

MMWEC Annual Conference: Preparing for Load Growth in an Evolving Political Climate

The Commonwealth's not-for-profit, consumer-owned municipal light plants (MLPs) are planning today for a decarbonized tomorrow in a time of political uncertainty, as evidenced by the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company's (MMWEC) 2025 annual conference. The conference, entitled "Preparing for Load Growth in an Evolving Political Climate," was held April 30 and May 1 at Endicott College.

The conference offered MLP managers, staff, commissioners, and industry experts the opportunity to learn more about MMWEC programs, initiatives, projects and technologies designed to guide the MLPs toward electrification and decarbonization, in a time of conflicting federal and state/regional clean energy priorities.

The first day of the conference featured presentations from ISO New England on the changing load forecast, E3 on equitable rate design and electrification and MMWEC staff discussing consumer motivation strategies related to incentives and rates. Closing out the presentations was Ventry Associates, offering an in-depth look on legislative and regulatory activity in the Commonwealth.

The evening's keynote speaker was Melissa Lavinson, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Energy Transformation. Lavinson's office manages the state's clean energy transition through the Energy Transformation Advisory Board, of which MMWEC CEO Ron DeCurzio is a member. Lavinson focused her remarks on the work of the Advisory Board, and the administration's priorities as they work towards decarbonization goals.



Melissa Lavinson

The second day of the conference featured presentations on risk management through hedging discipline and asset utilization, and MLP system planning for an electrified future. Concluding the conference was a panel discussion featuring MMWEC's Washington D.C. legal counsel, Spiegel McDiarmid, on activity involving the ISO New England markets and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

MMWEC recognized a municipal light plant and two individuals with awards at the conference.

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CMLP, Stowe Electric Join Connected Homes

The local utilities in Concord, MA, and Stowe, VT, have joined the NextZero Connected Homes demand response program. Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP) and Stowe Electric Department began enrollment on June 2, 2025.

Launched in April 2020 with an initial group of 11 municipal light plants (MLPs), Connected Homes is offered through MMWEC's electrification and decarbonization program, NextZero. NextZero works through Connected Homes to allow customers of the participating MLPs to leverage the technology of smart appliances and devices into energy and cost savings for the light department and its customers.

By voluntarily enrolling a smart device in the Connected Homes program, customers agree to allow Connected Homes to make brief, limited adjustments to their devices during times of peak electric demand, such as temporarily reducing the charging rate of an electric vehicle during peak hours or raising the temperature on thermostats and mini-split controllers three degrees. Customers are informed of possible adjustments in advance via email or text message and given the choice to opt out of each adjustment. Customers earn rewards for their enrollment monthly, which are issued via quarterly bill credits.

Stowe Electric is the first utility outside of Massachusetts to join the program. Stowe Electric General Manager Jackie Pratt says the program aligns with the department's clean energy goals.

"Connected Homes offers Stowe Electric customers an opportunity to leverage their compatible smart home devices to help shave peak energy use and achieve real savings through reduced usage and monthly incentives provided by the utility," says Pratt. "This innovative program is just one way Stowe Electric is supporting an equitable clean energy transition for our customers."

CMLP will use Connected Homes in conjunction with its time of use (TOU) rates that will be launching next year in order to incentivize its customers into shifting their energy consumption habits to non-peak hours. While TOU rates will not be in effect in 2025, CMLP residents can sign up for Connected Homes now and receive a bill credit per device for early applications and use. Bill credits will only be available to earn through the end of this year.

"Connected Homes is an excellent way for our customers to manage time of use rates effortlessly. Sign up this year to receive monthly bill credits, then automatically see savings next year when time of use rates go into effect," says CMLP Assistant Director of Power Supply & Energy Management Laura Scott. "With five years of operational experience, Connected Homes is a reliable tool for our customers from day one."

CMLP and Stowe Electric join 17 other light departments in the Connected Homes program. ∞

Eight MMWEC Members Honored by APPA for Excellence in Operations, Reliability

Eight MMWEC Members have been recognized by the American Public Power Association (APPA) for excellence in operational practices. Sterling Municipal Light Department (SMLD) earned the prestigious RP3 designation, and Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant (AMLPL), Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E), Ipswich Electric Light Department (IELD), Mansfield Municipal Electric Department (MMED), Marblehead Municipal Light Department (MMLD), Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations (SELCO), and SMLD received the Certificate of Excellence in Reliability.

