

Inside...

Executive Director's Report	2
Around New England	6
Employment	10-11
Meetings.....	16

New Congress presents risks and opportunities for public power

Legislative Committee plans for an uncertain year

The 2006 election results have shifted power in Washington, and may present significant opportunities - as well as potential risks - for public power utilities throughout the country. The



changes, which have placed the Democratic Party in control of both houses of Congress for the first time in 12 years, are profound in their scope and implications for a whole range of policy issues of importance to NEPPA members.

The NEPPA Legislative Committee, during its first post-election meeting in November, was briefed on the changes by Lori Pickford and Deborah Sliz of Morgan Meguire, along with some of the expected legislative initiatives of new committee chairs. According to Pickford and Sliz, there will be legislative activity on a number of topics of interest to public power, including the following:

Climate Change

Senator Barbara Boxer of California will chair the Environment and Public Works Committee, and has committed to try and move federal legislation to cap greenhouse gas emissions, using the new California global warming law as a model. She has already won the support of Senators Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico

and Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut in co-signing a letter to President Bush seeking administration support and cooperation on climate change legislation.

Renewable Portfolio Standards

Senator Jeff Bingaman will chair the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and will likely renew his push for a federal standard for renewable energy fuels in the generation of electricity. (Several New

continued on page 12

Back by popular demand **Communicating the Reality of Rate Increases**

Due to requests from our members, the NEPPA Public Communications Committee will host a second roundtable addressing rate increases with a similar format to the September 15 session held in Maine.

Mark your calendars for Feb. 9, 2007 and plan to be in Princeton, Mass. for this valuable event. Watch your mail for details.



Executive Director's Report

NEPPA's strategic plan: Why is it important?



by Pat Hyland

It is rare and difficult for an organization to take a hard look at itself. No one likes to be told that their efforts are falling short, or their vision is obscured. Least of all, we do not like to think that time has passed us by, and that we are unable to understand and appreciate what is changing around us. For these and other reasons, organizations like NEPPA do not often undertake honest assessments of their performance, and then publicize the results for all to see.

That is, however, what has occurred in the past nine months at the Northeast Public Power Association. A group of individuals who are very familiar with the association have come together and looked closely at NEPPA's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. As a result of their analysis, they have identified five goals for the future, which can be summarized very simply:

1. Develop training and educational programs that meet the needs and standards of all members;

2. Collect and provide information that is useful to members;

3. Represent the federal legislative and regulatory interests of NEPPA members in a coordinated and cost-effective manner;

4. Help members cope with changes in the industry, especially the growing demands of New England's wholesale power market;

5. Change the association's governance and financial structure as necessary, to assure a cost-effective and well-run organization.

The message is clear: these goals represent aspects of NEPPA's services or programs that need improvement. They demand higher standards of performance than are currently being achieved. They are also what our members expect, as many of them have told us, both directly and indirectly.

Now that these goals have been clearly

[Continued on page 12](#)

Staff

Patrick Hyland
executive director
phyland@neppa.org

Kris Nicolas
administrative director
knicolas@neppa.org

Mary Harrington
communications director
mharrington@neppa.org

Sheila Boone
administrative secretary
sboone@neppa.org

David Fabrizio
safety director
dfabrizius@neppa.org

Lori O'Donoghue
training & events coordinator
lodonoghue@neppa.org

Board of Directors

Ted Garille
president
Pascoag, R.I.

Gary Babin
first vice-president
Mansfield, Mass.

Scott Corse
second vice-president
VPPSA

Robert Jolly
secretary
Marblehead, Mass.

John Bilda
treasurer
Norwich, Conn.

James Bakas
Plymouth, N.H.

Joseph Blain
Taunton, Mass.

William Bottiggi
Braintree, Mass.

Vincent Cameron
Reading, Mass.

John Clark
Houlton, Maine

James L. Dean
Calais, Maine

Scott Edwards
Littleton, Mass.

Barbara Grimes
Burlington, Vt.

Sean Hamilton
Templeton, Mass.

