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Public power group seeks long-term transmission rights in region

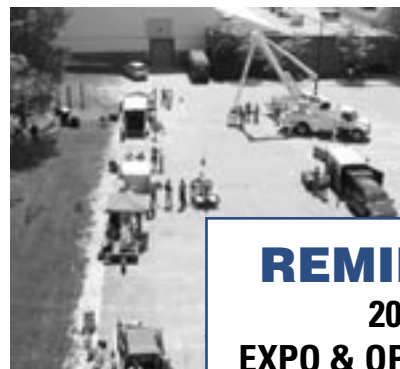
A New England public power coalition is undertaking a serious effort to secure long-term transmission rights (LTTR) in the region, pursuant to guidelines proposed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). To achieve its goal, the group plans to submit a formal proposal to the New England Power Pool LTTR Working Group that has been established to consider the introduction of such rights within the current regional transmission structure.

As a first step in the process, the group is developing a white paper which lays out the reasons that public power systems are seeking such transmission rights within New England, and a series of protocols that could be used to establish eligibility to receive LTTRs, along with their terms, limits and funding requirements.

The issue of long-term transmission rights is an important one for public power systems in New England, as state deregulation laws in the region have greatly changed the rights and responsibilities of electric distribution companies. In several New England states, municipal systems and electric cooperatives are the only remaining utilities that retain rights of ownership in power generation plants, while private companies have been required to divest their

power generation resources and purchase their power requirements from unregulated wholesale power producers. For many public power systems therefore, there is a continuing "obligation to serve" their retail customers by purchasing power on their behalf, as well as delivering it safely and reliably to their meters. This "obligation to serve" requires that many public power systems in the region must continue to contract for their wholesale power requirements from available regional suppliers, and then secure adequate transmission services to deliver the power to their service territories. Without having guaranteed access to the regional transmission grid at a predictable cost for the life of

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REMINDER
2006
EXPO & OPERATIONS
CONFERENCE
June 6 & 7, 2006
Holiday Inn Boxborough Woods
Boxborough, MA



Executive Director's Report

Thank you!

by Patrick Hyland



As described on the following page, NEPPA's new training center at the Pascoag Utility District in Rhode Island is now open for business. Beginning in April, apprentice lineworkers from throughout New England (and a few from New York) have been attending classes at the new facility, and have been assisting with the preparation of the new pole yard located nearby. Based on the feedback received from students during the first few weeks of classes, as well as Safety Director Dave Fabrizio, the facility is everything that we had hoped when it was first conceived early in the year.

Such an accomplishment is due to the efforts of many people, and they deserve a loud and heartfelt thanks for their generosity and support. First and foremost, we say thanks to Ted Garille and his Board for their donation of space and their enthusiastic commitment to hosting the NEPPA training center on their premises. To Bill Guertin

and his fellow Pascoag staff members, we are truly indebted for the time, labor and great skills they have dedicated to this project. We could not have found more able workmen. Finally, we want to thank the many NEPPA members who have responded to our request for donations of poles, crossarms and hardware for the training yard. We are indeed blessed to have such generous members in our association.

My final thank you is to Dave Fabrizio, whose commitment to building a new training center and an improved apprentice program for NEPPA members has been unwavering. He will spend many hours at the new facility in the next few years, and is committed to teaching the best possible program that NEPPA can offer. To Dave, our friends at Pascoag, and our generous members, we say thank you for making the vision a reality.

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

Safety & Training Update

New NEPPA training facility provides the right atmosphere for learning

Everybody at Pascoag and in utilities participating in NEPPA training has made this happen. Their donation of time, equipment and expertise has been invaluable.

Dave Fabrizious



NEPPA Safety Director David Fabrizious teaches a second year Utility Technician Development class at NEPPA's new training facility located at Pascoag (R.I.) Utility District. He has received very positive feedback about the classroom from students who find it comfortable, modern and free from outside distractions.

Under the direction of PUD Assistant Manager William Guertin, first and second year UTD students cleared two acres of Pascoag's property to construct a pole yard. The classes included several tree experts and arborists.



