

## FERC Orders Disclosure of More Mystic RMR Fuel Management Info Following Filing

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued an order responding to a motion filed by MMWEC and other regional public power entities seeking additional information and transparency from ISO New England (ISO-NE) concerning exorbitant costs to consumers imposed on New England ratepayers under a fuel security cost of service agreement.

MMWEC, leading a group of public power entities throughout New England, filed the motion at FERC in May 2023, asking that it force the disclosure of the information.

In 2018, the region's grid operator, ISO-NE, executed a two-year agreement (which began June 1, 2022 and ends May 31, 2024) requiring the continued operation of Mystic Units 8 & 9, which are owned by Constellation Mystic Power, LLC. ISO-NE says that the units are needed to ensure regional "fuel security." Mystic is paid under the agreement both its full cost of service and nearly all of the costs of Mystic's affiliated liquefied natural gas (LNG) fuel supplier, the Everett Marine Terminal. The agreement protects customers against unreasonable fuel charges by requiring that ISO-NE audit Mystic's fuel procurement practices. The audits are conducted to ensure that service under the agreement is being provided at



the lowest possible cost.

From June 2022 through August 2023 of the Mystic agreement, consumers have been charged more than \$572 million in fuel costs, most of which resulted from Constellation's LNG purchases, and then selling at a loss, burning uneconomically, or otherwise disposing of fuel that it turns out Mystic did not need.

In the FERC order, FERC accepted ISO New England's proposal to (1) make available redacted versions of the Everett audit reports, (2) prepare a narrative of its meetings with Mystic and Constellation LNG regarding its decisions related to fuel supply, and (3) make a member of the audit team hired by ISO-NE available to answer questions on three occasions over the remainder of the Mystic Agreement term. MMWEC and the other public power systems agreed to these terms and filed comments supporting their adoption.

The order results in a satisfactory outcome for the participating public power entities. However, MMWEC will continue to oppose any extension of the Mystic agreement, requiring ratepayers to subsidize at extreme cost the continued operation of the Everett Marine LNG terminal, which serves the Mystic plants and others. ∞

## MMWEC CEO Ron DeCurzio Named to State Working Group, NPCC Board

MMWEC Chief Executive Officer Ronald C. DeCurzio has recently been named to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Clean Energy Transmission Working Group (CETWG), one of several working groups established under 2022 climate legislation to help the state reach its

upcoming carbon emissions targets.

The CETWG meets for the purpose of providing a comprehensive cost analysis of major transmission infrastructure upgrades that may be needed to deliver clean energy generation procured pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth for the use of residents of the Commonwealth and the region.

The working group is tasked with assessing and reporting to the general court on any necessary transmission upgrades

that may be required to support the deployment of clean energy projects that may interconnect into the Commonwealth, including but not limited to offshore wind. The assessment will consider both in-state transmission upgrades and any regional transmission upgrades that may be necessary to accommodate the Commonwealth's clean energy requirements; provide recommendations on any actions that may need to be taken by ISO New England, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and others; include a cost-benefit analysis to identify regulatory and legal challenges associated with obtaining and streamlining tariff approvals to accommodate increased clean energy in New England; and assess and review cost allocation measures adopted in other jurisdictions that aim to spread transmission upgrade costs equitably among ratepayers and developers.

The CETWG is chaired by the Chairman of the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) and the Commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Its members include administrative employees and representatives of various stakeholder groups. It will be in place until it produces its final report.

"I'm pleased that MMWEC has been identified as a key stakeholder and forward-thinking leader *Continued on Page 3...*



DeCurzio with Gov. Healey and  
Lt. Gov. Driscoll

## Connected Homes Adds Telematics Software, Expands EV Access

**M**ore municipal light plant customers who own or are switching to electric vehicles (EVs) will now have the opportunity to save through the Connected Homes program in 2024. NextZero has announced that it is working with Virtual Peaker, NextZero's Connected Homes' program facilitator, to increase program access for EV and plug-in hybrid EV (PHEV) owners through an innovative software program called Telematics.

Connected Homes is a demand response program that leverages the technology of smart devices into cost savings for the participating light department and its customers. By enrolling a smart device into the program, customers agree to allow Connected Homes to make brief, limited adjustments to the devices during times of peak demand. Customers are informed of possible adjustments in advance via email and are given the choice to opt out. Customers who participate in all adjustments in a month are given a monthly incentive.

Currently, Connected Homes offers incentives of \$5 to \$30 on residential batteries, electric hot water heaters, mini-split controllers, Wi-Fi thermostats, and EV chargers, but only select device brands are eligible for enrollment. The new agreement with Virtual Peaker utilizes Telematics software to allow more EV drivers to participate in Connected Homes.

