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Stockwell testing - an outstanding NEPPA affiliate member

In an era when family-owned and run businesses are becoming a rare commodity, Stockwell Testing Laboratories in Millbury, Mass. is thriving. Bob and Betty Stockwell give much of the credit for the company's growth to their daughter,



Jody Stockwell, new owner of Stockwell Testing Laboratories

Jody, who has been full-time with the business since 1984. She recently bought the company from her parents who are trying very hard to retire.

"It will be some kind of retirement," said Bob Stockwell smiling. Both he and his wife are still working almost a year after they planned to be out.

"There are some projects I want to complete," he said and added " I guess I'll always be around in some capacity."

Stockwell tests and sells rubber safety equipment including gloves, blankets, sleeves and line hoses. They use the guidelines for rubber equipment testing that is set by American Standards of Testing Methods (ASTM), which set the criteria for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Clients include municipal and coopera-

tive light plants, investor-owner utilities, line-construction contractors, schools and the military, to name a few. According to Jody, they get calls asking for their services from all over the world including Iceland, Panama, and Japan. Many of them hear of Stockwell through the Pentagon data base of vendors.

"The Stockwells take ownership of the equipment you send in to be tested," said NEPPA Safety Director David Fabrizio. "Lives depend on the reliability of the tests and inspections and they treat them as if they were going to have to use the equipment after it has been tested."

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Reminder!

NEPPA Annual Membership Meeting

*December 12, 10 am
Sterling Country Club
Sterling, Mass.*

Executive Director's Report

Solving the transmission problem - *A modest proposal from Public Power*

by Patrick Hyland



If there is one issue on which most electric utility officials can agree it is this: not enough new transmission has been built in the United States during the past 25 years, and this - more than any other single factor - will prevent the development of truly competitive wholesale electric markets in almost every region of the country. Aside from market development, inadequate transmission capacity and interconnections are directly linked to system reliability, as the Aug. 14 blackout appears to be proving yet again. A 2002 study by the Department of Energy found growing evidence that the U. S. transmission system is in urgent need of modernization. Of the 186 transmission paths included in the study, 50 were used to their maximum capacity at some point during the year, and 21 are congested during more than 10 percent of the hours in the year.

While there is broad consensus on the need for new transmission investment, the consensus disappears when the discussion

turns to financing. Major battles are currently raging within Congress and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission over different proposals to provide a fair and effective method of financing new transmission construction. Predictably, many large utilities that already own transmission lines want FERC to grant them higher profits (via higher rates of return) in return for new transmission investments. Other large utilities, mostly in the south, want "market participants" to bear the cost of new transmission, most especially merchant generators who seek to connect their plants to existing regional grids to sell their power.

While public power utilities own only a small percentage of transmission facilities in the United States, they have a very strong interest in the outcome of this debate. Transmission dependency means that their customers will pay the cost of new transmission, or, alternatively, the cost of congested transmission in their regions, in the absence

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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
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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.

Stockwell

continued from page 1

The business began as a part-time venture for Bob's father Lawrence, who bought it in 1959. He continued to work as an electrical contractor with Worcester County Electric and worked out of his garage nights and weekends testing rubber gloves.

In 1967 Bob, who was a plant engineer for a factory in Worcester, took over the company and continued to run it part-time out of his home with the help of his father who had retired. Betty Stockwell, who was raising two children, took over the bookkeeping and phone work. It remained a home-based part-time business until 1984 when Jody, who was a nurse's aid facing a lay-off, took over full time.

"We had reached a point where the business was growing so much we had to make the decision to give it up or let it grow," said Bob. He attributes the rapid growth during this time to the increased presence of OSHA, the growing number of insurance issues and, above all, Jody's presence.

"She's an amazing girl," said Betty proudly. "It has been Jody's dealings with customers that has made the company become so successful."

The company is now housed in 6000 square feet in an industrial park with

updated equipment, some of it modified by Bob. Family members of their staff also include son Jay, who is a tester and Jody's husband who works part-time when he is not working at his landscaping business.

"When I'm at work," said Jody, "I am 150 percent business. I love working in a place where safety is the number one priority."

Challenges ahead for Jody include launching a new line of safety clothing, and continuing to develop programs to make purchasing and testing of equipment more cost-effective for buyers.

Stockwell Testing is an associate member of NEPPA and opens its doors periodically for lab tours for the NEPPA training classes and General Foreman's Roundtable group. "The Stockwell family has helped NEPPA in many ways over the years by constantly updating us and our members on any changes in laws or equipment," said Fabrizio. "We are fortunate to have such a facility in our area."

