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Changes planned for NEPPA apprentice program



PUD Assistant General Manager Bill Guertin, describes plans to add a second floor to a garage to create a training facility. NEPPA's Dave Fabrizious and PUD's Ted Garille look on.

Beginning in 2006, apprentice lineworkers in New England public power systems will have a new location and a revised curriculum for NEPPA's apprentice training school, known as the Utility Technician Development (UTD) program. The changes are designed to meet current industry standards and to provide more intensive "hands on" training in equipment use and lineworker field skills. In addition, the program will incorporate more frequent evaluation of student progress and reporting to utility supervisors. New textbooks will also be introduced for entering students, provided by the nationally-recognized Linemen's College of Meridian, Idaho. The program will be taught by David Fabrizious,

NEPPA's safety director and a former lineman.

The UTD program is a four-year course of instruction designed to provide apprentice lineworkers with a good background in electrical theory and help them develop the physical skills needed to handle high voltage equipment safely and efficiently.

"Line crews and management have expressed a need for students to apply what they are learning in life-like situa-

tions and to receive more feedback on their progress during the learning process," said Fabrizious. "These program changes are designed to address these needs."

To further meet the goal of providing hands-on training, the UTD school is being relocated to the Pascoag Utility District in Pascoag, R.I., which is in the process of developing a new training facility that will provide NEPPA classes accessibility to heavy equipment and tools, classroom space, poles and a state-of-the-art substation.

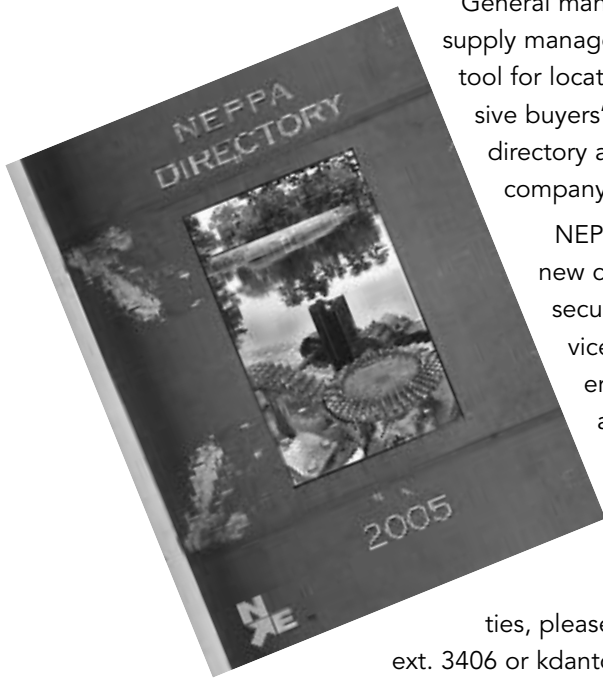
There is ample on-site parking and Pascoag is easily reached from most places in the region. The NEPPA staff is investigating lodging for overnight trainees.

"We're looking forward to having NEPPA training at our facility," said Pascoag General Manager Ted Garille. "We have the vehicles, the equipment and the space to accommodate the training of apprentices throughout the New England public power region and we welcome them."

PUD utility employees have shown their commitment to this endeavor by donating their labor for the project, just as they have in the past. While building their present facility, they donated their time and skills to do much of the retrofitting of the garage and what is now the meter testing and line workers ready room.

Advertising opportunities available in 2006 NEPPA Directory

NEPPA has again partnered with Naylor Publications to produce its annual publication, the Directory of Consumer-owned Electric Utilities in New England.



General managers, operations managers, line superintendents, foremen and supply managers use the directory throughout the year as a helpful reference tool for locating association and member information, and as a comprehensive buyers' guide for the products and services they use most often. The directory allows product and service suppliers to effectively showcase their company to the key decision makers.

NEPPA members spend millions of dollars on projects ranging from new construction, upgrades and training to the implementation of security measures and the purchase of necessary products and services. Place your company's message in the hands of those managers and executives responsible for specifying, recommending and approving purchases on behalf of their organizations.

When a representative from Naylor contacts you, please consider allocating part of your marketing and/or advertising dollars to the publication that targets your industry.

For more information regarding available advertising opportunities, please contact Krys D'Antonio, Naylor Publications, at 800-369-6220 ext. 3406 or kdantoni@naylor.com.

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

Bevilacqua to leave MassDevelopment

In 1997, Diane Bevilacqua left her water management position on a sugar plantation in Hawaii to become utilities manager at MassDevelopment, a quasi-public agency that the state legislature tasked with the redevelopment, reuse, and operation of the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone. The project is located in Ayer, Harvard and Shirley, Mass., which is near where Bevilacqua grew up.

Aging parents and a desire for her son to experience New England were the motivating factors that brought her here, but now she is ready to go back to sunshine and the flexibility of the corporate world.

