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House passes energy bill with major electricity provisions *Senate debate next*

On April 11, the United States House of Representatives passed a sweeping energy bill that would restructure electricity markets, rewrite federal auto fuel

requirements, provide tax incentives for renewable energy, and open part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling, among many other provisions. H.R. 6 was passed by a vote of 247 to 175. Now, it's on to the Senate, where the Committee on Energy and Natural

Resources has scheduled further markup sessions on its own energy legislation. Committee action was scheduled for late April, with the electricity title of the Senate bill to be taken up on April 30.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee voted along party lines in reporting the bill out, including the controversial electricity title. During House floor consideration, Rep. Dingell (D-MI), ranking member of the full energy and commerce committee, offered an amendment to the electricity title. This amendment, which was supported by public power, would have replaced the electricity

title with language dealing solely with market manipulation and transparency, a review of exemptions from the Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA), and increased authority for FERC to withdraw market-based rates. The amendment failed by a vote of 193-237, with some members crossing party lines to support or oppose it.

The House bill contains many provisions long supported by public power,

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Meter Classes

NEPPA meter classes are being planned for the Fall of 2003. For details, contact Lori O'Donoghue at (508) 482-5906, ext. 11 or lodonoghue@neppa.org.

See more information on this and other NEPPA training programs at www.neppa.org



Executive Director's Report

Arcs, options and opportunities: Join us in Springfield!

by Patrick Hyland



A quiz for New England public power officials: Where can you learn about electric arcs, energy options, polymer cutouts, wood pole strength, SPCC plans, disaster recovery, financial reporting, credit ratings, security threats and wholesale electric markets without ever leaving the same building?

The answer: at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Springfield, Mass., on June 9 and 10, site of the NEPPA 2003 Utility Conference and Expo. All this and more: an indoor and outdoor trade exposition, featuring electric utility vendors and state-of-the-art equipment demonstrations. And an evening at the new Basketball Hall of Fame, where you can strap on your sneakers and show us your stuff in prime time.

If it sounds like a good investment of your time and limited budget dollars, that's what we hope. The 2003 Utility Conference has been planned by public power officials with years of experience in your industry:

Ed McDonald, general foreman of the Hingham Municipal Light Plant; Judy Allaire, customer service and accounting manager at the Pascoag Utility District, and Ron Tabroff, supervising electrical engineer at the Peabody Municipal Light Plant. They have worked hard to make sure that the topics presented at the conference are relevant to your interests, and that the speakers are the very best available. The Expo, which will be open following each day's speaking program, promises to attract a wide range of products and services for you to learn about, test drive, and even purchase – if you bring your checkbook.

Registration fees for the conference are very reasonable: \$275 for both days: \$150 for one day; meals included. Hotel rooms are less than \$100. All we need now to make the 2003 Utility Conference and Expo a success is YOU! That is, managers, commissioners, foremen, lineworkers, engineers, technicians, business managers, and

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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.

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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.

*Join us in
Springfield
Continued from page 2*

any other New England public power professionals who can make it to Springfield for a day or two. The planning committee will guarantee your satisfaction and a positive return on your investment. You may

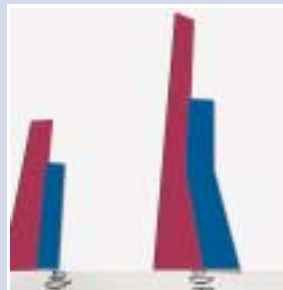
be surprised at what you will learn, and what you can still do with a basketball.

For more details and to register, check out the NEPPA web site www.neppa.org. See you in Springfield.

The NEPPA 2003 Utility Conference and Expo



Operations



Business



Engineering

Register now and plan to join your colleagues in Springfield for New England's premier electric utility conference!