Robert Truken, owner and founder of Tri State Stump Grinding and a lineworker at Jewett City (Conn.) Department of Utilities, has donated time and use of equipment to the project. (see ad on page 13).



Guertin and Fabrizious make adjustments on a large format display screen provided at low cost by one of Pascoag's commissioners.

Human Resource Corner

Succession Planning: Preparing For Tomorrow's Workforce Today



By Rick Dacri, Dacri & Associates, LLC.

The changing landscape with retail power supply and the demands of rate stability points to the need for a different kind of know-how to run a light department. The challenges public power organizations face are exacerbated by an aging workforce, where many long service, skilled employees - from general managers to line workers, are making plans for retirement during the next five years.

Your organization may have to replace key employees on very short notice. This new, evolving workforce will require well trained, competent employees who will be able to step in when the time is right. To do this, successful organizations are putting in place comprehensive succession plans.

Succession planning should be part of your organization's strategic planning process. Your strategic plan is the process of creating a clear and understandable vision of the future. It serves as a framework where you can make decisions which will guide your organization. Once you have determined where your organization is going, then you need to determine what kind of firepower you'll need to get there.

You'll need to ask yourself: where will

Rick Dacri is an organizational development consultant, coach and President of Dacri & Associates, LLC. Since 1995 his firm, Dacri & Associates, has focused on improving the performance of individuals and organizations. Dacri & Associates is a business partner of NEPPA and consults to a number of NEPPA members. Dacri will be speaking on Succession Planning at NEPPA's 2006 Annual Conference in August. He can be reached at 1-800-892-9828, rick@dacri.com or www.dacri.com

my key people in the future come from and who will be their replacements? Through your planning process you will be able to identify that the staffing of the future may be quite different from today's staff. Clearly, your next general manager is going to require different skills, qualifications, education and traits than your general manager of yesterday or even today. The industry is changing that fast.

Through the succession planning process, organizations can identify high potential individuals and groom them for the future. Training, development and mentoring become key elements of your plan. But what happens if after completing this process you realize that you do not have in-house the potential to grow and assume these new roles? In these cases, it will be necessary to recruit from outside your organization.

Succession planning is a dynamic, positive, forward thinking process designed to ensure that you have skilled, talented individuals who are ready to meet your organization's future challenges.



Cloutier takes over at Groveland

Michael J. Cloutier believes in public power and the high level of service it provides. That's why he is excited about the challenges his new position as general manager of Groveland Electric Light Department offers.

He and his family moved to Groveland, a quiet residential town near the New Hampshire border six months ago, and the light plant hired him in March of this year.

"The decisions I make will affect my neighbors and that presents a strong incentive to do the right thing for the community," he said.

Previously, Cloutier worked at the Middleton Municipal Electric Department as a line worker and recently as truck foreman. He loves line work and is glad that he will have an opportunity to climb

poles occasionally in his new job.

"Every day is different and every day feels like something was accomplished," he said. "It's helping people when they need it the most."

Besides his eleven years of line worker experience and completion of the NEPPA Apprentice Program, he draws on his

"after-college" experience working construction, managing a car rental service and running his own landscape business. He has a bachelor's in business and an associate's degree in electrical engineering from Merrimack College. He grew up in Middleton and attended St. John's Preparatory in Danvers, Mass.

Cloutier is also not averse to learning from veterans like Jerry Hill, former general manager who retired in 2004 after 35 years of service. The utility is contracting with Hill to fill in on an as needed basis and has spent time with Cloutier as he settles in.

"Why reinvent the wheel when Jerry is offering his experience and knowledge," said Cloutier. "I'm looking forward to working with him."

The utility just completed a new substation and is in the process of re-conducting the entire town. The conversion from a 41.60 to 13.8kv is needed because the distribution system is reaching its maximum capacity. He also is intent on bringing safety to the forefront and is investing in fire retardant clothing as a first step.

A new computer system and possibly a new building are also on the horizon for Cloutier, who will be juggling his new job with a new baby boy that recently joined his two young daughters and his wife, Erin.



The NEPPA Annual Conference: Is it really worth it?

It's that time of year: your mailbox is filling up with those colorful mailings about NEPPA's Annual Conference. And you're not sure whether to go or not.

