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## PECO Workers Strike During July Heatwave

### Description

On July 4, 2026, workers from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) went on strike at PECO, a major utility company in Philadelphia. This strike is significant as it affects various services in Pennsylvania and surrounding states, where other unionised workers refuse to cross the picket line.

IBEW locals from several states, including New Jersey and Delaware, have instructed their members not to assist PECO during the strike. United Association Local 855, representing gas and utility workers in New Jersey, also stands in solidarity with the picketing workers. Shawn Dougherty, a business agent for Teamsters Local 107, accused PECO of unfair labour practices, suggesting the company has not engaged in honest negotiations. He expressed hope that a resolution will be reached soon.

IBEW has reported three incidents of alleged assaults against its striking members since the protest began. According to the union, a PECO security officer reportedly pushed a member to the ground at the Oregon Avenue facility in Philadelphia, while two other incidents occurred at the Berwyn Yard in Chester County. Larry Anastasi, president of IBEW Local 614, emphasised that workers have the right to peacefully protest and condemned any form of violence or risk to their safety.

In response to the allegations, a PECO spokesperson denied the claims, stating that the accusations were completely unfounded. The situation remains tense as both sides seek a resolution.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **strike** //straɪk// (noun): workers stop working to protest or demand change
2. **picket** //ˈpɪkɪt// (noun): people standing outside a place to show protest
3. **solidarity** //ˌsɒlɪˈdærəti// (noun): public support by people for others in trouble
4. **negotiations** //nəˌɡoʊʃiˈeɪʃənz// (noun): formal talks between people or groups to agree
5. **accused** //əˈkjuzd// (verb): said that someone did something wrong
6. **alleged** //əˈlɛdʒd// (adjective): reported to have happened but not proven

### Comprehension Questions

#### Multiple Choice



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1. When did the IBEW workers go on strike at PECO?

- Option: July 4, 2026
- Option: June 15, 2025
- Option: August 1, 2026
- Option: May 22, 2026

2. Which states are IBEW locals from that have instructed their members not to assist PECO during the strike?

- Option: New Jersey and Delaware
- Option: New York and Maryland
- Option: Virginia and West Virginia
- Option: Ohio and Pennsylvania

3. Which local union represents gas and utility workers in New Jersey?

- Option: United Association Local 855
- Option: Teamsters Local 107
- Option: IBEW Local 614
- Option: Electrical Workers Local 202

4. Who accused PECO of unfair labor practices?

- Option: Larry Anastasi
- Option: Shawn Dougherty
- Option: A PECO spokesperson
- Option: A New Jersey senator

5. How many incidents of alleged assaults against striking members have been reported by IBEW?

- Option: One
- Option: Two
- Option: Three
- Option: Four

6. Where did one of the reported incidents of alleged assault occur?

- Option: Berwyn Yard
- Option: Oregon Avenue facility
- Option: Philadelphia City Hall
- Option: New Jersey state line



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### True-False

7. The IBEW strike affects services in Pennsylvania only.
8. IBEW has reported incidents of violence against its striking members.
9. The union representing workers in New Jersey stands against the striking workers.
10. Shawn Dougherty is a business agent for IBEW Local 614.
11. A PECO spokesperson admitted to the allegations of violence.
12. Larry Anastasi condemned any form of violence against workers.

### Gap-Fill

13. Workers from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) went on strike at PECO on July 4, 2026, affecting services in \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The United Association Local 855 represents gas and utility workers in \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Shawn Dougherty accused PECO of unfair labour practices, suggesting they did not engage in \_\_\_\_\_ negotiations.
16. IBEW reported three incidents of alleged \_\_\_\_\_ against its striking members since the protest began.
17. A PECO security officer reportedly pushed a member to the ground at the \_\_\_\_\_ Avenue facility in Philadelphia.
18. Larry Anastasi emphasised that workers have the right to peacefully \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. July 4, 2026 2. New Jersey and Delaware 3. United Association Local 855 4. Shawn Dougherty



5. Three 6. Oregon Avenue facility

**True-False:** 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. Pennsylvania 14. New Jersey 15. honest 16. assaults 17. Oregon 18. protest

## CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL4

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