For more information, contact Lori O'Donoghue at lodonoghue@neppa.org or (508) 482-5906 ext. 11, or go to the NEPPA website www.neppa.org

*June 9 -10
Sheratoan Springfield
Springfield, Mass.*

Congressional staff members to visit Massachusetts

Plans for the summer Congressional staff tour are well underway by the NEPPA Legislative Committee, and will feature several public power systems and other electric utility sites in Massachusetts. The tour, which will be held from June 28 to July 1, is part of the NEPPA legislative workplan for 2003, to strengthen ties with the New England Congressional Delegation and other key legislative offices. Invitations have already been accepted by several staff members, and at least 10 Congressional aides are expected to participate.

The tour will feature visits to the

Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company and the Holyoke Gas & Electric Department, as well as ISO-New England, and the Northfield Pump Storage facility. Briefings on wholesale electric market operations will be held, along with regional hydropower and wind power projects.

Any NEPPA members who wish to join the tour for some or all of the three days' events are welcome to do so. Please contact Legislative Committee Chair Sharon Staz at Kennebunk Light and Power in Kennebunk, Maine or Pat Hyland at NEPPA, (508) 482-5906.

Conference planned for administrative assistants

Detailed conference plans and registration forms will be available to all NEPPA members by late May.

A conference for public power administrative assistants and other office professionals is being planned for October, according to Pat Hyland, NEPPA executive director. The conference is the result of discussions with several NEPPA members who serve in administrative positions and seek an opportunity to meet with their peers in the New England public power community. Helen Andrews, executive assistant at Middleborough Gas and Electric Department, and Sheila Boone, administrative secretary at NEPPA, are working with Hyland to plan the conference.

"Helen Andrews was instrumental in planting the seeds for this conference," said Hyland. "She represents a large number of top-notch administrative professionals in our association who have a wide range of responsibilities and skills. It will be a great opportunity to bring them together to share their experiences with their colleagues."

The conference has been scheduled for Friday, Oct. 3, at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield, Mass. Several guest speakers will participate, and there will be significant time for roundtable discussions among participants.

*May 16
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
North Attleborough
Electric Department
North Attleborough, Mass.*

Customer Service Roundtable

The NEPPA Customer Service Committee invites all customer service professionals to participate in a roundtable that will focus on collecting delinquent accounts.

Please

bring copies of letters, forms and other materials used to notify and collect from overdue customers. Don't miss this is an opportunity to share information and hear new ideas from your public power colleagues. Call Sheila Boone at (508) 482-5906 if you plan to attend. Cost is \$20 for members and lunch is included.

Employment

Employment advertising is free to NEPPA members. Deadline for the next issue is May 21.

Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department

First-Class Line Worker

The Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department is a municipally owned electric utility in central Vermont. The successful applicant will have working knowledge of overhead and underground distribution lines with a voltage of 12 kV. The lineworker will perform various jobs such as substation work, meter reading, maintenance and construction of overhead power lines and underground lines of 200 amp and 600 amp construction. Must be able to oper-

ate aerial bucket trucks and digger trucks. Applicant must have working knowledge of the National Electric Safety Code. Must have a valid Vermont Drivers License. Must have or have the ability to obtain a Commercial Drivers License. Must have current CPR certification and certified in pole top rescue. Send resume to The Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department, P.O. Box 289, Ludlow, Vt. 05149. Attention: Howard Barton, Superintendent. Phone (802) 228-3721, Fax (802) 228-8988. Email: howardb@tds.net

Chicopee Electric Light Department supports troops with yellow ribbon campaign

In a show of support for United States troops and recognition of the significant



role being played by Westover Air Reserve Base in current military operations, Chicopee Electric Light (CEL) is sponsoring a Yellow Ribbon Campaign. The campaign kicked off in early April with a ceremonial ribbon hanging at the Light Department. Mayor Richard J. Kos and CEL General Manager Barry W.

Soden attended, as well as military offi-

cial from the base and volunteers from Chicopee Electric Light.

"Every day supplies and personnel are rolling through Chicopee's streets on the way to Westover A.R.B.," said Soden. "We want to do more for them than just keep the lights on – we want to show all America's troops that we support them 100 percent."

CEL staff is volunteering time and equipment to hang ribbons on utility poles in various locations. Participants in the JROTC program at Chicopee High School will also lend a hand. The goal of the program is to hang a yellow ribbon on every pole in the city.