John Hiscock
S. Norwalk, Conn.

Thomas R. Josie
Shrewsbury, Mass.

Mark Kelly
Middleton, Mass.

George Lague
Swanton, Vt.

Ron Lunt
Belmont, Mass.

John Tziorangas
Hingham, Mass.

Eric C. Werner
Hardwick, Vt.

NEPPA News Line is published once a month, 12 times a year by the Northeast Public Power Association, Suite 201, 100 Medway Road, Milford, MA 01757.

tel: 508.482.5906
fax: 508.482.0932
website: www.neppa.org

Annual subscription rates:
NEPPA member utilities, \$35 (first 20 subscriptions included in dues), non-members, \$53. Extra subscriptions available to utilities for \$17.50 and associate members for \$35.



The Northeast Public Power Association is an organization representing and serving consumer-owned electric utilities in New England.

Norwich meets the challenge of a diverse population

Lindsay Williams holds up a card that helps field personnel identify 27 different languages.



The American Public Power Association's recent Customer Connection Workshop included a presentation on Effective Communications with Diverse Populations by Lindsay Williams, external affairs manager at Norwich (Ct.) Public Utilities. Williams, who holds a masters degree in counseling and an advanced

degree in cultural anthropology, discussed the impact that the emergence of two large casinos has had on the demographics of the Norwich community and NPU, the city-owned and operated provider of electric, natural gas, water and wastewater services.

Like many New England towns, Norwich was built around paper and cotton mills in the 1800s and the area didn't see much growth in the last century until the late 1980s and 1990s. That's when Norwich and adjacent communities experienced a mammoth and rapid cultural change.

The casinos

Foxwood Resort and Casino, originally a small bingo hall operation owned and operated by the Pequot Indians, opened in 1991 as the largest casino in the world with a complex that covers 4.7 million square feet and has a visitor count of more than 40,000 per day.

As the community reeled from that growth spurt, Mohegan Sun Casino opened in 1996 with over 300,000 square

feet of gambling, 130,000 feet of shopping and a 34-story 1200 room luxury hotel. Mohegan Sun's visitor count is comparable to the Foxwood Casino.

Both casinos employ approximately 22,000 people, many of whom are recent immigrants to the area and have brought families with them. Minorities in Norwich public schools grew from 25.8 percent in 1996 to 50.4 percent today. One elementary school has a minority population of over 75 percent with 27 different languages represented. Along with its effect on human services, construction has doubled in Norwich. The Asian population, including both Chinese and Southeast Asian, now comprises 6.7 percent of the population as compared to 1.9 percent in 1996. There is also a large and growing Haitian population.

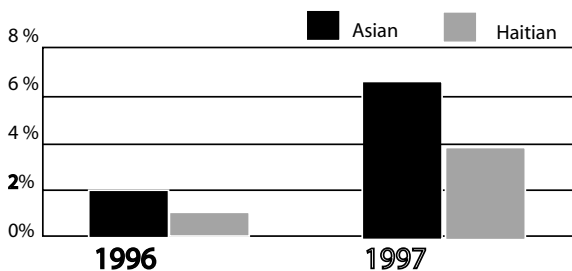
NPU's Response

Safety and legal concerns prompted the utility to become proactive in communicating with the growing diverse population when there was a case of carbon monoxide poisoning in a nearby town caused due to the language barrier.

NPU contracted with CYRACOM, a firm that offers translation services to medical professionals. The firm also provides meaning-for-meaning document translation that is edited for translation integrity in over 150 languages 24 hours a day. The firm provides charts to field workers to show to customers who identify their native language, and the employee contacts CYRACOM using the designated code to reach the correct interpreter. Online account management allows the utility to keep records as to how the service is being used and what languages predominate.

NPU prints safety handouts in Chinese,

Largest Growing Population Groups



[Continued on page 6](#)

MMWEC marks 25 years for Stony Brook public power plant

The Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) recently marked 25 years of operation for its Stony Brook power plant, the first major power plant in New England to use combined-cycle generating technology, a highly efficient process that captures waste heat to produce additional electricity.