NEPPA recently honored Stockwell Testing as the association's 2003 Outstanding Affiliate Member.



Jay Stockwell sets up for testing of rubber gloves while Bob Stockwell checks a bin with defective gloves. Betty Stockwell points out the facility's sign that was hand-carved by Bob.



Consolidation or municipalization?

by Robert Varela

Editor, Public Power Weekly

Congress is poised (if it hasn't already done so by the time you read this) to repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act and thereby prompt a new wave of mergers within the electric utility industry. A leading advocate of PUHCA repeal, MidAmerican Energy CEO David Sokol, recently predicted that within 30 years the number of distribution utilities would be reduced by at least 50 percent. (Sokol counts this as a good thing.) Any way you cut it, that would include some public power utilities.

But Winter Park, Fla., is poised to buy out Progress Energy Florida's facilities in the city and form a municipal electric utility. Some other towns in Florida are watching with interest. In Iowa, 19 towns recently went together on a joint feasibility study. Some of the cities would enjoy substantial savings, the study found, and even the smallest would save some money or break even financially by forming a municipal utility.

Farther West, Great Falls, Mont., has scheduled a vote on creating a municipal electric utility. Portland, Ore., has been negotiating

with Enron to purchase Portland General Electric (although it now appears Enron will spin PGE off in a bid to provide more money to its creditors). In the Southwest, the Southern Nevada Water Authority has made a serious bid to buy out Nevada Power Co. and provide electric service to Clark County, which includes Las Vegas. In California, a number of cities, including Davis and Irvine, are looking at the public

power option.

Perhaps not a coincidence, the latest issue of the Edison Electric Institute's *Electric Perspectives* features an article on the "Ten Tools For Defeating Government Takeovers."

These cities' reasons for considering municipalization vary.

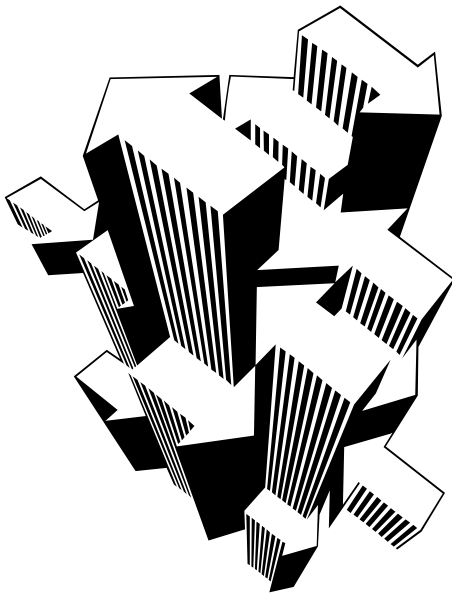
In both California and Montana, deregulation failed dramatically, leaving bankrupt utilities and high rates. Nevada also felt the effects, and Nevada Power has flirted with bankruptcy.

However, Florida and Iowa have not had firsthand experience with failed deregulation schemes.

With an expiring franchise agreement that included specific buyout provisions, Winter Park suffered from terrible, persistent reliability problems. Things didn't improve after North Carolina-based Progress Energy bought Florida Power Corp. In addition, Florida Power/Progress Energy Florida, in three years of negotiations, "refused to agree to any reliability standards in a new contract with Winter Park, despite our city's record of the worst reliability in their territory," the Winter Park City Commission said. Not a good idea when Winter Park is located next to Orlando, whose municipal utility goes by the motto and ethic, "The Reliable One!" Winter Park citizens voted 69-31 percent for the public power option.

The 19 Iowa cities similarly had the example of almost 150 other cities and towns in their state, not to mention their all-public power neighbor, Nebraska. The 19 Iowa cities "were motivated by the positive benefits public power could pro-

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Accounting workshops offered

In response to member requests and feedback, NEPPA is offering two professional training programs of interest to all New England public power managers, financial and accounting personnel.

Each of these one-day programs will be offered at two different locations to

accommodate member travel and staffing needs. They will be taught by qualified instructors from the firm of Jackson, Thornton and Company, a professional consulting and CPA firm serving public power clients in the southern United States.



Seating is limited at each facility so you are encouraged to sign up early. Register at www.neppa.org or call Pat Hyland at (508) 492-5906 for more information.

Utility accounting principles

Designed for utility personnel without professional training in accounting theory and practice.