Matthews leaves Westfield

Clarence B. (Moose) Matthews, Jr. retired from the Westfield Gas & Electric Light Department earlier this year where he was serving as chief operations officer. Matthews was known as a dedicated and tireless manager who was totally devoted to the Electric Department.

"We wish Moose the very best of luck as he begins his much deserved retirement," said Lauren Wright of WG&E

Matthews began his career with WGE in 1971 as an electric lineman. He was

promoted to general foreman in June of 1983 and held that position until 1986 when he was appointed electric superintendent. He was promoted to his present position in 1998.

"Moose always performed beyond everyone's expectations," said General Manager Dan Golubek. "He rose to the occasion every time he assumed new duties. We're sad to see him leave but wish him the best."

Boudreau named Volunteer of the Year

The Chicopee Chamber of Commerce 2003 Shining Star Committee has named Electric Light Department Administrative Assistant Paul A. Boudreau, Volunteer of the Year. This award is given to Chicopee citizens who have "shown exceptional accomplishments and who have been part of what makes Chicopee unique."

Boudreau is a long-time resident of Chicopee and is an active member of St. George Church. He has taught at Western New England College and Westfield State College. He is involved with the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce and the School Advisory Council at Chicopee High School.

Award nominations sought for Annual Conference

Nominations should be made in writing to the NEPPA office no later than June 20.

The NEPPA Nominations Committee is soliciting nominations for award recipients, to be presented at the association's annual conference in August. Ted Garille, general manager of Pascoag Utilities District and committee chairman, has forwarded a solicitation letter to all NEPPA members requesting nominations of individuals who

have made outstanding contributions to their utilities, communities and to public power. More than one individual may be nominated for the Distinguished Service, NEPPA Service and Commissioner Service Award, as multiple awards can be made in these categories. The award categories and criteria to be considered are as follows:

Person of the Year	for sustained, outstanding service and contributions
Francis "Skip" Willey	
Individual Achievement	for an employee of a NEPPA system who demonstrates
	a professional commitment to public power through personal development and participation in
	NEPPA's educational programs and other association
Distinguished Service	for outstanding service to a NEPPA utility
NEPPA Service	for significant contributions to the association
Commissioner Service	for commissioners or elected light board members who have provided outstanding leadership to their public power systems for 10 years or more
Century Award	for member systems which celebrate their 100th anniversary during the year

VEC to buy Citizen

The Vermont Electric Cooperative in Johnson, Vt. has agreed to buy Citizens Communications' Vermont Electric Division for \$18 million, VEC announced recently. According to VEC Executive Manager Kelly Enright, consolidating the two companies will reduce operating costs and eliminate the need to raise rates over the next several years.

"The case for uniting the two contiguous service areas is strong," Enright said. "Our objective is to deliver a higher level

of customer service, improved system reliability and a stable rate path by gaining the economies of scale inherent in a larger operation."

Citizens has 22,000 customers in 43 towns. VEC serves about 350 customers in 60 towns in Addison, Bennington, Franklin, Lamoille, Orleans, Windham and Windsor counties.

Enright said the consolidation would not cause layoffs.

NEPPA 2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



August 17-20 • Mystic Marriott Hotel • Groton, Ct.

Leadership in Turbulent Times

With all that has transpired in our industry and our country in the past few years, we need inspired leadership more than ever. The NEPPA 2003 Annual Conference will feature several outstanding presentations on the nature of leadership in 21st century America, as well as updates on wholesale power markets, federal energy legislation, and association activities. As always, the event offers opportunities to share experiences with peers and renew old friendships.

The Mystic area, with fresh ocean breezes, lighthouses and quaint colonial villages, is alive with the historic charm of maritime New England. The location provides an ideal backdrop for a productive and enjoyable annual conference. Join us for this outstanding annual event.

