

**Inside...**

Rodeo Results.....	5
Employment.....	7
Meetings.....	12

## Lineworkers show their stuff at 6th Annual Rodeo

It was a special day for Americans, and public power lineworkers from throughout New England made sure that it was a memorable one. At 8:46 AM on September 11, as two fighter jets roared over North Beach in Burlington, Vermont, the assembled rodeo teams and spectators observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks precisely three years ago. From this emotional highpoint, the 2004 Northeast Lineworkers Rodeo began, with thirteen teams competing in five events over the course of a beautiful early fall day on the shores of Lake Champlain.

Team scores for the five events this year were outstanding, as veterans of past rodeos showed the results of their training and practice at the variety of lineworker skills tested during the rodeo competition. The overall champion's trophy was won by the Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department, comprised of Howard Barton, Jr., Joseph Carlisle and Shane Filskov who tallied the same number of points as a team from the Vermont Electric Cooperative, but completed their events in a shorter period of time.

*(See page 5 for complete rodeo results).*

At day's end, team members, judges and rodeo spectators gathered

for the traditional awards banquet at the Wyndham Hotel in downtown Burlington. Awards were presented to the top teams in each event, and to the individual event winners. Barb Grimes, general manager of the Burlington Electric Department, thanked participants, sponsors and supporters, along with the 26 public power systems that donated the cost of new poles to the 2004 rodeo. She also recognized the major contributions of Bob Henriksen of NEPPA and Bob Risley of BED, who continue to serve as the principal planners and organizers of the annual rodeo. "Without the two Bobs, we would simply not be able to pull this off, and they deserve tremendous credit for all that they do to make it possible each year."

The 2005 Lineworkers Rodeo will be held on September 10 at the same location. Mark your calendars now!



*Howard Barton, Jr., Joseph Carlisle and Shane Filskov accept the first place rodeo award from NEPPA's Pat Hyland. The team represents the Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department.*



# Regional Transmission Organization in New England's future

## NEPOOL members vote to support new institution

*Although the settlement does not reflect our positions on all issues, we are prepared to move forward with the RTO, as modified by the settlement.*

Michael Minkos  
MMWEC

After months of negotiations among market participants, New England Power Pool members, transmission companies and ISO-New England, agreement was reached in mid-September to create a new Regional Transmission Organization for the six-state electric grid. The agreement was formally filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on September 14. There is no set timetable for Commission action on the settlement, although fast action is expected in view of FERC's strong support for a New England RTO during the past year. Assuming FERC approval, the RTO can be implemented on thirty (30) days notice from the ISO and participating transmission owners.

Under the RTO, transmission owners will turn over operational control of their facilities to ISO New England, which will become the regional transmission provider, and will direct operation of the transmission system throughout the region.

Transmission owners will continue to own, physically operate, and maintain their facilities, and be paid for the transmission services they provide.

The agreement incorporates some important changes to the RTO filing made by ISO New England and the region's transmission companies nearly one year ago. That filing, which was opposed by 80 per cent of NEPOOL members, would have eliminated the New England Power Pool, along with its filing rights with respect to transmission and market rules. The new agreement preserves NEPOOL as the "stakeholder organization" for New England, although its rights will be largely advisory rather than decisional. NEPOOL will, however, acquire so-called "jump ball" rights, under which ISO-NE must file NEPOOL proposals regarding market rules with the FERC in cases where at least 60%

continued on page 4

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

# Hamilton comes home to Templeton

Sean Hamilton, who has served as general manager of Templeton Municipal Light Plant and Water for the past six months, is back where he started. He began his career in the utility industry as a lineworker at the 3,000 plus meter utility in 1979. He left to become line superintendent at Sterling Municipal Light Department, and he left Sterling in 1999 to become a construction manager out of Verizon's Templeton office.

Hamilton never really left the utility, however. A lifelong resident of Templeton, he served on the Governing Board from 2000 until his appointment as general manager.

"Being here is like coming home," he said. "There's a lot of job satisfaction in public power."

Hamilton thinks there is a higher standard in the public power sector when dealing with customers and credits former Manager Gerald Skelton with instilling that philosophy in his staff of 17. Skelton, who is now a town selectman as well as a member of the utility governing board, still keeps in close contact with the utility, stopping by on a regular basis.

Hamilton feels fortunate to have Gerry, a very experi-

enced staff, and a governing board that is involved and dedicated to the same principles of customer service. "We all think alike and work together as a group."

A long-time member of the governing board, Dana Blais, was recently honored by NEPPA with a Commissioner Service Award at the annual conference.

The utility moved into a new building last year when the electric division merged with the water division. Hamilton said his time is divided around 60 percent to 40 percent, water to light. The utility is upgrading their substation, replacing a 35 year old 12 MVA transformer with a new 23 MVA to accommodate the growth of the bedroom town which is located an hour and a half from Boston and 45 minutes from Worcester and Lowell. Hamilton expects the project to be completed by late October.

The town gets its water from three well systems and Hamilton is looking down the road towards a fourth well. They are presently building a water filtration plant to filter out iron manganese.