Types of utilities

- IOUs, municipals, federal agencies, cooperatives
- Generation, transmission, distribution

Introduction to utility accounting theory

- Accounting hierarchy
- Regulated environment
- Types of accounting
- Profit v. non-profit

Financial statements

- Balance sheet
- Income statement
- Cash flow statement
- Statement of equity

Review of chart of accounts

- FERC
- RUS

*Shrewsbury Town Hall
Shrewsbury, MA
Monday, December 1, 9 am to 3 pm*

*VPPSA, Waterbury, VT
Thursday, December 4, 9 am to 3 pm*

Financial analysis, controls, & planning

Designed for personnel with a need to understand the basic principles of financial analysis, planning and control systems for public utilities.

Financial analysis

- Financial reports (Form 7, income statement, balance sheet, cash flow)
- Budgets (capital and expense)
- Cost of service and rate studies
- Construction work plans
- Audits

Internal controls

- The accounting cycles
- Segregation of duties

Planning

- Strategic plans
- Financial forecasts (10 year)
- Long range system studies
- Power requirements studies

*Shrewsbury Town Hall
Shrewsbury, MA
Tuesday, December 2, 9 am to 3pm*

*VPPSA, Waterbury, VT
Friday, December 5, 9 am to 3 pm*

Employment

Assistant Superintendent Village of Morrisville Water & Light

Requires:

- Degree in Engineering
- Ability to interact with public
- Managerial experience in a municipal environment
- Experience reporting to a board
- Background in water, wastewater, electric and purchasing

The following skills or knowledge would be helpful but are not required.

- Design and operation of water distribution and wastewater collection systems in a wastewater treatment facility
- Construction experience in above
- Utilization and analysis of software modeling water distribution and wastewater collection systems
- Working knowledge of methods and procedures involved in overhead and underground electrical line work
- Working knowledge of bonds (general obligation and revenue)
- Ability to use information technology for advancement of organization
- Knowledge of purchased power
- Experience working with unions

Interested persons may send resumes by Dec. 1 to Scott Corse, Village of Morrisville Water and Light Department, PO Box 460, Morrisville, VT 05661.

Keeping the lights on

Get to know the line crews that contribute to the high level of reliability and service that public power is known for.

**Princeton Municipal Light Department
Princeton, Mass.**

*(kneeling from left to right)
John Allard, Dave Thibodeau
and Jim Boody.*

Photo by Bob Henriksen



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 Nov. 21*

Braintree Electric Light Department Energy Analyst

BELD, established by Thomas Watson in 1892, seeks an analyst for its 108 -employ- eemunicipal light department.

Under direction of the Energy Services Manager, this exempt, non-union position is responsible for all power supply related data including, but not limited to, correspondence between Braintree Electric and ISO New England, power supply invoice reconciliation and monthly power supply reports.

The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate immediately recent understanding of the rules and workings of NEPOOL and ISO New England while compiling and reporting tie line, generation, and system requirement data to BELD and ISO New England. They will also be required to compile and maintain all load data files and daily and monthly station records. The candidate will also complete the submittal of meter reads to ISO New England and all other entities that require such data.

Other duties include the maintenance and verification calculations of all power supply related invoices and data records, monthly reports detailing power supply related invoices and breakdowns. They will also assist the Energy Services Manager in completing power supply related reports as needed.

A Bachelors Degree in Engineering, Economics, Computer Science, Mathematics or other field emphasizing quantitative analysis is required. An Electrical Engineering or Electrical Engineering Technology degree and at least two years experience in the electric power industry with at least one year of experience related to electric supply and demand is preferred.

Other essential skills include a very high level of computer literacy with exceptional competence in MS Office technologies.

This independent performer should be familiar with basic power systems and power generation terminology.

Must be able to effectively interact with external and internal customers, informed

laymen and equivalent professionals. Qualified candidates only will receive a response by emailing their resume and salary history to agraziano@beld.com. Please NO phone calls.EOE

Town of Wellesley Municipal Light Plant Supervisory Electrical Engineer

Excellent career opportunity for an experienced distribution engineer interested in making a difference in the successful operation of a 60 mw electric municipality serving approximately 10,000 customers. We are seeking a team player with the leadership skills necessary to promote a safe working environment and reliable distribution system. The successful candidate must have extensive knowledge of overhead and underground 13.8 kV and 4.16 kV distribution systems, substation and SCADA operations and effective communications skills.

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) degree with three years experience. Open until filled. Town of Wellesley offers a competitive salary with excellent benefits. Send cover letter with salary requirements and resume to Human Resources Department, Town Hall, 525 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02482 or e-mail to per@ci.wellesley.ma.us AA/EOE.