Annual Conference Guest Program

Stonington Lighthouse and Vineyard Tour

On Tuesday afternoon, NEPPA delegates and guests are invited to join their colleagues for a tour of the historic Stonington Lighthouse and Stonington Vineyards. The Lighthouse, built in 1823, offers a panoramic view of Long Island Sound from the top of the tower, and includes an informative Lighthouse Museum. Following the Lighthouse visit, there will be free time in the scenic town of Stonington to shop and view many of



the colonial homes. Then, tour participants will visit Stonington Vineyards for a guided educational tour of the wine cellar, and enjoy a tasting of several wines. The tour bus will leave the Mystic Marriott Hotel at approximately noon and return by 4 p.m. A box lunch is included.

Fees: \$ 65 (until July 15)

\$ 75 (after July 15)

For more information, call NEPPA at (508) 482-5906 or visit NEPPA's web site www.neppa.org.

Annual Conference Kids Program

Kid's Time To Go, a children's entertainment firm, will host supervised programs designed to delight children ranging from toddlers to teens.

While parents relax and socialize during the conference dinners and receptions, children will be entertained in an adjacent room with balloon creations, story telling, face painting, magic and more. Children's menus will also be available.

Monday morning, 8:30 to 10, will feature a continuation of the previous evening events with the addition of interactive storytelling, crafts and games as time allows.

Kid's Time To Go day care professionals have been developing and deploying children's entertainment packages for more than three years and can

fill nearly any children's entertainment or child care needs. They have an extensive background in early childhood education, as well as experience in running a day care center. Kid's Time To Go prides itself on its ability to combine education and fun to excite and stimulate a desire to learn.

There is **no fee** for this program but we need to know how many children will be attending. Please let us know by July 19 by calling NEPPA (508) 482-5906.

NEPPA reserves the right to limit the number of infants enrolled, or to cancel this program or parts of it due to low enrollment.



2003 Annual Conference Agenda

Sunday, Aug. 17	1 – 5 pm	Registration
	6 – 7	Welcoming reception and children's program
Monday, Aug. 18	7:30 am	Breakfast
	8:30	Opening ceremonies
	9:00	Keynote speaker Geeks and Geezers: How era, values and defining moments shape leaders Dr. Robert Thomas <i>Accenture Institute for Strategic Change</i>
	10:00	Break
	10:30	New electric markets: Who wins and who loses? Alan Mosher, <i>American Public Power Association</i> Mary Sharpe-Hayes, <i>ISO-New England</i> Hon. Richard Blumenthal, <i>Connecticut Attorney General (invited)</i>
	Noon	Lunch
	1:30 pm	Local control in action: The role and responsibilities of utility governing boards Jeff Tarbert, <i>American Public Power Association</i>
	3:30	Annual business meeting
	6:00	Reception/children's program
	7:00	Annual awards banquet
Tuesday, Aug. 19	7:00 am	Board of Directors meeting
	8:30	Keynote speaker Management in a post-Enron world Mary Helen Gillespie, <i>Gillespie Interactive</i>
	9:30	Legislative report Lori Pickford, <i>Morgan Meguire</i>
	10:15	Break
	10:30	Customer service from the top down Linda Dillon, <i>Dillon Communications</i>
		Afternoon free for guest activities and golf tournament
	7:00 pm	Reception at Mohegan Sun Hotel
Wednesday, Aug. 20	9:00 am	Farewell breakfast

NEPPA 2003 Annual Conference Registration For

Utility/Company: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please indicate name as it should appear on name badge: _____

1. Delegate: _____

3. Delegate: _____

1. Guest: _____

3. Guest: _____

2. Delegate: _____

4. Delegate: _____

2. Guest: _____

4. Guest: _____

Please note: All children must be registered in order to attend meal functions. Also, please indicate age(s) of children to assist with program planning. **Hotel reservations must be made directly with Mystic Marriott Hotel (860) 446-2600.**

FEES PER PERSON: (Lodging and some conference activities are an additional cost.)

Membership Type	Until July 15	After July 15
NEPPA Member Utility and Corporate Members*	\$450	\$500
NEPPA Associate Member	\$525	\$575
Non-members	\$625	\$675
Guests	\$150	\$150
Children (age 12 and over)	\$ 50	\$ 50
Honorary Members	\$ 0	\$ 0

*Corporate members receive one complimentary registration.