Hamilton, who attended Narragansett Regional High School and raised two sons in Templeton, is amazed how many people still walk in to pay their utility bills. "There is a real dedication to the customer in public power towns," he said. "It's different than anywhere else."

*Sean Hamilton is in his office in the recently built building that houses both the water and light departments. An upgrade on the utility's substation is underway.*



## **RTO Agreement**

*Continued from Page 2*

*...the real trick in the future is going to be adjusting the costs and benefits of the RTO back to a balance that is fair to electricity consumers.*

Joe Blain, TMLP

of NEPOOL participants vote in favor of alternative rules to those filed by the RTO.

The agreement also leaves open the opportunity for publicly-owned entities to continue to pursue several of the issues raised in their rehearing request that do not relate to the formation of the RTO. Among these are publicly-owned entities' rights to participate financially in the construction and ownership of new and upgraded transmission facilities in New England. This continues to be one of public power's highest priorities as the region's new transmission institutions are established.

Another major issue of concern to public power entities – the increases in the return on equity (ROE) requested by transmission owners - is not addressed in the settlement agreement, and will continue to be litigated before the FERC. Publicly-owned entities have recommended a "base" return on common equity of 9.5% for transmission investments, and have rejected the notion of "adders" proposed by FERC to reward RTO participation by investor-owned transmission owners. In contrast, the transmission companies are seeking an ROE of 12.8%, in addition to "incentive adders" of an additional 0.5% for joining the RTO and an additional 1.0% for investing in new transmission facilities in the region.

While all of their concerns were not addressed by the agreement, public

power officials expressed their willingness to work constructively with other participants as the new organization takes shape. At the same time, public power will continue to litigate issues excluded from the settlement, which contains provisions enabling public power to raise even "settled" issues after 18 months, or under "materially changed circumstances." Michael Minkos, general manager of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, and one of the parties to the negotiations, commented on the agreement upon its filing: "Although the settlement does not reflect our positions on all issues, we are prepared to move forward with the RTO, as modified by the settlement. The alternative was a more costly and uncertain path of continued litigation on the settled issues."

Several New England public power systems that were unwilling to sign the settlement agreement nonetheless decided to limit their resistance to the RTO through separate agreements. "We managed to preserve our market and transmission revenues and some rights," said Joe Blain, general manager of the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant, "but given the lack of any showing that benefits outweigh the real costs of the RTO, the real trick in the future is going to be adjusting the costs and benefits of the RTO back to a balance that is fair to electricity consumers. On that front, we have a long way to go."

## **Annual Membership Meeting**

*December 10 • Lake Pearl Luciano's • Wrentham, Mass.*

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Guest Speaker:** Roger Cotte, *managing director, R.W. Beck*

Take this opportunity to greet old friends! Retired and former public power utility managers have been invited to join us for lunch.

# Sixth Annual Northeast Public Power Rodeo

## And the winners are...

Events	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
<b>Speed Climb</b>	Ludlow, Vt.	Vt. Elec Coop (109)	Fairport, N.Y.
<b>Pole Rescue</b>	Ludlow, Vt.	Burlington, Vt.	Vt. Elec Coop (109)
<b>Transformer Change</b>	Ludlow, Vt.	Taunton, MA (112)	Vt. Elec Coop (109)
<b>Insulator Change</b>	Vt. Elec Coop (109)	Braintree, Mass.	Fairport, N.Y.
<b>X-Arm Change</b>	Ludlow, Vt.	Burlington, Vt.	N. Attleboro, Mass.
<b>Overall</b>	Ludlow, Vt.	Vt. Elec Coop (109)	Taunton, Mass (112)

### Individual Events

<b>Speed Climb</b>	Howard Barton Jr., Ludlow VT
<b>Hurt Man Rescue</b>	Howard Barton Jr., Ludlow VT

*NEPPA wishes to thank  
the following sponsors*

**North Pacific Lumber Company**  
**Altec Industries**  
**D.C. Bates Equipment Co. Inc.**  
**Hydron Inc.**  
**Stockwell Testing Laboratory, Inc.**  
**C.U.E.S. Inc.**  
**Reading Truck Body**  
**Burlington Electric Department**  
**Vermont Electric Cooperative**  
**Tyndale Company**  
**Shamrock Power Sales**

(Clockwise) A Fairport, N.Y. team member performs the Hurt Man Rescue procedure, as the Ludlow, Vt. team waits for their turn to climb. TMLP's Jack Punda and son enjoy the banquet.

Photos by Lori O'Donoghue



# Eliminate stress in the workplace

The 2004 NEPPA Administrative Conference will feature two outstanding speakers on topics of interest to all office professionals. In the morning, Dr. Albert Forgione of Tufts University will lead an interactive session on the causes and remedies of stress in the workplace. Following lunch, Carolyn Raitt will discuss the tools and application

of networking skills, and how these skills can enhance participants' ability to get things done at the office.