Speakers at a recent luncheon held on the plant's steam turbine deck recounted the successful operating history of Stony Brook and discussed MMWEC's plans to build a new combined-cycle generator adjacent to the existing plant.

"The existing Stony Brook plant has served public power in Massachusetts extremely well and, together with the new unit, represents a crucial part of the future power supply for the state's consumer-owned, municipal utilities," said MMWEC General Manager Glenn O. Steiger.

A citation from the Massachusetts General Court recognizing Stony Brook's 25 years of operation was presented to MMWEC by state Sen. Brian P. Lees, who joined with Ludlow state Rep. Thomas M. Petrolati in ushering the citation through the Massachusetts House and Senate.

MMWEC Chairman Michael J. Flynn congratulated MMWEC staff and partici-

pating municipal utilities for their foresight and perseverance in constructing the plant and working to maintain its value.

"We have seen many changes in the electric industry over the past 25 years and huge changes in the structure of the power marketplace," Flynn said. "Through it all, MMWEC has stayed on top of these changes and managed to maintain the value and viability of Stony Brook in the new marketplace."

Attorney Maurice J. Ferriter, MMWEC's first general counsel, recalled the many challenges faced by municipal utilities in creating MMWEC and building the Stony Brook plant. Ferriter drafted the legislation that enabled MMWEC to become a public corporation in 1976 and helped develop the contracts used to secure financing for the 520-megawatt Stony Brook plant.

The existing Stony Brook plant includes five gas turbine generators and one steam turbine generator. In the combined-cycle process, waste heat from three of the gas turbine generators is used to produce steam and additional electricity in the steam turbine generator. There are dozens of combined-cycle generators operating in New England today, many of which have benefited from technological improvements based on Stony Brook's operating experiences.

Twenty-five Massachusetts municipal utilities and six Vermont utilities purchase Stony Brook's output through contracts with MMWEC, which is the plant's operator and principal owner. The Massachusetts municipal utilities are based in the communities of Ashburnham, Boylston, Danvers, Georgetown, Groton, Hingham, Holden, Holyoke, Hull, Ipswich, Littleton, Mansfield, Marblehead, Middleborough, Middleton, North

[Continued on page 11](#)

Hull awarded DOE Wind Power Pioneer Award

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) gave the Town of Hull (Mass.) the 2006 Wind Power Pioneer Award. Hull's wind program, which serves more than 10 percent of local energy needs, was cited for leadership, demonstrated success and innovation.



Hull Municipal Lighting Plant was one of 12 public power utilities from across the United States nominated for the award this year. Given by the DOE Wind Powering America program, the award was accepted by one of the utility's governing board members, Patrick Cannon, at the American Public Power Association's 2006 Customer Connections Conference in San Antonio, Texas on Nov. 7. APPA cosponsors the Wind Pioneer Awards Program.

"We honor the Town of Hull for its outstanding leadership in advancing the use of wind power in a coastal community," said Andy Karsner, assistant secretary for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. "This award recognizes Hull's success in engaging the entire community to understand and move forward together on this project, from school teachers, utility engineers and local leaders to state government, academia and industry."

Located on a peninsula in Boston Harbor, the Town of Hull first developed wind power in the 1820s. Modern wind technology came to Hull in the 1980s, when the school district installed a small-scale wind power project. The Hull Municipal Light Plant supported that effort and subsequently worked with Citizen Advocates for Renewable Energy, to plan

a utility-scale project. A 660-kW turbine, Hull Wind 1, was installed on the harbor in 2001. This past spring, the Hull Municipal Light Plant dedicated a second turbine. Hull Wind 2 is a 2.8MW Vestas V80, installed on a closed landfill. The two wind turbines supply more than 10 percent of the community's energy needs.

Award finalists, who have also been recognized, include American Municipal Power – Ohio, the City of Palo Alto (CA), CPS Energy (San Antonio, TX), and Sacramento Municipal Utility District (CA).

Previous winners have included municipal utilities in Waverly, Iowa, Fort Collins, Colo., and Austin, Texas.