Chester Municipal Electric Light Dept. Lineworker

Responsibilities include, but not limited to, all aspects of construction and maintenance of 25KV overhead electric distribution system, maintenance of vehicles, tree trimming, etc. CDL, class B, hoisting license required. Candidate should have completed an approved apprentice program that meets journeyman qualification. Candidate must presently live or agree to relocate within 30 minute radius and be willing and able to respond promptly to non-scheduled overtime. We offer 90% paid health and dental, life insurance, deferred compensation plan and competitive wages. Send or fax resumes to CMELD, 15 Middlefield Road-Box 14, Chester, MA 01011. Fax (413) 354-6610, phone (413) 354-7811.

Transmission

Continued from page 2

... inadequate transmission capacity and interconnections are directly linked to system reliability, as the Aug. 14 blackout appears to prove yet again.

of new investments. Accordingly, public power officials have played an active role in this policy discussion, and have come up with a few ideas of their own on how to provide reasonable and effective incentives to getting new transmission built.

Some of these ideas have been developed in a recent position paper jointly authored by the American Public Power Association and the Transmission Access Policy Study Group, an association of transmission-dependent utilities with the

goal of assuring equal and non-discriminatory transmission access to its members. Many members of NEPPA belong to the TAPS association and support its legislative initiatives.

The proposals represent a series of practical and feasible ideas which could provide real incentives to new transmission investments, as well as reduce investment risk (and increase certainty) for both investors and consumers. They are briefly summarized below:

To attract new investors:

Encourage the creation of transmission-only utilities, such as presently exist in Vermont (the Vermont Electric Transmission Company) and Wisconsin (the American Transmission Company). Both of these companies are responsible for building new transmission in their regions, and are able to attract investors seeking reasonable rates of return.

Access capital markets directly for transmission financing, rather than relying on private utilities or market participants seeking to protect and maximize their own investments.

Allow publicly owned utilities to invest in regional transmission grids, such as already occurs in Vermont and Wisconsin. Many transmission-dependent utilities are ready, willing and able to bear their share of transmission investments, if they are permitted to do so.

To reduce investment risk:

Allow current recovery of pre-certification expenses, rather than not permitting the capitalization (and recovery) of these costs until the project has received all regulatory approvals. This will shield investors from the risks associated with precertification activities, and will benefit consumers by reducing the overall cost of transmission facilities.

Allow construction-work-in-progress (CWIP) in rate base, rather than deferring recovery of these costs until the project goes into operation.

Assign the cost of high voltage, major backbone facilities across broad regions, instead of waiting for "participants" to step forward and front the costs of new lines.

Allow "formula" transmission rates that track current costs accurately, instead of requiring costly and time consuming FERC transmission rate cases which can delay appropriate cost recovery by investors.



Each of these proposals would make it easier to construct facilities and, at the same time, reduce the cost of capital for transmission, thereby benefiting both consumers and investors. They represent a pragmatic approach to solving a complex problem, and deserve the attention of Congress and policymakers, both state and federal, as the transmission debate goes forward.

Administrative conference provides worthwhile tips on job effectiveness

(clockwise) Helen Andrews of Middleborough Gas & Electric opens the seminar and Mary Celia O'Neil outlines a system of time management.

Dr. Paul Powers presents an entertaining and humorous view of the workplace and Rockie Blunt gives pointers on better communication skills.

NEPPA's Administrative Conference, held on October 3 in Taunton, Mass., had a twofold purpose. Besides providing an opportunity for administrative professionals to network and share information, issues of common interest were addressed by three dynamic speakers.

Helen Andrews of Middleborough Gas & Electric, head of the committee that organized this conference, welcomed participants and described the process of planning the event.

Rockie Blunt, who does extensive work in corporate training and public relations, presented valuable information on the often complicated task of communicating with co-workers within the office environment.

Mary Celia O'Neil presented a new approach to time management, and Dr. Paul Powers finished up the session with an entertaining

and informative presentation of the seven habits of happy and successful employees. He emphasized how humor can be a valuable tool when creating a positive workplace environment.

Pat Hyland, NEPPA executive director, took time before lunch to identify some old and some new industry acronyms along with brief explanations.



vide to their communities," APPA President and CEO Alan Richardson noted.