We would like to suggest that your conference is not only worthwhile, but that it offers you some

of the best opportunities around for gaining valuable insights and new ideas. You really can't afford to miss it.

Listed below are some of the potential benefits of attending this year's conference.

There are no vague promises here. We're talking about real results. Take a few moments to ponder each item on the checklist and mentally calculate the economic benefits the conference can bring you. When you're finished, you'll agree: the conference is one of the best bargains around.

- Consultants can cost \$500 a day and up. What's the economic value of picking the brains of top people in your industry, people you're bound to meet in the hallways and forums at the conference?

- Spend time at your convention, and you can walk away with solid information on everything from business fundamentals to the latest on deregulation. What's a well-stocked library of such reference information worth?

- Ideas abound at conventions, from every quarter. What's the economic value of just one top-notch productivity-boosting idea in your utility?

Conferences are also full of leads on

contract opportunities and opportunities to meet face-to-face with potential service providers. What's the economic value of just one new job, contract, or profit center?

- Seminars and workshops can easily cost several hundred dollars a day. At the annual conference, top-flight sessions cost no more than the convention registration fee. How much do you save? More important, what's the value of one new insight gained through a conference session.

- How much in fees can you save by exchanging products or services with colleagues you meet during your conference?

- If you read 50 or 60 of the nation's top business periodicals regularly, you can stay abreast of news important to you - or you can hear a synthesis of the latest trends and activities at the conference. How valuable is the newsgathering time you'll save by participating in conference activities?

- Learn about the latest developments in succession planning, retirement planning and renewable energy at the annual conference. How much can using proven techniques and understanding new technologies strengthen your organization and enhance your service potential?

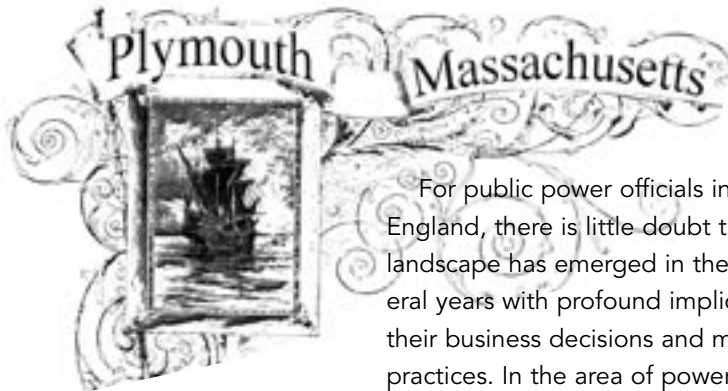
- Last but not least, the annual conference can be a vacation, a family event, and a chance for you to break your usual routine and refresh yourself. What's the value of giving yourself new energy and new perspectives?

Please plan to join your public power colleagues in Plymouth for a few days together. You will not be disappointed!



NEPPA 2006 Annual Conference

Facing New Realities



*Radisson Hotel
Plymouth Harbor
August 20-23*

For public power officials in New England, there is little doubt that a new landscape has emerged in the past several years with profound implications for their business decisions and management practices. In the area of power supply, capacity limitations in generation have resulted in new and complex pricing schemes, while energy markets and soaring fuel costs are driving wholesale prices ever higher. At the same time, a host of renewable energy initiatives compete for limited resources, while public opposition to wind power projects continues to grow

throughout the region. Internally, public power utilities are also facing the realities of an aging workforce, with the need to find and recruit skilled and experienced staff members in highly competitive job markets.

These “new realities” pose real challenges for NEPPA members, as they strive to meet the traditionally high standards of public power in New England: reliable, low-cost electricity and outstanding customer service. This conference is designed to offer some assistance in meeting these goals, as well as provide an opportunity to share information, ideas and inspiration.

**WELCOMING
RECEPTION**

New England’s Energy Future

Gordon van Welie, President and CEO, ISO-New England

**AWARDS
BANQUET**

The Pros and Cons of Electric Deregulation

Ashley Brown, Executive Director, Harvard Electricity Policy Group
Dr. John Anderson, President and CEO, Electricity Consumers Resource Council

**WATERFRONT
COOKOUT**

Sarbanes – Oxley: Implications for Public Power

Dr. Howard J. Axelrod, President, Energy Strategies

**ANNUAL BUSINESS
MEETING**

Retirement Planning: What you need to know

Warren Mackensen, CFP, President, Mackensen & Company, Inc.