She is returning to Hawaii to join the same firm she left eight years ago, Alexander and Baldwin, to take on the challenge of property

development on the island of Maui.

Bevilacqua has enjoyed the challenge the MassDevelopment/Devens utility offered her.

"How many people get to be involved in building a new community from the ground up," she said. The project, located on a former Fort Devens Army base that closed in 1996, features residential, industrial and commercial development. There is still an army enclave on the site and it is home to the Federal Medical Center operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, as well as other federal and state agencies including the Army National Guard and the Job Corps.

Much of her time at Mass Development was spent planning and

overseeing the implementation of expansions and upgrades to the utility systems, rate setting, contract negotiations, and managing the operation and maintenance of those systems. During her tenure a wastewater treatment facility was built and two 69/4.16 kV substations were demolished and replaced with two 69/13.8 kV substations, a new 69 kV line was constructed, a one million gallon water tank was replaced and a drinking water well was rehabilitated.

"It has been diverse and challenging overseeing four different utilities," she said. Besides providing gas, electric, water and wastewater service to the 4,400 acre development, the enterprise zone offers back-up water supply to the MCI-Shirley prison and neighboring towns, and provides wastewater treatment for the prison, Shirley and a portion of Ayer.

Diane won't miss the gray days of New England, but she will miss many of the people she has met and the tight knit team she has put together over the past eight years that make up the utilities department.

"These are nice people, a fun and crazy group and we've had a good time."

She said she also enjoyed positive relationships with people she met through NEPPA and other utility organizations.

Bevilacqua has a degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Maine, an MBA from the University of Hawaii, a license in civil engineering and a background in industrial engineering.

Her husband and son will join her in Hawaii after her son graduates from Clinton (Mass.) High School in the spring. She and her family enjoy winter sports and plan to keep their cottage in New Hampshire for visits back here.



"It has been diverse and challenging overseeing four different utilities.

Diane Bevilacqua

Around New England

RMLD appoints new engineering and operations manager



Dion

Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) recently named Peter Dion as its new engineering and operations manager.

Prior to joining RMLD, Peter was manager of electric service at NSTAR Electric and Gas and also worked at Boston Edison. He was an engineering assistant for New England Power Company and is a

master electrician.

Dion serves on the Georgetown Municipal Light Department's Board of Light Commissioners, is a former member of the Georgetown Finance and Advisory Board and a former chairman of the Georgetown Capital Improvement Program.

CMEEC appoints Roger Cotte to Board of Directors



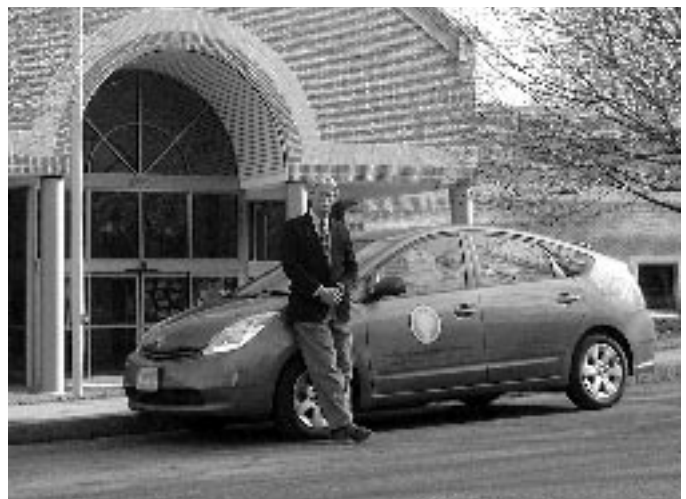
Cotte

At the Annual Board of Directors Meeting of Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative on December 21, 2005, the Board voted to appoint Roger Cotte to the Board of Directors Advisory Committee. Mr. Richard DesRoches, Chairman of the CMEEC Board of Directors noted that Roger Cotte will bring a wealth of business experience and utility industry knowledge to CMEEC's Board of Directors which will be extremely valuable in the challenging environment in which the municipal electric utilities have to operate and his appointment will strengthen CMEEC's strategic planning efforts.

Cotte most recently served as the National Director of Strategic Sales and Marketing for R.W. Beck, Inc. where he was employed for the last 31 years. He holds a P.E. in Electric Power Engineering from Northeastern University and an M.B.A. in Corporate Finance from New York University. He has more than 35 years experience in electric utility power supply and transmission planning and is nationally recognized for his expertise with municipal electric utilities, electric utility restructuring, privatization, power procurement and financing.

RMLD adds hybrid to fleet of vehicles

Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) General Manager Vinnie Cameron shows off the newest member of RMLD's fleet of vehicles – a 2006 Toyota Prius, a hybrid vehicle, which runs on gasoline and electricity through batteries charged when the car is running. RMLD considers energy conservation and environmental friendly alternatives in its operations.