Connected Homes typically makes adjustments through EV chargers, but the Telematics software provides direct access to the vehicles themselves, regardless of the brand of vehicle or charger. The program connects to an EV's onboard Telematics software to turn off a vehicle's charging abilities during a peak time. This allows the Connected Homes program to reach EV drivers that have unreachable EV chargers, allowing them to participate in demand response programs. Since Telematics



software is already installed on EVs and PHEVs, customers who want to participate in Connected Homes just need to enroll in the program on NextZero's website to allow Connected Homes to gain access to their vehicles.

ChargePoint, Emporia, and Enel X JuiceBox EV chargers are currently eligible for the Connected Homes EV charger incentive, but the Telematics software will allow customers to bring their own device into the program, giving access to select EV and PHEV models from Tesla (2012+), Ford (2013+), Hyundai (2012+), Jaguar (2016+), Land Rover (2016+), Toyota (2017+), and Volkswagen (2014+). Adjustments will only be made if the vehicle is parked at home and plugged in. The Telematics software will also make these models available for NextZero Members that offer EV Scheduled Charging in place of Connected Homes.

"MMWEC is excited to add Virtual Peaker's Telematics capability to its Connected Homes program," Sustainable Energy Program & Policy Senior Manager Zoe Eckert says. "In accessing vehicles via their preexisting onboard software, the program will now reach more Massachusetts EVs than ever before. This drives forward our MLPs' decarbonization strategies in alignment with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' climate goals of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050."

The Telematics software addition to Connected Homes is expected to go live in the first quarter of 2024 and full vehicle enrollment details will be released at that time. Fourteen NextZero Member light departments currently participate in Connected Homes and incentives may vary depending on the light department. Visit [www.NextZero.org](http://www.NextZero.org) to determine eligibility. ∞

## MMWEC CEO Participates in Beneficial Electrification League New England Summit

**A** panel discussion at the recent Beneficial Electrification League New England Summit featured industry leaders, including MMWEC CEO Ronald C. DeCurzio.

DeCurzio presented as part of the kickoff panel entitled "Viewpoints from New England Leaders on Beneficial Electrification Opportunities," along with John Tzimirangas of Energy New England Joy Grewatz of Washington lobbying firm Meguire Whitney.

DeCurzio detailed MMWEC's initiatives under its NextZero electrification and decarbonization program, including the growing Connected Homes residential demand response program. He also discussed the challenges facing the industry, including the expected more than doubling of current electric load over the next few decades, and the need to upgrade transmission and distribution systems to support the additional load.

Additional panels at the event focused on electric transportation and economic development, opportunities and challenges with new loads and workforce, and electrification and commer-

cial and business partnerships.

The New England summit was one of several being hosted across the country by the Beneficial Electrification League, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting beneficial electrification of the economy. The Beneficial Electrification League aims to engage both electric utilities and environmental groups in the effort to identify solutions that work well for the end-use consumer, local communities and the environment. ∞



*DeCurzio at the Electrification League Summit*

## SELCO Partners with Town to Decarbonize Historic Town Building

A historical building in Shrewsbury will soon have a cleaner heating system and significantly lower energy bills thanks to the work of Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations (SELCO). The department partnered with the Town of Shrewsbury on a project to decarbonize the Brick Schoolhouse in town and implement energy and cost savings weatherization upgrades.

The project began in 2022 when the Town of Shrewsbury released its first round of Community Preservation Act funding. The Town of Shrewsbury adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in August 2020, which is designed to help communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities. When SELCO learned that the town was releasing funding for CPA-related projects, the department saw it as an opportunity to promote its energy efficiency programs while engaging in a public grant process.

SELCO, led by Integrated Resources Analyst Patrick Collins, brainstormed potential projects and settled on decarbonizing and increasing efficiency in the Shrewsbury Historical Society headquarters, based in the 1830s town-owned Brick Schoolhouse. SELCO approached the Public Buildings Department to gauge their interest in becoming a partner for the project and once they were onboard, SELCO approached the Shrewsbury Historical Society for their approval. Collins presented to the Historical Society's Board, which supported the project as a solution to their struggles with temperature and humidity control and high energy bills associated with the building, and to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), which approved the project and allotted \$60,000.