Wind Power America is a program of the U.S. Department of energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). The program is committed to dramatically increasing the use of wind energy in the United States.

EERE, through its Wind Power America effort and other programs, is helping the nation achieve targeted regional economic development, enhanced power generation options, improved environmental conditions, increased domestic energy supply and national security. For more information visit www.eere.doe.gov.

Steve Lindenberg, Team Leader, Technology Applications, U.S. DOE Wind Energy Program, Washington D.C. presents the U.S. Department of Energy, Wind Power Pioneer Award to Hull commissioner Patrick Cannon who accepted it for the Town of Hull at a recent APPA conference.



Braintree wins APPA communications award

Braintree (Mass.) Electric Light Department (BELD) has earned an award for excellence in communication from the American Public Power Association (APPA). BELD was one of four public power electric utilities nationwide to earn APPA's coveted Award of Excellence for their 2005 Annual Reports.

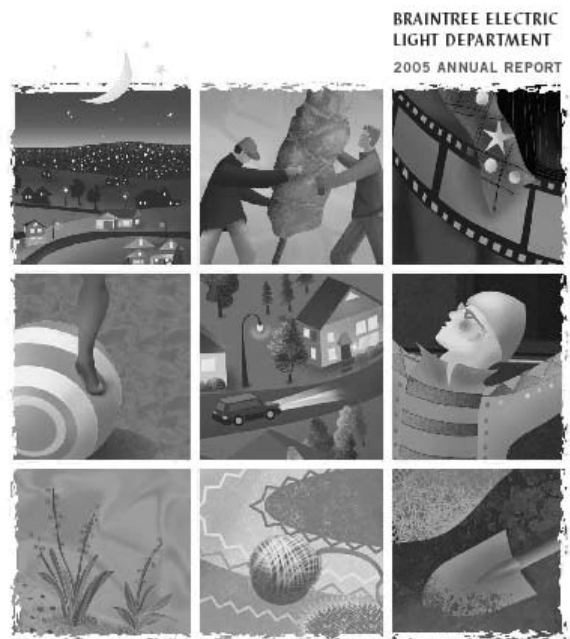
BELD's annual report, *A Higher Standard of Service*, was chosen by a panel of judges who based their selections on copy, design, financial data, creativity, graphics, organization, and communicating the utility's special story. APPA conducts the annual report contest to encourage and recognize excellence in communications.

Joan Marson was BELD's project manager for the publication.

"BELD's Annual Report represents a commitment to excellence on the part of your utility and your communications

department," said Alan H. Richardson, president and CEO of APPA. "I want to commend all BELD staff involved."

The awards were presented Nov. 7 at the APPA Customer Connections Conference in San Antonio, Texas.



A HIGHER STANDARD OF SERVICE

Diversity

Continued from page 3

Haitian Creole, and Spanish and sends out gas "scratch and sniff" cards that list a number of languages.

"Providing translation services alone is not enough," said Williams, who cited examples of cultural differences.

As many of the Asian workers walk to work along busy roads, a local agency tried to provide them with red reflective armbands not knowing that red was considered to be unlucky and signified death. In some cultures telling a mother that her infant is lovely can be considered bad luck.

"We had a customer come into the office distraught because the number 14

appeared in her account," Williams said. "In her culture, the number was considered unlucky."

NPU provides diversity training for frontline employees by exposing them to members of diverse ethnic groups through an intern program with the local high school and through participation in the "Norwich Newcomers" group.

"Given the diversity in the newcomer population," said Williams, "just having a document in Spanish is no longer adequate and it is no longer a simple matter of assuming you knew the language the other person spoke."

Braintree's new power plant will be named after BELD founder

Since receiving approval at Town Meeting in May, the Braintree Electric Light Department (BELD) has continued to make major progress toward the construction of a new power plant for Braintree's customers. The 100-megawatt plant will be built at BELD's headquarters and is scheduled to go online in 2009.