The APPA Reliable Public Power Provider program recognizes municipal light plants (MLPs) that demonstrate a high proficiency in four key areas: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. To earn the sought-after designation, light departments must complete a rigorous year-long application process and highlight how the department excels across the four scorable areas. Applications that receive an 80 percent score or higher are awarded the RP3 designation, which lasts three years.

SMLD earned the Platinum level RP3 designation, meaning it scored between 90 and 98% of meeting the criteria. This is the fourth time SMLD has achieved the designation after receiving it in 2022, 2018, and 2015. HG&E, MMED, and Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department are also current RP3 designees, having earned the honor in 2024.

Every year, APPA recognizes utilities that subscribe to APPA's eReliability Tracker tool for excellence in reliability determined by comparing the utilities' reliability data from the tracker against national reliability data published by the Energy Information Administration (EIA). The eReliability tracker is an online tool that provides a seamless way to collect, categorize, and summarize outage information. To receive the Certificate of Excellence in Reliability, the utility must be in the first quartile of utilities for System Average Interruption Duration Index based on the last five years of the EIA data.

MMLD General Manager Joseph Kowalik has used the eReliability Tracker for four years, which he says is an invaluable tool.

"Our department has for a long time enjoyed a reputation in our town of providing reliable service to our customers," Kowalik says. "Participating in the APPA eReliability program gives us an objective tool so we can see how our reliability compares to other New England MLPs and MLPs nationwide."

MMED General Manager Joseph Sollecito says the certificate embodies MMED's two core values.

"The two driving factors for all public power systems are affordability and reliability, which is what distinguishes us from our investor-owned utility counterparts," says Sollecito. "The MMED team takes pride in the fact that it provides reliable power as affordably as possible to our customers." ∞

WMGLD Energy Park Phase 1 Nears Completion

Phase one of the Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department (WMGLD) Energy Park is nearing completion.

The WMGLD Energy Park project is a microgrid project that is a collaboration between the light department and two local schools—Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School (NEMT) and Wakefield High School (WHS). The Energy Park site will consist of a five-megawatt (MW), 22 megawatt-hour (MWh) battery energy storage system (BESS), a 2.5 MW natural gas generator and two rooftop solar arrays, a 364 kWDC at NEMT & 450 kWDC at WHS. The output of solar energy generated from the two solar projects will be consumed by both schools with the excess provided back to the utility grid or stored in the BESS. The BESS and natural gas generator will be used during peak energy hours to help WMGLD manage costs by reducing peak system electric load. In addition, the Energy Park site can function as a microgrid providing emergency backup power to the schools in the event of grid outages.

The five MW battery is owned and operated by Lightshift Energy. WMGLD's battery is part of a larger energy storage project between Lightshift and MMWEC, WMGLD's joint action agency, of several battery projects totaling approximately 50 MW. WMGLD's battery has been delivered, tied to the grid, and is currently undergoing testing. It is online this June, in time to help WMGLD reduce the summer peak load.



WMGLD BESS

The 2.5 MW generator is scheduled to be delivered in September 2025 and online in the first quarter of 2026. WMGLD recently sent out a bid for both solar projects. Bids are due by the end of June, and construction is expected to begin in the late summer or early fall 2025.

In addition to the generator, solar panels, and battery, WMGLD is arranging to have electric vehicle chargers installed at both schools, but construction on those will be done closer to the

completion of the site construction. NEMT is scheduled to open in September 2026 and WHS is scheduled for January 2027.

"This is a great example of leveraging municipal relationship and joint action to deliver benefits not only for the light department but also for NEMT and WHS, in a project that is truly a win for everyone," says MMWEC Director of Engineering & Generation Assets Jason Viadero.

