

# Pulaski Electric System

**Operating Policy Number:** POL 6.3.50

**Policy Title:** Internet Service Disclosures

**Scope:** All PES Energize Broadband Subscribers

**Policy Statement:** Consistent with FCC regulations,<sup>1</sup> Pulaski Electric System and its affiliates, referred to as “PES Energize,” provides this information about our broadband Internet access service. We welcome questions or comments about this information, including any questions about any portions that you do not understand. You may contact us at 931-363-2522 or by email at [info@pesenergize.com](mailto:info@pesenergize.com).

## Policy:

### A. Network Practices

#### 1. General description.

We provide a variety of Internet offerings to our residential and business customers over our broadband network and through other communications facilities connecting to the Internet, including but not limited to High Speed Internet Access, Managed Gateway Services and Colocation data center hosting (“PES Energize Broadband Service”). Through our central Network Operations Center, we monitor our network and traffic patterns and make changes we deem necessary to manage and improve overall network performance. We use reasonable, nondiscriminatory, network management practices to improve overall network performance to ensure a high-quality online experience for all users. We use various tools and techniques to manage our network, deliver our service, and ensure compliance with our Acceptable Use Policy and our Terms and Conditions of Service. We also contract with one or more third-party companies for certain network monitoring and management services. Our network management activities may include identifying spam and preventing its delivery to customer email accounts, detecting malicious traffic and preventing the distribution of viruses or other harmful code or content and using other tools and techniques in order to meet our goal of delivering the best possible Internet experience to our customers. Our network management practices do not target any specific content, application, service or device. As network management issues arise and as

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 8.1; *Preserving the Open Internet, Broadband Industry Practices*, Report and Order, 22 FCC Rcd 17905 (2010); *Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet*, Report and Order on Remand, Declaratory Ruling, and Order, 30 FCC Rcd 5601 (2015); *Restoring Internet Freedom*, Declaratory Ruling, Report and Order, and Order, 33 FCC Rcd 311 (2017).

technology develops, we may employ additional or new network management practices.

We will update these disclosures as necessary.

- 2. Related documents and disclosures.** Use of our broadband Internet access service is also governed by:

PES Energize Acceptable Use Policy and the PES Energize Privacy Notice are available at <https://pesenergize.com/policies-disclaimers/>

These documents contain important information regarding PES Energize Broadband Service and its use and may be subject to updates and revisions. Subscribers are encouraged to review them on a regular basis.

- 3. Blocking.** PES Energize does not engage in any practice, other than reasonable network management disclosed herein, that blocks or otherwise prevents end user access to lawful content, applications, service, or non-harmful devices.
- 4. Throttling.** PES Energize does not engage in any practice, other than reasonable network management disclosed herein, that degrades or impairs access to lawful Internet traffic on the basis of content, application, service, user, or use of a non-harmful device.
- 5. Affiliated or Paid Prioritization.** PES Energize does not engage in any practice that directly or indirectly favors some Internet traffic over other traffic to benefit an affiliate or in exchange for consideration, monetary or otherwise.
- 6. Congestion management practices.** This section describes our network management practices used to address congestion on our network.
- a. Network monitoring. We monitor our network for utilization trends. We receive regular reports showing changes in network traffic and congestion. We use this information to plan increases in available bandwidth, port additions or additional connectivity to the Internet. Should new technologies or unforeseen developments in the future make it necessary to implement an active congestion management program, we will update these disclosures and otherwise notify our customers of the scope and specifics of this program.
  - b. Potential heavy bandwidth users. Through our third-party provider, we receive reports showing end user usage for identification and management of potential heavy bandwidth users. If a reasonable solution is not found and usage remains excessive, PES Energize reserves the right to limit, suspend, or terminate the high volume user's Internet service.