*The 1830s Brick Schoolhouse in Shrewsbury*

After receiving approval from the CPC, SELCO enlisted the help of the Center for EcoTechnology (CET), NextZero's energy audit provider, to conduct an energy assessment of the Brick Schoolhouse, to determine areas of potential energy and cost savings. After conducting an audit in August 2023, CET presented a report with recommendations to SELCO, including replacing the building's oil heating system with a mini-split heat pump system and various weatherization measures, including insulation in the attic, air sealing, foam board insulation of the basement ceiling, and adding a vapor barrier in the basement to mitigate water permeation. The report also suggested installing a French drain around the building to reduce basement flooding.

According to CET's report, the recommended heat pump installation and weatherization measures will save the Shrewsbury Historical Society an estimated \$3,374 per year in energy costs, reduce energy use by 63%, and offset 20 tons of carbon.

Collins is currently working with the Shrewsbury Public Buildings Department to gather quotes from contractors to perform the recommended upgrades with the goal of completing the project this winter. He said he hopes the Brick Schoolhouse project serves as a model for decarbonization in older buildings, and that there is ample opportunity to complete similar projects in other historic buildings around town.

"Our main goal is to have this project serve as a pilot success case for retrofitting heat pumps to old buildings, switching away from delivered fuels," Collins says. "This will result in decarbonization, energy cost savings, improved humidity and temperature control to increase comfort and structural longevity." ∞

## MMWEC CEO Ron DeCurzio Named...continued from page 1

in the process to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050," DeCurzio said. "MMWEC and its Members are keenly aware of the challenges that will come with the integration of the new carbon-free resources that will be required to meet our emissions targets. MMWEC and its Members are innovative thinkers and we look forward to contributing to this process to bring the needed transmission supporting the Commonwealth's goals in the most efficient, cost-effective way possible."

In addition, DeCurzio was also recently appointed to the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) Board of Directors. NPCC is a not-for-profit organization responsible

for promoting and enhancing the reliability of the international, interconnected bulk power system in Northeastern North America. NPCC is one of six regional entities which, together with the North American Reliability Corporation (NERC), make up the Electric Reliability Organization Enterprise. With a focus on assuring the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid, NPCC develops regional reliability standards and conducts compliance assessment and enforcement of continent-wide and regional reliability standards, coordination of system planning, design and operations, assessment of reliability, and the monitoring and enforcement of compliance with such standards. ∞



## Three Members Honored by APPA

Three MMWEC Member municipal light departments (MLPs) have been honored by the American Public Power Association (APPA). Groton Electric Light Department (GELD) has received a Public Power Customer Satisfaction award and Holyoke Gas and Electric (HG&E) and Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department (WMGLD) have recently earned the Smart Energy Provider (SEP) designation.

GELD was one of nine public power utilities recognized nationwide for APPA's inaugural Public Power Customer Satisfaction award. To be eligible for the award, MLPs must be subscribed to APPA's Public Power Data Source software platform and distribute a turnkey survey to its customers.

MLPs that scored the highest in the customer surveys were honored with Public Power Customer Satisfaction awards. GELD was one of just two MLPs to receive a gold-level award, meaning the department had a 95 percent or higher customer satisfaction rating.

APPA's SEP designation recognizes MLPs for operational excellence and commitment across several areas. WMGLD and HG&E join MMWEC Members Ipswich Electric Light Department and Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations, which earned the two-year SEP designation in 2022. ∞

## SBEC Completes Annual Outage

S tony Brook Energy Center (SBEC)'s annual maintenance and improvement outage is complete. The fall 2023 outage began on September 30 and was completed on October 18 with intermediate units 1A, 1B, and 1C as well as peaking unit 2B back online that day. Nearly 100 maintenance, repair, inspection, and preventative tasks were performed.

Major tasks during this year's outage include: replacement of unit 2A exhaust expansion joint, draining and re-gasketing of the phase B autotransformer, borescope inspection of all gas turbines, and regulatory boiler inspections.

All annual testing on electrical relays and transformers was completed. The CO2 fire suppression system controls and activation devices were also tested.

One unexpected repair completed was on peaking unit 2A, which was forced out of service due to a generator ground fault. The unit needed a new rotor installed.

Nearly all the repairs made during the SBEC outage were expected, except for the 2A rotor replacement, and the crews were prepared.

All planned tasks were completed ahead of the ISO New England submitted return day of October 22 and the 2A rotor replacement was completed on November 9. ∞

## College Students Tour Berkshire Wind

In October, 20 students from Skidmore College toured the Berkshire Wind Power Project as part of the curriculum for an environmental science class studying renewable energy technology.



## MMWEC Employees Attend NEPPA Event

MMWEC's Kate Roy and Matt Ide participated in the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA) Fall "Fly In" to Washington, DC. As part of the New England public power group, they met with several Congressional offices to advocate on behalf of public power.