Thomas A. Watson, founder of Braintree Electric Light Department

Name

The BELD Light Board voted unanimously to name the new power plant the Thomas A. Watson Generating Station, after the founder of Braintree Electric Light Department. Watson, most famous as the co-inventor of the telephone (along with Alexander Graham Bell), also founded the Quincy Shipyard and started New England's first kindergarten.

Permitting

BELD has hired Epsilon Associates to assist in the permitting process and filed an environmental notification form. The next step will be to file an application with the Energy Facilities Sighting Board.

Contracts

Six municipal light departments in Massachusetts and a New Hampshire cooperative have signed unit contracts, securing their commitment to the project for the next 20 years. These light departments represent the towns of Chicopee, Concord, Hingham, Reading, Taunton, and Wellesley, and the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative. Each light department will take approximately 10 percent of the plant's output. Braintree Electric Light Department will take 30 percent for

internal use.

Gas Turbine Contract

After extensive negotiations with two gas turbine manufacturers, BELD has signed a contract with Rolls-Royce to provide two 58 megawatt gas turbines. The turbines will be delivered during the summer of 2008.

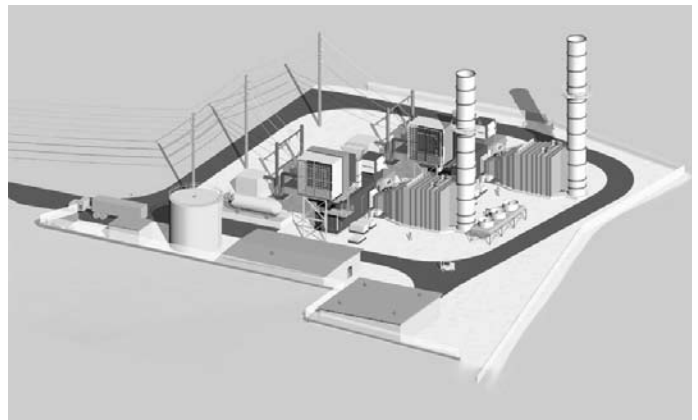
BELD is working with an engineering consultant, CH2M Hill, to pre-qualify general contractors who will then bid on the construction of the plant. A request for proposal is expected to be issued shortly after the beginning of 2007 and the contract awarded early next summer.

Potter I Demolition

A demolition spec has been developed, and a request for proposal will soon be issued to take down the decommissioned Potter I generating station, constructed in the late 1950s and decommissioned in the early 1980s. Demolition should take approximately 16 weeks.

Bonds

BELD is in the process of securing loans to pay for ongoing expenses and an interest rate of 3.56 percent was set for the first issue of bonds, a very low competitive rate which will ultimately help keep the cost of the project down.



2006 in Review

2006 was another busy year for the Northeast Public Power Association and its members. Numerous workshops, conferences and educational programs were offered, while a new training facility was constructed in Pascoag, R.I., in collaboration with the Pascoag Utility District. Throughout the year, individual public power officials were recognized at NEPPA events for their outstanding service and contributions to public power, and utility staff from around New England shared ideas and enthusiasm during roundtable discussions on various topics. A few of these events are captured in these photos.



Ruth Slater (standing) gets input from Laurie Cavagnaro and Priscilla Gottwald of Reading Municipal Light Department at a NEPPA roundtable discussion on "Communicating the Reality of Rate Increases" held in September in Kennebunk, Maine.

NEPPA Safety Director David Fabrizio teaches a second year Utility Technician Development class at NEPPA's new training facility located at Pascoag (R.I.) Utility District. The new facility provides NEPPA classes accessibility to heavy equipment and tools, classroom space, poles and a state-of-the-art substation.



Ann Polacek and Judy Allaire of the Pascoag Utility District accept a NEPPA service award at NEPPA's Annual Conference held in August in Plymouth, Mass. In addition to the awards banquet, the three-day event included an extensive speaking program, discussion forums and the annual business meeting.

Wayne Doerpholz of South Hadley Electric Light Department presents a Commissioner Service Award to Andy Kozinetz who has been an active board member since 1975.



