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## Membership meeting focuses on past and future

NEPPA's 2004 Annual Membership Meeting was held on Dec. 10 at Lake Pearl Luciano's Restaurant in Wrentham, Mass, with nearly 60 members, staff and guests participating. The meeting featured a presentation by Roger Cotte, national director of sales for R.W. Beck, along with welcoming comments by John Clark, general manager of Houlton Water Company and NEPPA president. Clark extended a special welcome to retired former public power managers from around New England, who were invited by the Board of Directors to meet old friends and to help celebrate the beginning of NEPPA's 40th anniversary year in 2005.

Pat Hyland, NEPPA executive director, also welcomed present and former members, and described a recent conversation that he had with Bill Clinton, former director of utilities for Groton, Conn. Clinton, along with Jim Baker of Shrewsbury and Mike Collins of Wakefield, was instrumental in founding the association in 1965, and reflected on the many changes that he has seen in the electric utility industry in the past 40 years. Some of these changes

were highlighted by Hyland in his presentation: the northeast blackout of 1965; the formation of the New England Power Pool in 1971; the emergence of three public power joint action agencies in the 1970's; the environmental movement and its impact on electric generation; the long and costly construction of Seabrook nuclear station in New Hampshire; the deregulation of wholesale power markets in 1992; and the creation of ISO New England and its evolution to a new Regional Transmission Organization.

Roger Cotte, in his presentation, discussed the impact of restructuring on public power, with a special focus on New England. He described the growing number of "distressed" generation plants in

*David Sweetland of North Attleborough Electric; Joe Spadea, former manager of Hingham Municipal Light Plant; Roger Beljite, former manager of Groton (Mass.) Electric; converse with membership meeting speaker, Roger Cotte of R.W. Beck.*



# ***Pole inspection and treatment service offered***

The Osmose Company has recently offered NEPPA members a fixed price schedule for the inspection and treatment of wood poles. This price schedule has been mailed to all NEPPA systems, along with information about pole inspection and treatment methods. Additional copies of the information package are available at the NEPPA office.

Any NEPPA system that wishes to take advantage of this service should contact one of the following Osmose representatives:

Dave Acker, district manager                      603-298-0480

Donnie Lander, vice-president                      716-882-5905

Arrangements may be made directly with the company for inspection and treatment services, and the company will provide all necessary contractual and insurance documents to participating utilities.



## **Staff**

Patrick Hyland  
executive director  
phyland@neppa.org

Mary Harrington  
communications director  
mharrington@neppa.org

Kris Nicolas  
controller  
knicolas@neppa.org

Sheila Boone  
administrative secretary  
sboone@neppa.org

Robert Gautreau  
training director  
bgautreau@neppa.org

David Fabrizio  
safety director  
dfabrizius@neppa.org

Lori O'Donoghue  
administrative assistant  
lodonoghue@neppa.org

## **Board of Directors**

John Clark  
president  
Houlton, Maine

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first vice-president  
Shrewsbury, Mass.

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second-vice-president  
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Orleans, Vt.

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W. Boylston, Mass.

Ray Shockey  
Ipswich, Mass.

John Tzimirangas  
Hingham, Mass.

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

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

# Now is the time to rethink electric restructuring says APPA

The American Public Power Association has joined a growing chorus of skeptics who have serious doubts about the direction of electric restructuring in the country, at least the direction being taken by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The doubts are included in a white paper entitled *Restructuring at the Crossroads: FERC Electric Policy Reconsidered*, which was released to the public and to all offices of the U.S. Congress in early

members are unable to obtain or even retain long-term firm transmission service at just and reasonable rates. This is impairing their ability to enter into the long-term generation resource arrangements they need to provide reliable and affordable electric service to their end-use customers.

Because of regional differences and the largely negative experience of APPA members now served by RTOs, many APPA members in non-RTO regions oppose RTO expansion to their own regions. These APPA members believe there are more cost-effective means to provide open access transmission service and to promote market efficiency, including: joint development of regional Open Access Same-time Information Systems; regional provision of market monitoring; and development of inclusive regional transmission planning and expansion processes. Joint ownership of transmission facilities by all load-serving utilities in a region can also address many of the transmission access issues RTOs were intended to address.

The report also states that FERC must address generation market power through a "bottom up" review and update of its market-based rate policy, for both RTO and non-RTO regions. The ability of public utility sellers to charge market-based rates is a privilege conferred under the Federal Power Act, not a right. Where regional wholesale generation markets are not competitive, FERC must adopt enforceable protective conditions on the market-based rate authorizations of specific public utility sellers, to ensure that rates remain just and reasonable.

December. The document is the result of a two-month process beginning with a meeting of APPA members last September, and the development of a written critique of federal electric policy by APPA staff and members. The final version of the document, which includes specific recommendations for new policy directions by the FERC, was unanimously approved by the APPA Board of Directors in mid-November.