The NEPPA Administrative Conference provides a unique opportunity for administrative professionals (secretaries, executive assistants, office managers, support staff, etc.) to meet their peers and share ideas and "best practices" from the New England public power community.



Friday, October 29, 2004  
Lake Pearl Luciano's  
Wrentham, Massachusetts

To register,  
call Sheila Boone at  
(508) 482-5906

## **AM Session**

### **Eliminating Stress in your Job and in your Life**

Albert Forgione, Ph.D.

*An interactive workshop on the principle causes of stress and techniques to control it:*

- Dealing with anxieties
- Chronic muscle tension
- Food sensitivities
- Preventing fears and phobias
- Ergonomics and stresses in the workplace

## **PM Session**

### **Successful Networking Skills for Office Professionals**

Carolyn Raitt, SPHR

*How to interact with people by developing network survival skills and how to put them to work for you:*

- What is networking?
- Where and with whom people network
- Tools and techniques
- Eliminating barriers
- Conversation starters and enders
- Applying networking skills to your job

## ***Boudreau to retire from Chicopee***

Paul Boudreau, administrative assistant at the City of Chicopee Municipal Lighting Plant, will retire on Oct. 29.

He has spent ten years with the utility, previously working as a private consultant. He served as a contract manager for international procurement for United Technology, and he has served as a member of the adjunct faculty at Westfield State College and Western New England College where he teaches business.

He presently serves on the Board of

Directors of both the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce and the Chicopee Rotary Club.

He earned both a Bachelors degree and an MBA from Western New England College. Boudreau, who was active on the NEPPA Communications Committee, plans to travel, golf and spend time with his three grandchildren, one with his son in Texas, and two with his daughter in Ludlow, Mass.



# Attention: All NEPPA Customer Service Professionals

*Wednesday*

*October 13*

*9:30 AM – 2:30 PM*

*Tuesday*

*November 16*

*9:30 AM – 2:30 PM*

*Shrewsbury Town Hall*

*Shrewsbury, Mass.*

The NEPPA Customer Service Committee is pleased to present a two-day training program specifically designed to address the needs and interests of public power customer service professionals. Based on feedback and suggestions from past program participants, this program seeks to improve staff morale by increasing energy and enthusiasm in the workplace, and to improve individual and team performance in the following ways:

- Understanding and adapting to different behavioral styles
- Communicating effectively with others
- Creating a positive work environment that supports excellent customer service
- Making every day a great day at work

The program will be divided into two separate days, with a focus on two training methodologies:

## **Self-awareness and Effective**

**Teamwork**, utilizing behavioral profiles, understanding behavioral tendencies, and developing an action plan for making interactions more effective.

## **Boosting Morale and Improving**

**Results**, utilizing the world famous Fish Philosophy principles from the Pike Street Fish Market in Seattle, Washington.

The program will be led by Micheal Seabury, a Training Specialist for the Employers Association of the Northeast. He is an experienced training professional with extensive knowledge in instructional design and training delivery.

Cost per person is \$150 for NEPPA Members and \$225 for non – members. Fee includes both days including lunch.

To register, please call Sheila Boone at the NEPPA office, (508) 482-5906 now.

## Employment

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### *Employment*

*advertising in News*

*Line is \$30 with a*

*maximum of*

*50 words or is free*

*to NEPPA members.*

*Deadline for the next*

*issue is October 22.*

### *Jewett City Dept. of Public Utilities*

#### *Lineman First Class*

The Jewett City Department of Public Utilities is seeking a first class lineman. Responsibilities include, but not limited to, all aspects of construction and maintenance of overhead and underground distribution system, maintenance of vehicles, tree trimming and meter work. Ability to obtain a valid Connecticut Commercial Drivers' License. Requires rotational stand-by duty. Drug and alcohol test required. Must reside within a 15-minute commute. EOE

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

### *Town of Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant*

#### *Manager*

The Town of Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant is seeking an individual to lead its 2500 customer electric distribution system. The ideal candidate will have knowledge comparable to a Bachelors Degree with assertive management skills and proven leadership qualities. Send resume with cover letter, references, salary history and expectations no later than **October 27, 2004**.

The Town of Rowley is an EEO/AA/M/F employer

Please mark envelope: "Manager Resume"

Municipal Lighting Plant, 47 Summer Street, Rowley, MA 01969

# Committee Meetings

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October 14

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

October 15

Board of Directors  
Samoset Resort  
Rockport, Maine  
9:00 a.m.

# Upcoming Events

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October 4 - 6

Public Utility Management Program  
New England Center  
Durham, N.H.

October 13 (First Session)

Customer Service Training Program  
Shrewsbury Town Hall  
Shrewsbury, Mass.

October 29

Administrative Conference  
Lake Pearl Luciano's  
Wrentham, Mass.

November 16 (Second Session)

Customer Service Training Program  
Shrewsbury Town Hall  
Shrewsbury, Mass.

November 18

Business Managers Roundtable  
Shrewsbury Town Hall  
Shrewsbury, Mass.

December 10

Annual Membership Meeting  
Lake Pearl Luciano's  
Wrentham, Mass.