Around New England

Once Braintree customers had their power back, we knew we had the resources to help others outside of town. We did a good job - our guys do great work.

Roger Lothrop

BELD aids NSTAR with storm cleanup

After restoring service to about 1,600 Braintree customers after a heavy rain and wind storm in mid-January, Braintree Electric Light Department (BELD) utility workers left the town confines to assist NSTAR crews with recovery efforts in the towns of Westwood, Dedham, Medfield, Millis and Medway. Massachusetts municipal utilities have a history of assisting each other after storms of this magnitude, but it's not too often that a large investor-owned utility calls upon a smaller utility neighbor.

The Braintree crews worked through the night without rest, clearing power lines

of downed trees and restoring electricity to neighborhoods until late the next afternoon. Linemen Brian Ostiguy, Easton Shakespeare and Chris Thoener, along with General Foreman Roger Lothrop, Electrical Foreman Dan Heraty, and Working Line Foremen Jim Okerfelt and Jim Flaherty made up the seven-man crew.

The unusual January storm brought hurricane-force wind gusts inland and caused one death on Cape Cod. The Patriot Ledger reported more than 100,000 customers without power around the state at the height of the storm.

Wakefield utility on a holiday mission

Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department (WMGLD) staff members (from left) Donna Brehaut, Fred Swenson and Shauna Murphy look over some of the sheets, pillows, blankets and bedspreads that were donated to the Mission of Deeds by WMGLD customers during the holiday season. Mission of Deeds, a Reading-based nonprofit organization provides furniture and housewares without charge to individuals and families in need in northeastern Massachusetts. This is the second consecutive year that the WMGLD has worked in cooperation with the organization to help keep everyone warm during the winter months.



*Tuesday, July 11, 2006
Heritage Country Club
Charlton, Ma*

Benevolent Fund Golf Tournament

Save the date!



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 Feb. 22.

Village of Morrisville, Vermont

Superintendent

Village of Morrisville, Vermont, seeks innovative manager to lead this public power utility. Candidates should have power supply, contract, financial analysis, budgeting, and accounting experience plus exposure to transmission and tax-exempt financing issues. A background in municipal electric, water, and wastewater utility issues plus a familiarity with joint action agencies is preferable. Excellent management, interpersonal, and communications skills are essential. Hydro experience, interface with unions, and experience in a highly regulated environment is a plus. Morrisville is a small, picturesque, dynamic community located in north central Vermont with an exceptional quality of life in which the utility plays an essential role. Salary and benefits are negotiable dependent upon experience. Please send resumes, along with letter of introduction, by February 27, 2006, to Morrisville Water & Light Department, PO Box 460, Morrisville, VT 05661-0460. Phone (802) 888-3348.

Paxton Municipal Light Department

Line Worker First or Second Class

The Town of Paxton Municipal Light Department has a position opening for Lineworker. Will consider First or Second Class applicants. Seeking a self-motivated individual with certified journeyman training, capable of working in a small department team environment. The successful candidate will work under the daily direction of a crew leader and will be expected to perform all phases of distribution work including general line construction, substation/distribution maintenance, and working on energized conductors and equipment up to 13,800 volts. Must be available for on-call rotation nights and weekends.

Residency within a specific geographic area required. Must hold or be able to obtain a valid Massachusetts Class B CDL drivers license and hydraulic hoisting license. This position falls under the Department of Transportation drug testing requirements.

Paxton Municipal Light Department offers a competitive benefits package and is an EOE. Please send resumes Attn: D.Dillman, Paxton Municipal Light Department, 578 Pleasant Street, Paxton, MA. 01612.

Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Manager of Operations and

Line Superintendent

Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Inc. is conducting a thorough search for two well-qualified individuals for the positions of Manager of Operations and Line Superintendent. The search is due to the upcoming retirement of the Manager of Operations. Depending upon the qualifications of the applicants one or both positions will be filled.

Manager of Operations

The qualified candidate will be one of the four senior staff members that report directly to the CEO. The qualified candidate will be responsible for the overall operations of the transmission and distribution system including several substations as well as the vehicle fleet including the supervision of two mechanics. The candidate must have a minimum of five years of progressive experience in electrical system operations, must be responsible and able to coordinate line construction, maintenance, safety programs, and right of way contract operations. Good organizational and communications skills as well as the ability to exercise good judgment are required. Substantial supervisory skills are required as is the ability to be a self-starter. The ability to interact well with consumers and other employees is also required. Knowledge and application of NEC, OSHA, and other safety regulations is highly desirable as are knowledge and experience with Rural Utilities Service (RUS) construction standards and procedures. Prior actual hands on line work would be a big plus. The salary range for this position is \$63,000 to \$93,000. Starting salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Line Superintendent