**BOARD
ELECTIONS**

Succession Planning for your Organization

Richard Dacri, President, Dacri & Associates

**GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

Human Impact Planning for Crisis Preparedness

Gerri King, Ph.D, Founding Partner, Organizational Resilience International

Renewable Energy and Government Policies in New England

Fran Cummings, Policy Director, Renewable Energy Trust, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative

Election Year Politics: The View from Washington

Deborah Sliz, President and CEO, Morgan Meguire LLC

William Verdone of Hudson

HUDSON - William L. Verdone, 72, of Hudson died Saturday, March 25, 2006, at Marlborough Hospital.

He was employed as a line foreman at Hudson Light and Power Department for 38 years until his retirement. He graduated from Hudson High School in 1952.

He was also a retired lieutenant colonel with the Massachusetts National Guard. Born in Springvale, Maine, he was the son of the late Theodore and Grace (Gooding) Verdone. He was the husband of Janice (Roch) Verdone, who died in 2003.

Mr. Verdone was a member of the State National Guard Association in Hudson, Hudson Senior Center, where he taught an introductory computer course, and First United Methodist Church, where he coordinated the Open Door Free Medical Clinic.

He leaves a daughter, three sons, two brothers and nine grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to Open Door Free Medical Clinic, c/o First United Methodist Church, 34 Felton St., Hudson, MA 01749.

David Gilchrest of Sterling Municipal

David J. Gilchrest, 41, died Feb. 8 at Clinton Hospital. He worked as operations manager for the Town of Sterling Municipal Light Department. Previously he worked for the Town of Clinton DPW.

He leaves his wife Karen, two sons and a daughter, his mother, three brothers and a sister.

Mr. Gilchrest was born and raised in Clinton and attended Clinton schools. He was a graduate of the CHS Class of 1983 and a National Honor Society member. He was currently attending

Assabet Vocational Technical School in Marlborough, Mass.

He was an auto enthusiast and enjoyed woodworking and crafts. He loved sports and was an avid Buffalo Bills fan.

"He was a dedicated employee and will be much missed by his co-workers," said John Kilgo, general manager of Sterling Light.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Gilchrest family fund, c/o Clinton Savings Bank, 200 Church St., Clinton, MA 01510.

APPA Safety Manuals available through NEPPA

Cost:
\$12.00 each

Contact:
Lori O'Donoghue
(508) 482-5906, ext. 11



Keep up to date on-line

NEPPA's Safety & Training Calendar is on-line at www.neppa.org.

Click on Safety & Training Center to get a complete up-to-date schedule of NEPPA training programs.

Mathieu Valliere of Pascoag

Mathieu Valliere, 80, of Pascoag, RI, died March 31, 2006 at his home in Pascoag.



Valliere (file photo)

He was actively involved in his community during his lifetime and served as a member of the Pascoag Fire District Operating Committee for over 25 years and was chairman for approximately ten years. He was active in NEPPA affairs and attended legislative events in Washington, D.C. advocating for public power. Born in West Warwick, R.I., he was a Navy veteran and served his country in Europe during World War II. He remained active in his LST veterans group for many years. He was president of the Industrial Foundation of Burrillville and was a volunteer fireman and served as deputy chief. He was president of the Pascoag Bridgeton PTA, a member of the Knights of Columbus

and the Lions Club. He sponsored Little League and Junior Hockey league teams for many years and he was a member of the Governor's Crime Commission. He was the owner of Valliere Oil Service for many years, and was very involved in the oil industry. He was named Oil Dealer of the Year by the RI Oil Dealer Association in 2001.

Along with his wife, he purchased and renovated the Silver Fox Inn in Waterville Valley, N.H., and was a member of the Board of Directors of the White Mountain Athletic Center. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

He was predeceased by his wife, Norma M. (Gauvin) Valliere, and is survived by four daughters, six grandchildren, one great-grandson, and a sister.