- c. Types of traffic affected. Our congestion management practices do not target any specific content, applications, services, or devices, or otherwise inhibit or favor certain applications or classes of applications.
- d. Purpose of congestion management practices. Our broadband Internet network is a shared network. This means that our customers share upstream and downstream bandwidth. The goal of our congestion management practices is to enable better network availability and speeds for all users. Our congestion management practices serve to:
  - Help us adapt and upgrade our network to maintain or improve network performance as demand for our broadband Internet network increases.
  - Help us adapt and upgrade our network to maintain or improve network performance as demand for higher bandwidth applications increases. Some examples of higher bandwidth applications are gaming, streaming movies, and streaming high definition video.
  - Help us identify potential heavy bandwidth users.

## **7. Congestion management criteria.**

- a. Network monitoring. Our network monitoring provides data to help us plan upgrades to our network, equipment, technology, and connectivity to the Internet. As demand for our Internet service increases, and as demand for higher bandwidth applications increases, we monitor effects on network performance and plan upgrades as we deem necessary.
- b. Potential heavy bandwidth users. We, in our sole reasonable discretion, determine the criteria for data consumption that is not characteristic of a typical residential user of PES Energize Broadband Service.
- c. Effects on end user experience. Because our broadband Internet network is a shared network, periods of high network demand may result in Internet traffic congestion. End users may experience reduced bandwidth or speed during these times. Although we work to engineer and implement solutions to eliminate congestion that affects the end user experience, new technologies or unforeseen developments may require implementation of an active congestion management program. Should it become necessary in the future to implement such programs, PES Energize will notify its customers of the program and the criteria under which this congestion management will be implemented.

**8. Application-Specific Practices.** This section discloses any application-specific practices we use, if any.

- a. Management of specific protocols or protocol ports. To protect the security of our network and our customers, we may block known hostile ports. In such cases, we may block that specific port until the attack ceases, at which time we remove the block.
- b. Modification of protocol fields. Not applicable.
- c. Applications or classes of applications inhibited or favored. Not applicable.

**9. Device Attachment Rules.** This section addresses any limitations on attaching lawful devices to our network.

- a. General restrictions on types of devices to connect to network. We place no general restrictions on lawful devices that a customer may connect to our network, so long as the device is: (i) compatible with our network; and (ii) does not harm our network or other users. Our Broadband Internet service works with most PCs and laptops including Macs, and other Internet compatible devices like game systems and Internet-enabled TVs. If a password-protected wireless router is connected to our broadband Internet service, wireless Internet compatible devices properly connected to the router including computers, tablets, smartphones, and other devices can connect to our network. If a customer or potential customer believes they have an unusual configuration, our customer service department will help determine if there is a compatibility problem.
- b. Wireless Broadband Routers. Our PES Energize Fiber to the Home (FTTH) Broadband Internet service requires the connection of a router to our network with Wi-Fi capabilities to enable this feature. You can obtain an approved Wi-Fi router from us.

**10. Network and End User Security.** This section provides a general description of the practices we use to maintain security of our network. It is the responsibility of the Customer to ensure the security of their network and the equipment that connects to the PES Energize Broadband Service. Customers are required to take all necessary steps to secure and manage the use of the Services received from PES Energize in such a way to assure that network abuse and/or fraudulent activity is prevented. In addition, we use a number of tools and techniques to protect our network and end users from malicious and unwanted Internet traffic such as preventing the distribution of viruses or other harmful code and preventing the delivery of spam to customer email accounts.

- a. Virus and Spam filtering: We offer email service to active Internet customers upon request. Industry standard virus scanning and prevention techniques are used to filter email and website traffic for virus activity and Spam.

- b. Network Operations Center Surveillance: We perform routine surveillance of our networks in connection with our data center Colocation and related services. Although PES Energize will not, as an ordinary practice, proactively monitor individual Customers' activities for violations of its Acceptable Use Policy (available at <https://pesenergize.com/policies-disclaimers/>) there may be instances in which PES Energize, through its routine surveillance, finds violations and responds with appropriate action to immediately stop further violations at its sole discretion.
- c. Hostile port blocking: We block known hostile ports to prevent unwanted files, browser hacking and virus attacks.

