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A robust transmission infrastructure is essential to health and safety and to our nation's economy. Our infrastructure is becoming increasingly inadequate and little is being done to address this problem.

TAPS Chair Roy Thilly

Coalition offers blueprint to fix US electric transmission infrastructure

A national coalition of community-based electric utilities from 35 states has proposed a series of specific actions for state and federal regulators and other policymakers to get needed new electric transmission facilities built promptly and at a reasonable cost for consumers.

The Transmission Access Policy Study Group (TAPS) released a white paper on June 7 intended to jump-start transmission construction, improve reliability and provide utilities with access to robust, regional electric markets that will benefit consumers. The plan, *Effective Solutions for Getting Needed Transmission Built at Reasonable Cost*, promotes structural solutions and identifies specific changes

in regulation designed to fix the nation's inadequate transmission infrastructure.

TAPS, an informal association of more than 50 transmission-dependent utilities, is a strong supporter of open access transmission and competitive wholesale electric markets. NEPPA and 20 of its member utilities are active members of the TAPS association.

The Problem

Since 1982, electric transmission capacity relative to peak use has declined steadily, falling by more than half. One study predicts \$56 billion of investment will be required over the next seven years sim-

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NEPPA's Utility Conference and Expo features trade show and vendor demonstrations

Operations personnel, engineers, superintendents and general managers attended NEPPA's Utility Conference on June 8 and 9 in Boxborough, Mass. At right, Jim Bell of E.L. Flowers talks with visitors at his booth at the all-day expo.

See more photos on pages 6-7.



Executive Director's Report

Snap, hold, kick: Lessons from Foxboro

by Patrick Hyland



Text Caption...

Sounds easy, doesn't it? We see it every Sunday afternoon during the football season, when the field goal team executes the drill to perfection: the long snapper sending the ball to the holder, who catches it, spins the laces to the front, and tees it up for the kicker, who must kick the ball with the right leg speed and angle, and before the defense can get their hands into the flight path of the ball. When done well, it's a thing of beauty and looks almost automatic. When any one of the steps is not executed properly, however, the play breaks down and the outcome can be very bad indeed.

Until recently, I never gave much thought to the mechanics of field goal kicking in the NFL. That changed, however, at NEPPA's recent Utility Conference and Expo, when I had the opportunity to meet and speak with Ken Walter, who won two Superbowl rings with the New England Patriots as the team's punter and holder for Adam Vinatieri's field goals. Ken was the guest speaker follow-

ing the conference dinner, and graciously answered lots of questions about his experiences, his teammates, and his career in the NFL for the past eight years.

His most interesting comments, for me, were on the topics of preparation and teamwork, and on the remarkable friendships and close relationships that had been formed between the Patriot players during their runs to the championship over the past three years. On the practice field, the coaching staff made sure that every contingency was planned for, and that every player knew his role. Off the field, the Patriot players really cared about each other, their families and their careers, and they demonstrated their caring in a variety of ways, always making sure that they communicated with each other during difficult times.

His comments on teamwork and mutual support were also central to the theme of

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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.

NEPPA Annual Conference to feature RTO panel discussion

NEPPA has compiled a panel of experts to discuss the implications of a regional transmission organization in New England.

David O'Brien will give his perspective as Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Public Service, which represents the public interest in regard to utility regulation, energy and telecommunications policy and planning, and utility-related consumer protection.

Kevin Kirby of ISO New England will draw on his 30 years of electric industry experience, which includes power plant design and development, consulting services for industrial and municipal electric generation and distribution systems, power system planning, energy procurement and trading. As administrator of the wholesale electricity markets in New England at ISO New England, he brings a wealth of knowledge to this panel.

Panelist Peter Zschokke has provided

expert testimony on a wide range of rate issues while representing National Grid, U.S.A. Issues include innovative rate designs, cost allocations, economic development incentives, and unbundled electric tariffs in a restructured industry. He is responsible for New England and New York legislative and regulatory support for the transmission business, and coordinating outreach to executive branch offices around the country and the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC).