Tom Chin of Concord

Thomas M. Chin of North Chelmsford, age 47 passed away suddenly in Sacramento, Calif. on April 9, 2006, while attending an American Public Power Association (APPA) conference.

Mr. Chin served as engineering and operations manager for Concord Municipal Light Plant in Concord, Mass. He joined the utility in 1981 after earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Tufts University. He grew up in South Boston and attended Boston Latin School.

Mr. Chin was active in APPA and served on the Engineering and Operations Committee and the DEED Committee. He was also active in

the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts.

He was the beloved husband of Janice (Barron) Chin and devoted father of Tamara Chin. He was son of Henry Chin of South Boston and the late Lana Moy-Chin. He leaves three sisters; Jade Carrel of West Roxbury, Mary Chin and Arleen Chin both of South Boston and a brother, George Chin and his wife Mary of Chestnut Hill.

Donations may be made in Thomas M. Chin's memory to the American Heart Association, 20 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

Around New England

Sterling Annual Open House



As expected, based on several previous years, the sun shone brightly on Sterling Municipal Light Department's Annual Open House. The event involved tours, refreshments, moonwalks, bucket truck rides, demonstrations and more.



Transmission Rights

Continued from page 1

their power contracts, they are effectively unable to control or manage the cost of electric service to their customers. It is this ability to secure long-term transmission rights at predictable prices that the public power group is seeking through its proposal to NEPOOL.

As described in the draft white paper, the move to competitive wholesale power markets has fundamentally changed the focus of transmission service in the industry. Prior to the development of wholesale competition, long-term transmission rights were a primary feature of the regional grid, and were the principal factors that drove expansion of the transmission system and investment in generation. Short-term transmission was only available on a firm basis to the extent that there was additional firm transmission capacity available. With the advent of competitive markets however, and the opening up of some service territories to

retail competition, the focus of many market participants has become short-term in nature, with short-term transmission rights becoming the only rights available. This has greatly hindered the ability of public power systems that continue to have long-term service obligations from making the kind of long-term investments and arrangements necessary to prudently manage their risks.

The public power group recognizes that many market participants in New England have a short-term business model, and require short-term transmission rights to manage their own risks. What it seeks to achieve is a balance that will serve the needs of market participants with long-term obligations as well as those with short-term business requirements.

The public power coalition plans to present its proposal to the NEPOOL working group in early May.

Reality of rate increases workshop planned

NEPPA's Public Communications committee is planning a roundtable discussion on the reality of rate increases. It is scheduled for Sept. 15 at the Kennebunk Inn in Kennebunk, Maine.

The event will be facilitated by Ruth Slater, energy advisor for the Braintree Electric Light Department and will identify questions that customer service representatives are being asked about their electric bills and what the future holds for ratepayers in the region.

There will be a review of the information on electric utility bills including rate factors, history, discounts and estimates.

A short technical explanation of kwh will be offered and there will be discussions of real- life examples of appliance and equipment use. A discussion of market costs will also be included in the day-long event.

This will be an interactive session and content will be based on input from participants.

Utility communicators, customer service personnel and information officers are encouraged to attend and share experiences and challenges with the group.

Lunch will be served.

Watch your mail for details.



PURMA / PUMIC holds annual meeting

The annual membership meeting of the Public Utilities Risk Management Association (PURMA) and the Public Utility Mutual Insurance Company (PUMIC) was held in late April at the Woodstock Inn in Woodstock, Vermont. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 members and affiliates, who elected new directors, reviewed business plans, and heard from guest speakers on the topics of emergency preparedness and the use of biometrics in business transactions.

Terry Huval, the Director of Lafayette Utilities System in Louisiana, addressed the group on the impact of Hurricane Rita on his system in the fall of 2005. He described the changing expectations of customers after a major storm, and the need for a realistic restoration plan that includes inventory requirements, personnel deployments, transportation systems and communications with employees, board members, customers and the media. He reminded public power officials that natural disasters can provide an opportunity for

utilities to be "heroes" within their communities, with proper advance planning and execution.