## **B. Performance Characteristics**

- 1. General Service Description.** Our PES Energize Broadband Internet service enables a customer to connect an Internet-enabled device through either a wired or wireless connection. Our Broadband Internet access service includes wiring and a router. Our Broadband Internet access service enables residential and commercial subscribers to access all lawful content, applications, and services of their choice available on the Internet.

No Internet service provider can guarantee a specific speed at all times – the actual speed a customer will experience while using the Internet depends on a variety of conditions. These can include the customer's computer, the customer's home network configuration, or the performance of the website visited.

- 2. Service technology.** We deliver our PES Energize Fiber to the Home broadband Internet service over our fiber optic network Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON). Customers subscribing to our fiber internet service access our network using fiber optical network terminals. To connect from our network to the Internet, we use equipment called an Optical Line Terminator (OLT) that acts as a gateway to the Internet for our customers' optical network terminals. This is a shared network, which means that our customers share upstream and downstream bandwidth.
- 3. Expected performance.** We offer customers a variety of Broadband Internet service levels. We provide a description of the expected maximum transfer speeds associated with each service level for both residential and business services on our website.

- a. Speed. The speeds we identify for each Broadband Internet service level are the maximum upload and download speeds that customers are likely to experience. We provision our customers' modems and engineer our network to deliver the speeds to which our customers subscribe. However, we do not guarantee that a customer will actually achieve those speeds at all times. A variety of factors can affect upload and download speeds, including customer equipment, network

equipment, congestion in our network, congestion beyond our network, performance issues with an Internet application, content, or service, and more.

- b. Latency. Latency is another measurement of Internet performance. Latency is a term that refers to the time it takes for information to travel between your computer and your Internet destination. High latency occurs when the time it should normally take for the information to make the trip becomes abnormally long. Latency is typically measured in milliseconds, and generally has no significant impact on typical everyday Internet usage. Most applications, such as email and websites, work well despite average latency. Highly interactive applications, such as multi-player games, do not work well with higher latency. As latency varies based on any number of factors, most importantly the distance between a customer's computer and the ultimate Internet destination (as well as the number and variety of networks your packets cross), it is not possible to provide customers with a single figure that will define latency as part of a user experience.
- c. Actual speed and latency performance. The actual speed and latency experienced by individual users may vary depending upon network conditions and other factors. We strive to maintain 99.95% availability, also known as “up time”, and less than or equal to 80 milliseconds latency for our PES Energize Broadband service. Actual performance of our gateway and Fiber services in most cases will conform to national wireline broadband Internet speed and latency levels reported by the FCC.<sup>2</sup> The FCC has reported that most fiber ISP subscribers receive mean download speeds that are equal to or better than 100% of advertised speeds, and mean upload speeds that are equal to or better than 95% of advertised speeds.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the FCC has reported measured latency<sup>4</sup> delays for cable ISPs at between 12 and 26 milliseconds and 8 to 13 milliseconds for fiber ISPs.<sup>5</sup>

**4. Suitability of the Service for Real-time Applications.** Our Broadband Internet access service is suitable for typical real-time applications, including messaging, voice applications, video chat applications, gaming, and Internet video. If users or developers have questions about particular real-time applications, please contact us at (931) 363-2522.

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<sup>2</sup> See FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology and Office of Strategic Planning & Policy Analysis, *Eleventh Measuring Broadband America Fixed Broadband Report, A Report on Consumer Fixed Broadband Performance in the United States*, (Dec. 31, 2021) (available at <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/reports/measuring-broadband-america/measuring-fixed-broadband-eleventh-report> (“2021 Measuring Broadband America Report”).

<sup>3</sup> 2021 Measuring Broadband America Report, *Observed media download and upload Speeds*.