This year's conference also features presentations on governance, crisis communications, regional transmission organizations, and Vermont's energy future.

Annual Conference fees go up after July 15. If you haven't registered yet, send in your form today, or you can register on line at www.neppa.org. If you have any questions, please call NEPPA at (508) 482-5906.



August 15-18
Wyndham Hotel
Burlington, Vermont

MMWEC elects directors and officers

The Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) recently held its annual election of directors and officers.

Stanley Herriott, manager of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant, and Thomas Josie, manager of Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations, were elected by the MMWEC membership to fill two open positions on the organization's board of directors. Mark Kelly, manager of the Middleton Municipal Electric Department, was re-elected to fill the third board position up for election. Each will serve a three-year term on the 12-member board.

H. Bradford White, manager of the

Boylston Municipal Light Department, was re-elected to his seventh consecutive one-year term as chairman of the board. In addition, Raymond R. Shockey, manager of the Ipswich Municipal Light Department, was re-elected to his fifth consecutive one-year term as MMWEC president.

Others elected to MMWEC offices for one-year terms include Michael A. Minkos, general manager and secretary; Ronald C. DeCurzio, treasurer; Ronald W. Kusek, assistant treasurer; Nancy Brown, assistant secretary; and Nicholas J. Scobbo, Jr., general counsel. MMWEC holds its elections at the organization's annual meeting in mid-May.

Around New England

Rating agencies praise public power



Minkos

Massachusetts municipal electric utilities and their nonprofit power supply organization, the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), won praise for their financial and competitive health in recent reports from three major credit rating agencies.

A report from Moody's Investors Service characterizes MMWEC's financial performance as "consistently sound," while reports from the Standard & Poor's and Fitch rating agencies applaud the credit strength and competitive electric rates of individual municipal utilities. Following an annual review of MMWEC's credit standing, Standard & Poor's upgraded one of MMWEC's power sup-

ply projects to A-minus and affirmed its BBB-plus rating on seven other projects. Fitch affirmed its A-minus ratings on all MMWEC projects, and Moody's affirmed its A3 rating on three projects and Baa2 rating on five projects. All three of the rating agencies assigned the projects a stable credit outlook.

"According to the rating agencies, public power in Massachusetts is on the right track and gaining momentum," said MMWEC General Manager Michael A. Minkos. "We're in very good shape financially, managing our assets wisely, and taking the steps needed to stay competitive in the future."

TMLP Zappers hit the track to benefit ACS Relay for Life



From left are TMLP employees Nancy Stankiewicz, Linda Linhares, Dianne Hunt, Paula Gallagher, Jenn Ready, Maureen Lounsbury, Maureen Kelly, Tina Silveira, Cindy Angus, Margaret Coulombe and Pat Chandler.

Employees of the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Walk on June 11-12 at Taunton High School.

The theme of the 21-hour walking event was "decades," and the TMLP

"Zappers" Relay Team was named most original for their 1920s flapper routine. They were led by team captains Maureen Lounsbury and Paula Gallagher. TMLP employees donated \$8,300 to the charity this year, a record amount.

Around New England

WEC to take its landfill gas project to the voters



Avram Patt

Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC) has scheduled a special vote of its membership on the Co-op's plan to build a power station at a Coventry, Vt. landfill to generate electricity for its members from methane gas. The vote culminates two years of technical and financial planning on the \$7.32 million project, and half a year of review by state regulatory agencies. The Vermont Public Service Board has awarded a Certificate of Public Good for the landfill gas-to-electricity project WEC is now mailing information packets and vote-by-mail ballots to people at the 9,400 homes, farms, public buildings and businesses in 41 central Vermont towns that buy their electricity from the cooperative.