As the executive summary of the paper states, "it is time to take stock of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's electric restructuring policies." APPA believes substantial "mid-course corrections" to FERC's policies are needed to fix existing Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) and to encourage non-RTO alternatives in those regions where RTOs are not likely to form.

APPA members in RTO regions report substantial, across-the-board problems with spiraling RTO costs, unaccountable RTO governance, and ever-increasing provision of RTO services through questionable market mechanisms. These APPA



# Wind power contract benefits MMWEC municipal utilities

A group of Massachusetts municipal utilities and their power supply agency have agreed to purchase the power from a 15-megawatt wind project slated for construction in the Berkshires next year. This will give the utilities an economic supply of renewable energy.

The Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) entered into a 22-year contract with Berkshire Wind Power LLC to purchase the electric energy and capacity from the Berkshire Project, which includes ten, 1.5-megawatt wind turbines to be erected on Brodie Mountain in the town of Hancock, Mass. MMWEC plans to recontract the project's output at cost to 14 of its municipal utility participants.

The municipal utilities participating in MMWEC's Berkshire Wind Project include those serving the communities of Ashburnham, Boylston, Groton, Hull, Marblehead, Paxton, Peabody, Shrewsbury, Templeton and Wakefield. The municipal utilities serving Belmont, Holden, Ipswich and Sterling also are planning to participate.

In addition to providing the municipal utilities with an affordable supply of clean, renewable energy, the contract will assist Berkshire in obtaining the financing needed to complete the project, said MMWEC General Manager Michael A. Minkos.

"Municipal utilities, individually and collectively, recognize the value of wind power development, and this contract is an example of how public power utilities can work together to help make renewable energy a reality in Massachusetts," Minkos said. . The signing of this contract, the recent renewal of federal tax credits for wind power, and other favorable devel-

opments are moving this project forward quickly."

Under the contract, MMWEC will purchase all of the project's electric energy and capacity at a fixed price of 3.65 cents/kilowatt-hour over the entire contract term. The contract price is significantly below MMWEC's current and projected market prices for power. As such, the contract locks in a competitive, economical, fixed price for wind power for the next 22 years. The contract benefits will be passed on to the participating utilities' customers and help the utilities contain their future electric rates.

In addition, the project will diversify the power supply portfolios of participating municipal utilities and reduce their dependence on fossil fuels to generate electricity. Such resource diversity is another way municipal utilities are working to shelter their customers from the often volatile price swings of fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas, Minkos said.

The projected annual energy output of the Berkshire wind project is approximately 42,700-megawatt hours. The capacity value of the project, which will start at approximately 3.75 megawatts, will be adjusted based on the project's operating experience. MMWEC is not purchasing the project's renewable energy credits, or "green tags," which are a separate product that can be purchased by private utilities to meet state-mandated renewable energy portfolio standards.

Berkshire Wind Power LLC is an affiliate of Colorado-based Distributed Generation Systems, Inc., which is a developer of wind energy and other renewable energy facilities nationwide and a provider of renewable energy consulting services to numerous Native American tribes throughout the United States.

# Membership Meeting

*Continued from page 1*

the region, and the consequent sales of these assets to new owners at below market prices. Without any major new investors emerging in these markets, there is a serious concern about the adequacy of current generation assets to meet future energy needs in the region, as well as the unresolved problem of transmission con-

gestion in several critical areas.

Members were also briefed on NEPPA's plans for 2005, and voted to approve the proposed budget and dues schedule.

Following the meeting, a luncheon was served and current and former NEPPA members were able to catch up on developments and renew old friendships.

*(Below)  
Former Norwich employee, Peter Polubiatko, catches up with Commissioner Charlie Rossoll and General Manager John Bilda.*

*Janice Fitzpatrick and Fred Anderson of New Hampshire Electric Cooperative confer with Ted Garille of Pascoag Utility District.*

*(below right)  
Larry Rossi, former manager of South Norwalk (Conn.) Electric arrives at the meeting ready to renew old acquaintances.*



*Guest Speaker Roger Cotte expresses concern about the adequacy of current generation assets to meet future energy needs in the region.*



# Employment

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*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 Jan 21.*

## City of Norwalk

### Journeyman Lineworker

The Third Taxing District of the City of Norwalk Electrical Department has an immediate opening for a journeyman lineworker. Candidate will have or must obtain a Connecticut Commercial Driver's License and will have at least three years experience as a lineman, including climbing experience.

Candidate will be knowledgeable of safety and work procedures followed when working in and around 28KV substations, of all overhead and underground standards and work procedures including transformer connections and pole mounted primary metering, and experienced in troubleshooting both overhead and underground primary and secondary wiring.