<sup>4</sup> The FCC has defined latency is the total length of time it takes a signal to travel from an origination point to the nearest server, plus the time for an acknowledgement of receipt to travel back to the origination point. The nearest server is the server providing the minimum round-trip time.

<sup>5</sup> 2021 Measuring Broadband America Report, *Latency*.

## 5. Non-Broadband Internet Access (BIAS) Data Services.

- a. Non-BIAS Data services offered to end users. We offer several managed or “non-BIAS data” services over our network, sharing network capacity with other high speed Internet services. Managed non-BIAS data services include Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), Internet Protocol video, colocation service in our Network Operation Center, and dedicated bandwidth to high volume business users.
- b. Effects of non-BIAS data services on availability and performance of broadband Internet access service. Our provision of non-BIAS data services has no effect on the availability and performance of our broadband Internet access service.

### C. Residential and Commercial Terms

1. **Prices.** Monthly prices for our residential and commercial Broadband Internet access services are available on our website at <https://PES Energize.net/services/internet/>.
2. **Usage-based Fees.** None.
3. **Fees for unreturned devices.** A fee for unreturned routers or other PES Energize owned equipment will be added to the final bill if a customer disconnects services without returning the equipment.
4. **Privacy Policies.** We collect and store information from many sources as it relates to providing and maintaining service to our customers. Individually identifiable customer information, including usage data obtained in our role as your broadband Internet access service provider is only used to provide the service, improve your use of the service, manage our network, or as otherwise required or authorized by law.<sup>6</sup>

We do not disclose individually identifiable Broadband Internet access service customer or use information to third parties except: (i) as necessary to provide our Broadband Internet service and to manage our network; or (ii) in response to law enforcement requests, subpoenas, court orders, or as otherwise required or authorized by law.

For more information on our additional Broadband Internet access subscriber privacy policies, please visit our PES Energize Privacy Notice, available at <https://pesenergize.com/policies-disclaimers>.

- a. **Inspection of network traffic.** We routinely monitor network and traffic patterns.

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<sup>6</sup> See, e.g., 47 U.S.C. § 222.

Virus and Spam filtering. Our email and website traffic is filtered for virus activity and Spam using industry standard virus scanning and prevention techniques. Should an email message be found to contain a virus the message will be deleted without notification given to either the sender or the intended recipient(s). All spam is quarantined; however, the email customer has the option to delete.

- b. **Storage of network traffic information.** Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) information is a code included in all network traffic that associates that traffic with a particular device sending or receiving the traffic. The data generated on each customer's usage is divided into broad categories for analysis to help us monitor and predict trends in usage for our customers as a whole.
- c. **Provision of aggregate or anonymized network traffic information to third parties.** We may disclose aggregate or anonymized network traffic information to third parties for purposes of providing and managing our Broadband Internet service or if required by law.
- d. **Use of network traffic information for non-network management purposes.** We do not use network traffic information for non-network management purposes. However, data regarding a customer's excessive data usage may be utilized for discussions to move that customer to a higher Broadband plan.

**5. Redress options.** We welcome questions about our Broadband Internet access service. This section discloses redress options for end users and edge providers.

- a. End user and edge provider complaints and questions. End users and edge providers with complaints or questions relating to the PES Energize Broadband Service or these disclosures should contact (931) 363-2522 or [info@pesenergize.com](mailto:info@pesenergize.com).
- b. Questions. We will endeavor to answer questions promptly via email or voice.
- c. Complaints. For written complaints, a customer service representative will contact the end user or edge provider via phone call. We will attempt to resolve complaints informally, escalating the matter to senior management if needed.

**Responsible Office(s):** Chief Information Officer

**References:** Energize POL 6.3.40 Internet Service Acceptable Use  
Energize Policy POL 6.3.60 Privacy Policy  
Footnotes



**Effective Date:** May 24, 2022

**Policy History:**

Approved: May 24, 2022