Review

Continued from page 8

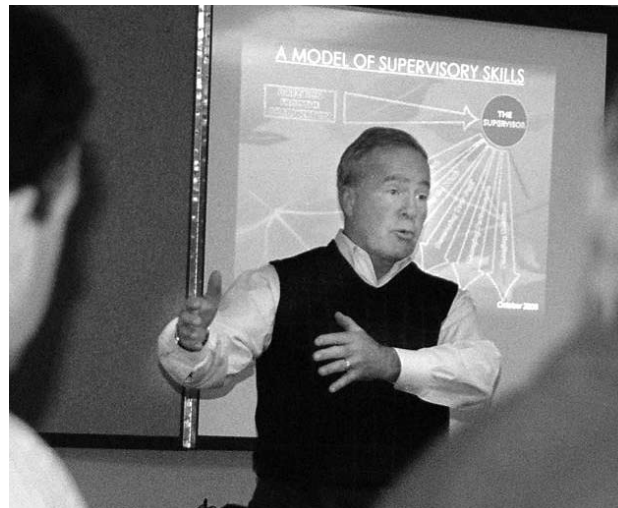
The Carol Tracey Customer Service Awards were presented to five customer service professionals at the 2006 Customer Service Conference. They are (front) Don Morano, Carole Lyford, (rear) Concetta Chapman, Judy Meserve and Mary Illingsworth.



Apprentice Line Workers demonstrate proficiencies developed during the Utility Technician Line Worker's Program at the annual Rodeo. 75 apprentices ranging from first year to fourth year levels participated in the program. (right)



NEPPA's newest training program, Crew Leadership 2006, was inaugurated in October with 36 students attending the three-day program in two different locations, Milford, Mass. and Stowe, Vt. NEPPA Training Instructor Wyn Braun, who has over 30 years experience in the electric utility industry,



NEPPA's 2006 Expo & Operations Conference attracted over 200 utility suppliers and public power officials from around New England and hosted 50 indoor and outdoor exhibits. Mike McManus of Hydron, Inc. demonstrated a self-rescue from a bucket truck. His presentation was one of several demonstrations put on by vendors.

Employment

Employment advertising in News Line is \$30 with a maximum of 50 words or is free to NEPPA members. Deadline for the next issue is Dec. 18.

PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT SUPERINTENDENT OF ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION

The Peabody Municipal Light Plant (PMLP) is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Superintendent of Electric Distribution. The position is responsible for planning, designing, coordinating, scheduling and supervising the construction, maintenance and operation of the transmission, distribution and metering systems. Additional areas of responsibility include fleet maintenance and tree trimming.

The qualified applicant should possess extensive skills in project management as well as an extensive background in the construction and maintenance of electrical distribution systems and related equipment. A minimum of five (5) years experience in managing electric utility line construction projects and supervising electric utility operation and maintenance personnel is preferred. Experience as a First Class Lineman and possession of a CDL is also preferred. The PMLP provides an excellent salary/benefit package and is an EOE. Annual salary range is \$82,983-\$103,285. Please submit your resume to William Waters, Manager at 201 Warren St. Ext., Peabody, MA 01960 or e-mail to wwaters@pmlp.com.

PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT FIRST CLASS LINEMAN (TROUBLEMAN)

The Peabody Municipal Light Plant is seeking a 1st class Line Worker (M/F). Responsibilities of this position will include, but not be limited to the construction, maintenance, and repair of the underground and overhead electric distribution system. The candidate must have the ability to work on energized lines up to 23,000 volts. This person shall be required to work variable shifts including evening and weekends. Must be able to respond to emergency calls within 30 minutes. A complete job description is available for viewing on the PMLP website (PMLP.com). A minimum of two years experience as a Lineman (First Class) is required, and the position is subject to pre-employment and random drug testing, as required by DOT regulations and a CORI and Registry of Motor Vehicles record check. A valid Commercial Drivers License (CDL) is required, as well as a MA Class 1B/3A Hoisting License. PMLP offers a competitive benefits package and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Please send resume to William F. Waters, Manager, 201 Warren Street, Extension, Peabody, MA 01960