Jon Ramsey, chief technology officer of SecureWorks in Atlanta, Georgia, described the growing impact of biometrics in modern business practices, as a result of rampant identity theft due to weak authentication procedures by many companies. Only biometrics, he noted, can truly verify that the person executing a transaction is the person who he/she is supposed to be. As a result, numerous types of biometric identifications are evolving, which include physiological characteristics (such as fingerprints, eye retinas, and DNA) as well as behavioral ones (such as signatures, walking gaits and keystrokes). For electric utilities, as well as other retail service companies, the continuing evolution to on-line business transactions may soon require the use of biometrics to validate customer identities and assure the security of confidential information.

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 May 19.*

Holden Municipal Light Department Superintendent

HMLD is seeking qualified individual for the position of Light Department Superintendent. Qualified candidates should have experience in electric utility line construction, operations and maintenance, budget, electric distribution/transmission systems. Responsibilities include supervising line crews in construction and maintenance of overhead and underground electrical systems; sub-station maintenance, meter reading and repairs/testing of related equipment. Send resumes to Holden Town/Light Manager, 1204 Main Street, Holden, MA 01520 or call (508) 829-0225 for additional information. AA/EOE

Holyoke Gas & Electric

Energy Resource Coordinator

Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E) is accepting applications for the position of Energy Resource Coordinator. Qualified applicants must have a BS Degree; experience with wholesale energy supply and procurement; pricing; tariff development; resource planning; bidding; contract negotiations and agreements. Scheduling, forecasting load and generation. Proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel applications. Excellent analytical, written and verbal skills.

Preferred Masters Degree or MBA; 5 yr experience in energy supply management including risk management, hedging techniques and resource planning; knowledge of ISO-NE market rules and natural gas industry. Salary based upon experience and qualifications. Benefits available. Submit resume by May 18, 2006 to: Human Resources Coordinator, HG&E; 99 Suffolk St; Holyoke, MA 01040 – No telephone calls, please.

HG&E is an AA/EEO Employer

Belmont Municipal Light Department

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 train-

ing, 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 \$33.95 hourly. 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.

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant

Utility Line Worker

The Town of Rowley has an opening for a 1st or 2nd class Lineworker. Responsibilities include, but not limited to all aspects of construction and maintenance of overhead and underground distribution system with voltages up to 13,200 volts. Completion of a four-year apprenticeship program preferred. Must be available for on-call rotation nights and weekends and reside within a 30 minute commute. Must have a valid Class B CDL license and a hoisting license.

Rowley Light Department offers a competitive benefit package and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Resumes accepted until position is filled. Please send resume to: Rowley Light Department, Attn: Linda Soucy, 47 Summer St., Rowley, MA 01969.

Morrisville Water & Light

First Class A Lineworker

The Village of Morrisville Water & Light has an immediate opening for a qualified individual to fill a First Class A Lineworker position. Must be self-motivated, work well in a team environment, and be able to adapt to changing priorities. The individual will be proficient in all areas of distribution work including maintenance and the ability to work on energized lines up to 12.5 kV. The position requires participation in the on-call rotation and the willingness to work overtime. The individual must have at least a Class B CDL license or the capability of getting a CDL within 30 days of starting.

Morrisville Water & Light offers a competitive benefit package and is an EOE. Please send resumes to: Jim Fontaine, Plant Supt., Morrisville Water & Light, PO Box 460, Morrisville, VT 05661.

Upcoming Events

May 19

Public Communications
NEPPA Office
Milford, Mass.
10:30 am

June 6

Board of Directors
Boxborough Holiday Inn
Boxborough, MA
1:00 pm

May 26

Executive
Pascoag Utility District
Pascoag, RI
10:00 am

Upcoming Events

June 6 – 7

Expo & Operations Conference
Holiday Inn, Boxborough, Mass.

July 11

Benevolent Fund Golf Tournament
Heritage Country Club
Charlton, Mass.

August 20 – 23

Annual Conference
Radisson Hotel, Plymouth, Mass.

September 15

Reality of Rate Increases Roundtable
Kennebunk Inn
Kennebunk, Maine

October 2 – 4

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

December 8

Annual Membership Meeting
site TBD