The qualified candidate should have experience in electric utility line construction, operations, and maintenance. The ability to effectively lead and supervise the utility's line crews, as well as both contract right of way and construction crews is highly desirable as are good organizational and communications skills and the ability to exercise good judgment. Knowledge and application of NEC, OSHA, other safety regulations, and Rural Utilities Service (RUS) construction standards is also highly desirable. Responsibilities for this position include but are not limited to a transmission line, several substations, distribution line construction, and maintenance as well as hands on crew supervision including in the field supervision during outages. The salary range for this management position is \$57,000 to \$84,000. Starting salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s headquarters is located in Calais, Maine, which is in an excellent outdoor recreation area approximately 100 miles east of Bangor, Maine. The cooperative serves over 12,000 customers in a 3,000 plus square mile service territory with over 1,500 miles or 4.16 KV, 12.5 KV and 25 KV overhead distribution and 40 miles of 69 KV transmission line. The cooperative offers a substantial NRECA benefit package including defined benefit and 401K retirement plans, medical, dental and life insurance.

Applicants should send a confidential resume by February 28, 2006 to:

James Dean, Chief Executive Officer
Eastern Maine Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 425, Calais, ME 04619-0425
jdean@emec.com

Customer Service Conference highlights the power of teamwork

The 2006 Customer Service Conference will be held at one of the country's outstanding sports museums and one of New England's major tourist attractions.



Friday, March 24
10 am – 2 pm
Basketball Hall of Fame
Springfield, Mass.

It will feature a presentation by John Doleva, president and CEO, Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame on how a world famous sports museum informs, entertains and delights its customers.

Leading off the one day workshop will be Jonathan Golding, founding director of the OIC Group, who

will present a fun and fast-paced session on the differences between a team that wins championships and those that just play the game. In this session, participants will see the power of teamwork and partnership and will include a combination of presentation, activities, dialogue and action planning. Golding has over 20 years in the ground-breaking fields

of experiential learning and process consulting, and he has been assisting organizations and individuals improve effectiveness, foster growth, and develop strategies that sustain positive changes in shifting business environments. In addition to leading the development team that created the Guest First! Initiative at the Basketball Hall of Fame, Golding has been engaged by a number of utilities to assist them with Leadership and Customer Service issues. A past Hopkins Fellow in Change Management at Johns Hopkins University, Golding has also been the keynote speaker at conferences for both the Florida Municipal Electric Association and the American Gas Association.

Presentation of the third annual Carol Tracey Awards for Excellence in Customer Service, a Basketball Hall of Fame tour and lunch will be included in the event. For more details or to register, go to www.neppa.org or call Sheila Boone at (508) 482-5906, ext. 10.

Employment

Belmont Municipal Light Department Director of Operations

Director of Operations-Belmont Municipal Light Department is seeking an individual to oversee the electric distribution operations, maintenance, construction, and installation for the safe and reliable operation of the sub-transmission and distribution system. Responsibilities include providing the leadership needed for the safe and effective planning and organization of resources used in the construction and maintenance of the overhead and underground electric distribution system. Responsibilities also entail leading and coaching personnel, developing budgets and long range planning, specifying equipment, developing operating procedures, monitoring safety procedures, complying with environmental regulations, and other typical duties. The position reports to

the Manager/CEO. Belmont Light requires ten years of experience in electric system transmission and distribution system construction, maintenance and operations, with at least five years in supervisory position. A minimum of two years of college majoring in engineering, business administration or a related field is desirable. BMLD offers a competitive salary and benefits package. Position requires possession of a MA driver's license.

Send resume with references to

Town of Belmont

455 Concord Ave.,

Belmont, MA 02478,

or email humanresources@town.belmont.ma.us

Committee Meetings

February 24

Executive
10:00 am
NEPPA office
Milford, Mass.

March 10

Board of Directors
Mt. Washington Hotel
New Hampshire

March 17

Public Communications
NEPPA Office
Milford, Mass

Upcoming Events

February 10

Customer Service Roundtable
North Attleborough Electric
North Attleborough, Mass.

March 1 – 3

APPA Legislative Rally
Washington, DC

March 24

Customer Service Conference
Basketball Hall of Fame
Springfield, Mass.

April 3 – 5

Public Utility Management Program
Spring Session, Durham, N.H.

April 20 - 21

PUMIC Annual Meeting
Burlington, Vermont

June 6 – 7

Expo & Operations Conference
Holiday Inn, Boxborough, Mass.

July 11

Benevolent Fund Golf Tournament
Heritage Country Club
Charlton, Mass.

August 8 – 11

Congressional Staff Tour
New Hampshire

August 20 – 23

Annual Conference
Radisson Hotel, Plymouth, Mass.

October 2 – 4

Public Utility Management Program
Fall Session, Durham, N.H.

December 8

Annual Membership Meeting
site TBD