TOWN OF BELMONT MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPT FIRST CLASS LINE WORKERS

Belmont Municipal Light Department is accepting applications for two full-time Line Worker openings. Duties include installation, maintenance and repair of underground and overhead primary and secondary distribution systems; and responses to emergencies, including standby duties. Requires a minimum of five years of line worker experience; a high school diploma or equivalent; vocational/technical training, or any equivalent combination providing the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities. Position requires possession of a Massachusetts Commercial Driver's License and High Voltage Line Worker certification. Subject to Federal Drug and Alcohol Testing requirements. The salary range is \$24.98 to \$34.97 per hour. Send resume with references to : humanresources@town.belmont.ma.us or apply at the Human Resources Department, Town Hall, 455 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA 02478. Positions open until filled.

READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT STATION SUPERVISOR

The Station Supervisor will provide supervision and leadership for our 24 hour a day Control Center and will oversee dispatching and the operation and maintenance of all RMLD substations. The successful candidate must have a BS in Electrical Engineering with a minimum 3-5 years proven managerial experience in substation operations. Duties and knowledge to include:

Experience in the design, operation, inspection and maintenance of 115/34.5/13.8 kV and 13.8/4kV substations and field switching stations.

Managing the daily operation of the control center including radio dispatch functions and the supervision of station operators and senior technicians.

Comprehensive knowledge of SCADA systems, remote distribution automation and high voltage switching.

HAZMAT cleanup response, coordination, disposal and record-keeping.

DigSafe response, coordination and compliance with all applicable procedures.

We are seeking someone with a positive attitude, a promoter of employee development and safety-oriented practices. Excellent written and verbal communication skills are needed.

Continued next page

Employment

Continued from previous page Qualified applicants should send their resume to Beth-Ellen Antonio, Human Resources Manager, RMLD, 230 Ash Street, Reading, MA 01867, e-mail bantonio@rml.com, or by fax 781-942-2409.

CHICOPEE ELECTRIC LIGHT ELECTRIC SYSTEM ENGINEER

Chicopee Electric Light is accepting applications for the position of Electric System Engineer. This position is responsible for oversight of engineering projects, studies and programs designed to enhance the distribution system reliability, performance and efficiency. In this position, responsibilities include short & long range planning, preparation of installation

plans, design drawings and specs, design & test procedures for overhead and underground distribution system, electric system analysis and power system studies such as protective relay coordination, short circuit fault studies, power flows, etc.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering or power engineering and 3+ years electric utility experience or an associates degree in electric engineering and 8+ years electric utility experience. In addition, high-level computer competency including CAD is required.

Qualified applicants should send their resume to HR Manager, Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front St., Chicopee, MA.

Member Notes

NEPPA Associate Members give to benevolent fund

NEPPA would like to thank Bill Campbell of PowerTech and Christopher Radzik of National Grid for their generous contribution to the New England Public Power Benevolent Fund. PowerTech is a leading distributor of electric and test equipment, cable fault locating equipment, insulated hand tools, and pole line hardware.

NEPPA established the benevolent

fund to aid public power employees or their families who are facing financial difficulties due to disabling accidents, extended illness, or tragic loss of life.

The New England public power community has a long tradition of rallying to provide support to its family members when tragedy strikes, and these funds will help to continue that tradition.

Stony Brook

continued from page 4

Attleborough, Paxton, Peabody, Reading, Shrewsbury, Sterling, Templeton, Wakefield, West Boylston and Westfield.



MMWEC has started the permitting process for construction of a state-of-the-art, 280-megawatt combined-cycle plant at its Stony Brook site. Like the existing plant, the new unit will burn natural gas and oil to produce electricity. Scheduled for operation in 2010, the new unit is proposed to help meet the future requirements of the region's public power utilities.

In the foreground are two trailer-mounted diesel generators that MMWEC recently installed at its Stony Brook power plant in Ludlow to enable the plant to provide the regional power grid with "black start" service, which is used to re-energize the grid following a blackout. The Stony Brook plant marks 25 years of operation on Nov. 1.