WEC and Casella Waste Management Inc. of Rutland announced the landfill gas-to-electricity project in September 2003. A subsidiary of Casella owns the landfill

- the largest such facility in Vermont. Also involved in the project are the Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO), which owns and operates the statewide electric transmission system, and Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC), the distribution utility that serves customers in Coventry and the surrounding area. WEC will construct 7.2 miles of single-pole transmission line between the generating station at the landfill and VELCO's substation in Irasburg. The project includes a small expansion of VELCO's substation. VEC will take the opportunity to upgrade sections of its distribution system by combining its power lines on the new poles, which will be co-owned by the two co-ops.

With the Public Service Board's approval now in hand, financing - in the form of a loan from the federal Rural Utilities Service - is expected soon, according to WEC General Manager Avram Patt.

The Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department Board of Light Commissioners ...

...recently elected Michael McCarthy (seated) as Chairman of the Board, and Gil McCarthy (standing, right) as Secretary. Adding their congratulations to the two Commissioners are (standing, from left) WMGLD Manager William Wallace, and Commissioners Jim Murphy and Gene Sullivan. Commissioner Ken Chase, not pictured, is also a member of the Board.



NEPPA Utility Conference & Expo

Public power officials, lineworkers, supervisors, electric utility vendors and service providers gathered in Boxborough Mass, on June 8-9 for NEPPA's Annual Utility Conference & Expo. The conference featured a one-day trade show with adjoining indoor and outdoor exhibit areas with hands-on demonstrations of the newest utility tools and equipment. A reception and dinner for all exhibitors and conference participants followed and a safety summit conducted by the NEPPA training staff was held the next morning.



Ken Walter, professional football punter and holder who won two superbowl rings while with the New England Patriots, spoke at the utility conference banquet. He fielded questions and helped pass out autographed raffle prizes.



(Previous page) Linda Calderiso and Bill Hesson of the NEPPA training staff present at the safety summit.

An American Test Center tester conducts a three-hour utility truck inspection.

(right) Walt Wilson of Arnett Industries does a demonstration on troubleshooting voltage complaints.

(below) James Dean of Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative visits Steve Buss and Pete Nixon at the Fleet Electric Booth.

NHEC attendees gather information from FCD/Burndy.



We'd like to thank this year's sponsors for their generous contributions.

**Graybar Electric Company
The Okonite Company
E.L. Flowers & Associates**



Employment

Employment

advertising is \$30 with a maximum of

50 words or is free

to NEPPA members.

Deadline for the next issue is July 23, 2004.

Village of Enosburg Falls

Village Manager

The Village of Enosburg Falls, Vermont is seeking applications from qualified candidates for the position of Village Manager through 4:00 pm, Friday July 23, 2004. The Village currently has 15 full-time employees divided in the following departments, Administrative, Water and Electric, Sewer and Highway.

Candidates will have a minimum of three years of progressively responsible management experience in the public management area, have a Bachelors Degree, and preferably experience with a light department. The Village Manager reports directly to the Board of Trustees of the Village, and is responsible for providing the overall leadership and development of various Village functions. Please submit a letter of application, resume, and three letters of reference to: Board of Trustees, Attn: Valentine W. Bonk, Chair, Village of Enosburg Falls, 43 Village Drive, Enosburg Falls, VT 05450

Dufresne-Henry, Inc., North Springfield, Vermont

Senior Electrical Distribution Engineer

Position requires a P.E., BSEE with 10 years of experience. Responsibilities include preparation of distribution plans, design of power distribution for electric utilities municipal and private. Perform electrical studies and make recommendations in areas such as electric power, distribution, substations, system operation, system protection, metering, energy management, load forecasting, system planning, budget planning, distribution routing studies. Candidate must possess the ability to perform complex electrical calculations and analysis; conducts various studies in areas such as protection coordination, system planning and load forecasting.

This position will be responsible for maintaining existing client base, making recommendations for long-term client needs and marketing to build the client base. Excellent communications skills, both written and verbal, as well as computer proficiency are necessary.

EOE M/F/V/D

Contact Information: Dufresne-Henry, Inc.

Paul Stokarski, PHR, Manager of Human Resources, PO Box 29, North Springfield, VT 05150, pstokarski@dufresne-henry.com

Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Dept.

