
AEIC's Load Research Committee

..... recognizes the contributions of outstanding individuals who have improved their company's load research efforts and the general field of load research.

Unsung Hero of Load Research

Donna Gicker
Pepco Holdings, Inc.



Donna Gicker started at Conectiv in 1999 as a contractor to help enable the company's entry into the deregulated (or re-regulated) world of retail choice. At the time, there were not many settlement systems available, and most were "vaporware". With Donna's excellent knowledge of relational databases and ability to code in SQL, the company was able to implement an effective settlement system and develop the critical output reports needed to interact with PJM Interconnection.

As with any system implementation, there were a host of issues...data quality problems, testing issues, data interface issues, etc. that needed to be addressed. Donna's ability to troubleshoot and mine data was invaluable. Because she has the ability to write effective code, the staff was able to make necessary system modifications very quickly and keep the output to PJM at high quality level.

Since Donna was onboard at the beginning of retail choice, she brought a unique combination of strong business knowledge and excellent database/SQL programming skills to the company. This has proven to be crucial to the successful efforts to meet load settlement responsibilities, whether in retail choice or load research. She is an excellent liaison between the business and the company's IT resources, particularly with respect to the many data interfaces.

In 2004, Conectiv merged with PEPCO to form Pepco Holdings, Inc. Again, Donna's knowledge of the retail choice business and the supporting systems helped to ensure a successful integration of the two retail choice systems. One system now settles 3 PJM zones, 4 jurisdictions and over 1.9 million customers.

Most of the load research sample designs and analyses were made possible by her queries of customer information and consumption histories stored in load settlement data bases, preparing the clean records needed by customer classes for surveys and cost of service. Currently, she is working on a major project to automate a multi-jurisdictional sample analysis process by building the data base schema and rules to manage and "calendarize" the sample and population consumption data feeding new procedures. This project has led to greatly improved accuracy and efficiency in producing class profiles.

Donna has been instrumental in most major system implementations, modifications, and in numerous data requests from regulatory entities.....internal company, state commissions, FERC, PJM, etc. In 2007, she joined PHI as an employee and continues to play a critical role in load settlement and load research efforts...Donna truly is an Unsung Hero of Load Research!