New Congress

Continued from page 1

England states have already adopted their own standards, and it is unclear how a federal standard would impact these states).

Oversight of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, including the operation of wholesale electric markets.

This continues to be a major issue for NEPPA members, who are located in one of the nation's "organized markets" administered by an independent ISO. One positive result of the elections in New England is the appointment of Vermont's newly elected Senator Bernie Sanders to the Senate Energy Committee, which will be the committee of jurisdiction on this important issue.

Energy efficiency, renewables and assistance

"Energy Independence" is one of the six key elements of the Democrat's "Six for '06" legislative agenda outlined earlier this year. This agenda seeks to develop a broad range of energy alternatives and energy-efficient technologies, including alternative fuels such as ethanol. Also, a variety of consumer relief and assistance programs are expected to be offered within this agenda.

On the fiscal front, it is expected that all new legislation will be subject to the "pay as you go" rule, which will require all new spending to be offset by corresponding spending reductions or revenue increases. Strict enforcement of this rule by the spending committees will significantly limit the opportunities for new program

initiatives, and may focus attention on public power's tax-exempt bond financing authority.

In addition, it is expected that the new Democratic majority will attempt to tighten rules governing lobbyists and their access to Congressional Members and staff, including the possible prohibition of staff tours hosted and paid for by lobbyists and trade associations such as NEPPA. Pending the outcome of these deliberations, the Legislative Committee agreed to postpone plans for a Congressional staff tour in New England during 2007. Notwithstanding any rule changes which may affect staff tours, the Committee plans to organize a greater number of visits to Washington in the coming year by NEPPA members, to build and strengthen relationships with the New England delegation and keep them informed of public power positions on important legislative and regulatory issues.

Legislative Rally planned for March

The Legislative Committee also began to make preliminary plans for the 2007 APPA Legislative Rally in Washington, which will take place on March 12 – 15. The Committee will meet in late January to review issue briefs and meeting plans with the New England delegation. All NEPPA members are invited to attend the Legislative Rally and to participate in the Congressional meetings. More information on the Rally will be forwarded to NEPPA members early in the year.

Strategic plan

Continued from page 2

stated, the hard work begins. Pointing out our deficiencies is just the first step in the process. Addressing these deficiencies will take the combined efforts of many people: our staff; our Board; our newly-formed Task Forces; and our members, who are being asked to make a larger financial contribution in 2007 to enable us to begin the implementation phase of the process.

Without these changes, NEPPA will not become the organization that it should be.

It will fall short of its members' expectations and cause them to look elsewhere to meet their needs for professional training, education, information and legislative representation.

While we can be proud of NEPPA's contributions to public power in New England for the past 41 years, it is time to change. The strategic plan provides a roadmap to the future, and it is now time to follow that road.

Committee Meetings

December 8

Board of Directors
Tournament Players Club Boston
Norton, Mass.
9 AM

February 8, 2007

Mutual Aid
Chicopee Electric Light
Chicopee, Mass.
10 AM

January 25, 2007

Legislative
NEPPA Office
Milford, Mass.
10:00 am

Upcoming Events

December 8

Annual Membership Meeting
Tournament Players Club Boston
Norton, Mass.
10 AM

September 11, 2007

Benevolent Fund Golf Tournament
Heritage Golf Club
Charlton, Mass.

February 9, 2007

Communicating the Reality of Rate
Increases
Princeton Municipal Light Department
Princeton, Mass.

October 24 – 26, 2007

Public Utility Management Program
Fall Session
New England Center
Durham, N.H.

April 9 -11, 2007

Public Utility Management Program
Spring Session
New England Center
Durham, N.H.

April 12 – 13, 2007

Expo & Operations Conference
Holiday Inn
Boxborough, Mass.

August 19 - 22, 2007

Annual Conference
Samoset Resort
Rockport, Maine



*For a complete listing
of public power events
regionally and nation-
ally, visit our calendar
at www.neppa.org*