Engineer

The Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department is searching for an Engineer. The Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department is a gas and electric utility serving 11,500 electric customers and 5600 gas customers and is located approximately ten miles north of Boston, MA. The Engineer will be assisting the Electric and Gas Superintendents in the operation of the Department, is in charge of the meter department and the maintenance of the electrical substations.

Skills and experience required include:

- BS in Electrical Engineering

- Minimum of three years experience in the technical operation of a gas and/or electrical utility

- Familiar with the operation of a CAD system

- Familiar with the operation of a SCADA system

- Technical knowledge of the operation of electrical substations

- Experience dealing with the public

- Background in the operation of a distribution system

Interested persons may send resumes by July 21 to William J. Wallace, Manager, Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Dept. PO Box 190, Wakefield, MA 01880.

Employment

Jewett City Department of Public Utilities

Electrical Superintendent

The Jewett City Department of Public Utilities is seeking a Superintendent with an engineering background to manage their Electric Division. The Electric Division provides service to 2000 customers and employs three line workers.

Qualifications:

- graduate from a recognized college or university with a B.S. in electric engineering or equivalent with at least three years of progressively responsible experience in the planning, design, and construction of electric utility facilities; or equivalent related experience.
- ability to plan, organize, and inspect the work of subordinates.
- knowledge of the principles and practices of electric distribution engineering, including high and low voltage systems.
- ability to analyze and design electric distribution systems and their related components.
- expert knowledge of the tools, methods, materials, and equipment associated with construction and repair of electric distribution lines in compliance with standard industry practice.
- ability to perform Class A Lineman duties when required to assist the line crews to provide timely, quality construction and repairs of the electric distribution system.

The applicant must have or obtain a Connecticut Commercial Drivers License, and must submit at least three professional references.

Send resume to: Jewett City Department of Public Utilities, Attn: Director of Utilities, 9 East Main St., Jewett City, CT 06351.

Executive Director's Report

Continued from page 2

NEPPA's Safety Summit, which was held on the second day of the conference. The NEPPA training staff discussed a variety of topics related to workplace safety, and the importance of preparation and teamwork in planning and executing utility jobs at all times and under any circumstances. Once again, the importance of regular and open communication was emphasized, as the essential ingredient to the success of any team and any endeavor.

As Ken acknowledged, the conse-

quences of a failed field goal attempt are far different than an accident on a job site. Victory and defeat in a game do not compare with the risk of permanent injury or death, which is what electric utility crews face every day. But the benefits of good planning, thorough preparation, careful execution and caring teammates are just as real for lineworkers as they are for NFL players. Important lessons from our Superbowl champs!

September 11, 2004
North Beach
Lake Champlain
Burlington, Vt.

Sixth Annual Northeast Public Power Lineworkers' Rodeo

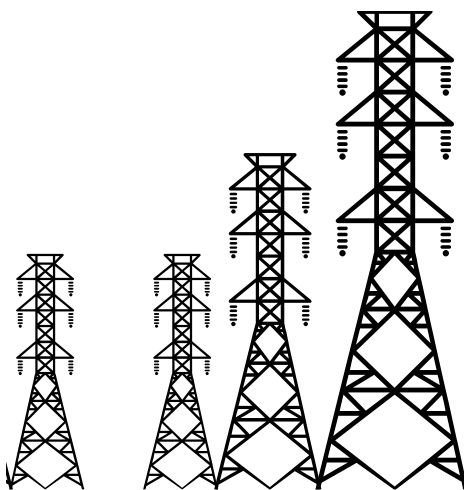
To register a team or to become a sponsor, contact Lori O'Donoghue at NEPPA (508) 482-5906, ext. 11 or lodonoghue@neppa.org



Taps

Continued from page 1

A complete copy of the TAPS proposal can be downloaded from the association's website: www.tapsgroup.org.



ply to maintain the system at its year 2000 capacity. More will be needed to achieve a truly adequate national grid.