The Third Taxing District Electrical Department offers one of the best compensation and benefit packages in the industry today and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We are located on Long Island Sound in a desirable residential community. Please send resume to the attention of George Leary, General Manager, Third Taxing District Electric Department, 2 Second Street, East Norwalk, CT, 06855 or geleary@ttd.gov

## The Marblehead Municipal Light Maintenance and Operating Specialist

The Marblehead Municipal Light Department is now accepting applications for the position of Maintenance and Operating Specialist. Applicants should possess a background in the operation of power generation systems equivalent to a trade school education, and have experience in mechanical systems, hydraulic systems, vehicle maintenance, and build-

ing maintenance. Must currently hold and will maintain a Massachusetts Commercial Driver's License or have the ability to obtain one within six months. The ability to operate heavy equipment is desirable. A complete Job description is available upon request. Wages commensurate with experience and qualifications. A physical examination and pre-employment drug testing are required. Please direct all inquiries to: Mr. Mark Atkins, Technical Operations Manager, Marblehead Municipal Light Department, P. O. Box 369, Marblehead, Ma. 01945. (781) 631-0240.

An Equal Opportunity Employee

## The Marblehead Municipal Light Lineworker

The Marblehead Municipal Light Department is now accepting applications for the position of Lineworker. Applicants should possess a background in the operation of power generation and distribution systems equivalent to a trade school education. Experience in all phases of line work is desirable. Must currently hold and will maintain a Massachusetts Commercial Driver's License or have the ability to obtain one within six months. A complete Job description is available upon request. Wages commensurate with experience and qualifications. A physical examination and pre-employment drug testing are required. Please direct all inquiries to: Mr. Douglas P. Proto, Distribution Manager, Marblehead Municipal Light Department, P. O. Box 369, Marblehead, Ma. 01945. (781) 631-0240.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

# NEPPA's Public Utility Management Program is in its twelfth year

April 11-13 2005  
October 3 - 5 2005  
New England Center  
Durham, N.H.

Since its inception, over 250 managers, commissioners and staff members from utilities throughout New England have participated in NEPPA's award-winning management training program for public power officials. The program is an invaluable aid to public power utilities coping with industry changes such as the evolution of deregulated wholesale power markets and the formation of

RTOs. Program participants will come away with a better understanding of industry trends and sharper management skills for coping with changes.

## **Spring Program Coaching and Mentoring Skills for Managers, Janine Moon, CompassPoint Coaching, LLC**

The core of 21st century business success is the knowledge and application of "people skills," which include communication styles, collaboration and partnering, and coaching and mentoring. Coaching skills create highly productive workers and strong results, whether

managing others or working within a team environment. In this session, students will learn how coaching differs from traditional management, and what skill sets and competencies are needed to become an effective coach and mentor in the workplace.

## **Preventing Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace, Linda Dillon, President, Dillon Consulting**

Discrimination and harassment is a growing problem in the workplace, as evidenced by the number of employee claims filed each year. While there are numerous state and federal laws and

regulations which prohibit these practices, they are often not clearly understood or enforced by supervisors. This interactive program will give all participants an overview of the various forms of employee harassment, and the liabilities associated with it. Also, they will learn how to identify, prevent, confront and handle episodes of harassment in the workplace.

## **Ethical Fitness: How good people make tough choices, Marty Taylor, The Institute for Global Ethics**

Ethical fitness, no less than physical or mental fitness, is a prerequisite to success in today's business world. When confronted with conflicts of interest, personnel concerns or other ethical questions, good managers and leaders must strive for fairness, transparency and responsibility in their everyday decisions. This workshop will provide tools and methods for dealing with tough decisions, and a framework for establishing a code of ethics to guide business and personal behavior.

## **Managing Time and Getting Organized, Rockie Blunt, President, Blunt Consulting**

One of the most critical of all management skills is how to plan and use your own time. Without this ability, it is simply not possible to achieve goals and deliver results in a thorough and professional manner. This seminar will address the major problem areas that contribute to inefficiency, and will show how to create a plan for managing your most precious resource. Students will learn how to set goals, prioritize tasks, and minimize distractions and interruptions.



*Watch your mail for  
details or visit us at  
[www.neppa.org](http://www.neppa.org)  
Enrollment is limited  
so please plan to  
register by Feb.18.*

# Committee Meetings

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January 13

Public Communications  
NEPPA Office  
10:00 a.m.

January 26

Regional Power supply  
Littleton Electric Light and Water Dept.  
9:30 a.m.

March 4

Executive Committee  
NEPPA Office  
10:00 a.m.

March 18

Board of Directors  
Lake Pearl Luciano's  
Wrentham, Mass.  
9:00 a.m.

# Upcoming Events

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December 10

## Annual Membership Meeting

Lake Pearl Luciano's  
Wrentham, Mass.

September 10

## Annual Lineworker's Rodeo

North Beach  
Burlington, Vt.

January 19

## Vermont Safety Workshop

Hillary's Restaurant  
Morrisville, Vt.

February 8 – 10

## APPA Legislative Rally

Washington, DC

April 11 -13 Spring Session  
October 3 – 5 Fall Session

## Public Utility Management Program

New England Center  
Durham, N. H.

June 7 – 8

## Utility Conference & Expo

Holiday Inn  
Boxborough, Mass.

August 14 – 17

## Annual Conference

Marriott Hotel  
Newport, R.I.