Note: Single day rate is \$250, including all meals

PAYMENT (please check one)

check enclosed please invoice separate bill for guests *Please provide billing address(es)*

credit card payment: MC VISA AMEX

Card # _____ Expiration date: _____ Total \$ _____

Card holder name: _____ Card holder signature: _____

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Conference cancellations received in writing on or before August 8 will be entitled to a full refund. Cancellations after Aug. 8 will be subject to a prorated refund based on any costs incurred by the Association. Hotel cancellations are the responsibility of the individual and must comply with hotel policies.

RETURN TO:

NEPPA

Annual Conference Registration, 100 Medway Road, Milford, MA 01757

Fax: 508/482-0932

Note: Any questions, special dietary needs, or accommodations for disabilities, please call Sheila Boone at 508-482-5906.

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such as hydropower relicensing reform, clean coal technology, increased authorization for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program, and reauthorization of the Renewable Energy Production Incentive program. The electricity title of the bill, however, was opposed by NEPPA, as well as APPA and many other consumer groups. Public power concerns about the electricity portions of the bill were expressed by APPA CEO Alan Richardson in his testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in late March. He urged Committee members to "review the results of various ongoing investigations into consumer abuses and market manipulation in western electricity markets and then develop a consensus for

further action based on those results, before imposing any new requirements on electric industry participants."

House Committee members did make some improvements to the electricity title before voting it out, including removal of the repeal of the FERC merger review authority (originally contained in the draft title) and clarification of the scope of "FERC – lite" (allowing for limited FERC jurisdiction over public power systems' transmission). Notwithstanding these improvements however, the remaining electricity provisions present serious concerns to public power systems (see box), and will be vigorously contested during Senate deliberations.

For current information on the status of energy legislation, APPA members may log on www.APPAnet.org.

Public Power concerns with H.R. 6

The House Energy Bill contains several provisions that pose serious concerns for public power. These are briefly summarized below:

Repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act – would remove the only federal legislation protecting consumers from utility abuse of market power and questionable business practices.

"Sanctity of contract" language – would establish a higher threshold for FERC abrogation of certain contracts (such as wholesale power contracts) than the "just and reasonable" standard.

Transmission pricing and funding – would subject transmission pricing rules and funding methods to federal law instead of regulatory proceedings

Transmission rights for distribution utilities – could be interpreted to favor transmission owners over transmission dependent utilities in providing firm transmission rights for future load growth.

FERC jurisdiction over public power – would give FERC new authority to order refunds from public power systems engaged in interstate sales.

Market manipulation – the bill does not require FERC to adopt rules and regulations to ensure that market-based rates are just and reasonable and that wholesale markets are fair and orderly.



Committee Meetings

April 10
Public Communications
10:00 a.m.
NEPPA Office, Milford, MA

May 6
Regional Power Supply
10:00 a.m.
Littleton Electric Light & Water
Departments
Littleton, MA

May 30
Executive
10:00 a.m.
NEPPA Office, Milford, MA

June 10
Board of Directors
10:00 a.m.
Springfield Sheraton
Springfield, MA.

Upcoming Events

April 9
General Foremen's Roundtable
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel
Marlboro, Mass.

Spring Session, April 21-23
Fall Session, October 8-10
Public Utility Management Program
New England Center
Durham, N.H.

April 24
PURMA/PUMIC Annual Meetings
1:00 p.m.
Meredith, N.H.

Spring Session May 1 – 2
Fall Session, October 3
Supervisory Skills
Radisson Hotel
Marlborough, Mass.

June 9-10
Utility Conference and Expo
Sheraton Hotel
Springfield, Mass.

July 14
Member Appreciation Golf Tournament
Sterling Country Club
Sterling, Mass

August 17 – 20
Annual Conference
Mystic Marriott Hotel
Groton, Conn.

September 6
Lineworkers' Rodeo
Burlington, Vt.



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