“A robust transmission infrastructure is essential to health and safety and to our nation’s economy,” said TAPS Chair Roy Thilly, president and CEO of Wisconsin Public Power Inc. “Our infrastructure is becoming increasingly inadequate and little is being done to address this problem. We need to move forward promptly with strategies we know will work. TAPS members care very much about the delivered cost of power to their customers. We need to build transmission and we need to do it in a way that minimizes the cost for customers.”

“The TAPS plan offers much needed, innovative strategies for solving the transmission problem,” said Jesse Tilton III, CEO of Electricities of North Carolina. “While some transmission owners are doing their best to provide this essential service, others have asserted in the national debate on transmission policy that they will not meet their public service obligation to build an adequate system unless regulators grant them an above-market return on investment. Still others have proposed sitting back and waiting to see if someone else will pay for essential infrastructure to be built. The U.S. economy and electric reliability cannot afford to be held hostage by companies that

demand premium returns or gamble with health and safety and the infrastructure essential to our economy. The TAPS plan identifies concrete actions that will work to solve this problem without penalizing residential, commercial, and industrial electric users.”

The TAPS Solution

The TAPS plan promotes the creation of stand-alone transmission companies that include all sectors of the industry - municipal, cooperative and investor-owned utilities - as owners. These for-profit companies would be focused solely on building and maintaining transmission infrastructure as public utilities. Successful stand-alone transmission companies exist today in Vermont and Wisconsin.

An alternative to such companies are shared systems under which the facilities of multiple utilities are combined through long-term agreements, with proportionate investment responsibility for each affected utility and integrated, joint planning. This model has been successful in Georgia, Indiana and the Upper Midwest.

The TAPS plan also identifies regulatory actions to minimize the financial risk of transmission construction and enable utilities to access new, lower-cost sources of capital to speed construction and reduce the cost for consumers. The plan supports regional transmission planning facilities to make sure that additions are done on a comprehensive, least-cost basis to meet the needs of multiple states and a system of regional cost recovery for high voltage, backbone lines to spread costs broadly and ensure fairness. Finally, the plan urges regulators to adopt performance-based rates that reward transmission owners for reducing the costs of transmission congestion, providing excellent reliability and demonstrating high customer satisfaction, while penalizing poor performers.

“Transmission owners need to be recognized for exemplary performance,” said Raj Rao, president of Indiana Municipal Power Agency,” and they need to be held accountable by regulators when the problems caused by inadequate infrastructure are not addressed in a timely manner.”

A complete copy of the TAPS proposal can be downloaded from the association’s website: www.tapsgroup.org.

Leadership workshop is interactive



Jeffrey Cicone, Ph.D., addressed issues surrounding leadership at the recent Public Communications Committee workshop, *How Leaders Lead: The Power of Influence in a Changing Industry*.

Cicone, a clinical psychologist and an organizational consultant who assists clients in implementing business strategies, led group discussions and helped participants develop an influence plan for approaching real work situations.



(Top) Jeffrey Cicone, Ph.D. lead the recent NEPPA workshop on leadership. Participants include (left to right) Tom Desilets of Shewsbury's Electric Plant and Community Cablevision, David Sweetland of North Attleborough Electric and (bottom) Bill Guertin of Pascoag Utility District.



Committee Meetings

August 16
Board of Directors
Wyndham Hotel
Burlington, Vt.

October 15
Board of Directors
9 a.m.
Samoset Resort
Rockport, Maine

Upcoming Events

July 12
Benevolent Fund Charity Golf Tournament
Sterling Country Club
Sterling, Mass.

August 1 - 4
Congressional Staff Tour
Vermont

August 15 - 18
Annual Conference
Wyndham Hotel
Burlington, Vt.

September 11
Northeast Public Power Lineworkers'
Rodeo
Burlington, Vt.

October 4 - 6
Public Utility Management Program
New England Center
Durham, N.H.

October 22
Administrative Conference
Lake Pearl Luciano's
Wrentham, Mass.

