perform repairs, or may deliver service to the workers in the form of meals and hydration.

h. While it is unlikely that the energy providers would fill roles in the Administration Section of a response, in a large incident with injuries and high potential for worker casualty, there may be a human resources / claims representative in the Administration Section.

i. The energy providers may supply forms to the EMA that will assist in the access of and utilization of energy personnel; the energy providers may play a role in road opening prioritization so that repairs can be made effectively and safely.
j. Energy company representatives may have to fill their roles remotely when their technical expertise is needed in the field. Remote access can be through cellular phones, radios, and dispatch centers or other intermediaries as determined by the incident organization.

6. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. Energy-related resources needed for field operations will be requested by the IC (Incident Commander) through the Energy Liaison Officer in the EOC.

b. The Energy Liaison or Energy Technical Unit in Planning or IC will relay current status of resources and status reports to the system through the Energy Liaison in the EOC.

c. The Richland County Resource List will contain all current points of contact for energy suppliers and companies, and will be updated as needed or annually, as appropriate.

d. The Energy Liaison will assist with incident planning and prioritization as well as logistical issues (such as housing) for additional energy crews activated to staff the response. This liaison may be assisted by other energy representatives throughout the ICS structure.

e. Requests for mutual aid and contractors for the energy companies will be communicated to the EOC, and assistance will be given when requested by the EOC to the energy companies for purposes of activating and receiving additional work units, equipment, or personnel.

f. The Incident Commander (or delegated officer) will communicate with the Energy Liaison regarding the placement of work units in repair zones, or in areas where dangerous live wires or broken lines exist.

g. All parties will participate in after-action review when incidents occur; lessons learned and best practices should be recorded and incorporated into this section when reasonable.

7. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ESF

a. Energy companies including electrical and gas distributors, fuel suppliers, and others should be included in appropriate training, drills, and exercises in Richland County.

b. ICS and NIMS training should be provided to all parties involved in this section.
c. All parties involved in this section should have the opportunity to comment and suggest revisions to the plan on a regular basis, and should participate in the development of the initial plan.

d. The parties involved in this plan should be listed with appropriate detail in the Resource List for Richland County; contact points and persons should be maintained and periodically verified through exercise.

8. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

a. This ESF should be reviewed annually at a designated time. It should be reviewed by all parties involved in the section, and any suggestions should be considered and acted upon appropriately by the EMA director.

b. This plan should periodically be reviewed by a community-wide committee of stakeholders. Changes suggested by that committee of stakeholders should be considered appropriately by the EMA director.

c. This plan should be reviewed and revised as necessary after any incident of significance or any declared incident by the committee of stakeholders. The EMA director should act appropriately on any suggested changes.

d. The Richland County Commissioners should review this after any significant incident and promulgate this plan as needed.

9. ADDENDA

a. Tab A – Electrical Service Provider Areas
b. Tab B – Natural Gas Distributors
c. Tab C – Gas and Oil Well and Storage Fields
d. Tab D – Gas and Electric Transmission Lines/Facilities
e. Tab E – Incident Report and Road Closure Form

10. AUTHENTICATION

Feb. 14, 2018
Date of Adoption

[Signature]
Richland County EMA Director

Richland County Emergency Operations Plan
ESF 12 Energy
January 2018