Sokol and the citizens of Winter Park, et al. offer dramatically different visions of the future for public power. Waiting to see what the future will bring is an invitation to share in Sokol's future. Public power utilities can take the future into their own hands. That sounds dramatic, and it won't necessarily be easy—but it comes down to doing a good job of leading a public power utility.

A roadmap exists. "It's Your Future—Lead It," a report produced by APPA's task force on public power in the 21st Century, is organized around 10 recommendations (see box below).

Following those recommendations won't necessarily keep Sokol, et al. at bay, but they represent a pretty good insurance policy—and, more importantly, a way to benefit your community.

Ten recommendations to guide public power leaders to take responsibility for their future.

1. Provide superior customer service.
2. Deliver value through power supply management.
3. Focus on distribution performance and opportunity.
4. Put communities first.
5. Optimize community infrastructure.
6. Lead in environmental stewardship.
7. Build consensus through democratic governance.
8. Promote human resource excellence.
9. Engage policymakers through legislative advocacy.
10. Invest in your technology future.

P.S. I can't resist mentioning EEI's 10 tools. I assumed their list would look at least a little like the 21st Century task force recommendations. Perhaps something like: "1. Provide reliable service at an honest price. 2. Be as responsive to the community as your fiduciary duty to your stockholders permits. ..."

Talk about naïve. Number one on EEI's list is "Communicate a clear corporate position"—that you're not interested in selling and will fight any buyout attempt. No. 4: "Use experienced external issue managers." I thought I saw some light at No. 8: "Deal with each community individually." Wrong. The article explained that "a company with an across-the-board communications program can compound its problems by appearing to ignore local circumstances or conditions."

Around New England

Danvers celebrates Public Power Week

The Danvers Fire, Police, Library, Senior Center and Town Hall all joined Danvers Electric Division in celebrating Public Power Week in October. Each department



opened their doors and treated residents to fun, food and information. The Trolley from nearby Salem, Mass. drove townspeople from point to point and featured a cameraman from the local TV station.

The Electric Division set up an Energy Conservation Store and sold energy products at a discount. It also introduced a new item, the "Battic Door," an insulated stair cover

that stops drafts and saves energy dollars.

"This was such a success," said Pamela Irwin, energy advisor and event coordinator, "we ran out and had to take orders for more."

The Electric Division also featured its mascot, Volta, portrayed by Coleen O'Brien-Pitts, utility director; an electrical safety robot named Etron, a Safety Village demonstration and bucket truck rides.

"The town-wide event is family oriented and brings out hundreds of Danverites," said Irwin. "It is a great opportunity to let residents see what goes on in each department."

Light Fixtures for Sale

The Templeton Municipal Light and Water Plant is in the process of reducing the number of town streetlights to save the town money. The Lighting Plant is selling approximately 205, 70 watt HPS and 100 HPS, GE, cobra head type luminaries complete with bulb, 6-foot aluminum arm

and photo cell. The lights were installed in 1998 and will be removed over the next few months. The fixtures are for sale at \$70.00 each or make an offer for all. If interested please call Gerald Skelton or Robert Grucan at (978) 939-5323.

Member Notes

Cranes Aerial Truck Service

NEPPA's latest associate member is Cranes Aerial Truck Service of 19 Barry Drive, Ashland, Mass. The main contact is Jay Sturm, president. He can be reached at (866) 788-7600 or faxed at (508) 881-7622. The company provides crane certificates, aerial lift inspections and dielectric testing.

Stockwell Testing Laboratory, Inc.

TO: Northeast Public Power Association

We were honored to receive the recognition and award at NEPPA's annual meeting on August 18. It was a very pleasant evening for us and we express our thanks to you for this very special honor.

Sincerely

The Stockwell Family

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Stockwell

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Consulting Engineers

EL Flowers



Hurley

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EDIT

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NEW AD

Hassett

BankNorth

Southworth Milton

Acres

United Power

Warner

Committee Meetings

November 20
Public Communications
10:00 a.m.
NEPPA Office
Milford, Mass

November 21
Executive
10:00 a.m.
NEPPA Office
Milford, Mass

Upcoming Events

December 1
Utility Accounting Basics
Shrewsbury Town Hall
Shrewsbury, Mass.

December 2
**Utility Financial Analysis, Controls
and Planning**
Shrewsbury Town Hall
Shrewsbury, Mass.

December 4
Utility Accounting Basics
VPPSA
Waterbury, Vt.

December 5
**Utility Financial Analysis, Controls
and Planning**
VPPSA
Waterbury, Vt.

December 12
Annual Membership Meeting
Sterling Country Club
Sterling, Mass.