"WMGLD benefits from being able to use the energy park as a load reducing tool to help mitigate rising transmission and capacity costs, and through joint action and costs reduction for the project," says WMGLD Engineering and Operations Manager David Polson. "The students of WHS and NEMT benefit by being able to tour and learn about microgrids and energy transition from WMGLD staff, as they explore what the future of a renewable and decentralized grid looks like in practice." ∞

Chicopee Electric Light Joins Stony Brook Intermediate Project

MMMWEC Member Chicopee Electric Light (CEL) has joined MMWEC's Stony Brook Energy Center Intermediate project.

Last fall, Littleton Electric Light & Water Departments (LELWD) officially notified MMWEC that its Share of Project in the Stony Brook Intermediate (SBI)

(entitlement) was "in excess of [its] requirements." In accordance with the terms of the SBI Power Sales Agreement (PSA), the LELWD request triggered MMWEC's obligation to use Best Efforts to find an interested party to take the entitlement. LELWD is one of the SBI's original 24 Massachusetts municipal SBI Project Participants.

The SBI is a 354-megawatt, combined-cycle power plant that entered commercial operation in 1981. It is located on MMWEC's site in Ludlow. MMWEC owns 90.75% of the unit, or about 321 megawatts of generating capacity, and has entered into PSAs with Massachusetts Project Participants for all of its ownership. The balance of SBI is owned by Green Mountain Power Corporation (8.8%) and the Village of Lyndonville, VT (0.44%).

The SBI's three turbines generate electricity using either No. 2 oil or natural gas, with additional electricity produced using a single steam turbine in the combined-cycle process. MMWEC completed construction of a new natural gas pipeline to serve SBI in September 2002.

Upon receipt of LELWD's request, MMWEC began the



process, as defined by the PSA, of finding an interested entity to assume Littleton's entitlement. Both existing SBI Project Participants and MMWEC Members were eventually approached, and Chicopee Electric Light ultimately proved to be the most interested. CEL recognized SBI's continued value as a capacity resource in

New England power markets and its benefit as an intrinsic energy hedge during extreme weather.

After final approval by both the CEL and LELWD's Boards and MMWEC's Board, the transaction was consummated on May 1st, 2025. CEL formally assumed LELWD's entitlement share, with LELWD remaining responsible under the PSA in the event of a default by CEL.

CEL General Manager Dan Faille said the decision to join the project was a strategic one for the light department.

"For Chicopee Electric Light, the decision to join Stony Brook Intermediate reflects our commitment to securing reliable, affordable capacity for Chicopee," Faille said. "SBI offers strong capacity value in the ISO-NE market and serves as a critical hedge against energy price volatility during extreme weather conditions. We're glad we were able to move forward with this opportunity through a seamless and professional transaction. We appreciate Littleton's willingness to work collaboratively to make it happen. This addition strengthens our energy strategy and positions us well for the challenges ahead." ∞

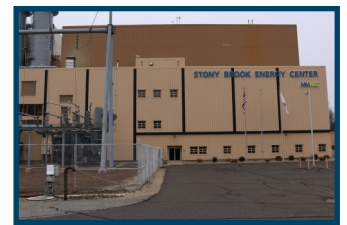
Stony Brook Intermediate: An Energy Hedge in Disguise

Many industry participants recognize MMWEC's Stony Brook Intermediate (SBI) project as a major contributor of reliable capacity for the region's power system. ISO New England is required by federal reliability standards to ensure the region has enough resources to meet a minimum total system capacity level, and SBI has competitively been helping the region meet those goals since inception. SBI is a 354-megawatt, combined-cycle power plant that entered commercial operation in 1981.

While many recognize SBI as a tremendous capacity resource, the dual-fueled SBI unit is also a significant intrinsic energy hedge for the 24 municipal utility SBI Participants. Energy is the amount of electricity a generator produces over a specific period. While SBI is only sporadically dispatched over the course of any given year, it's those times of dispatch during weather-driven market extremes that goes underappreciated.

MMWEC works very closely with its Members to help them mitigate their energy price risk exposure so that they may achieve their mandate of "reliable, affordable rates," MMWEC does that through a structured and disciplined "dollar-cost-averaging" approach. While that program mitigates most of the price risk associated with short term power

volatility, it does not mitigate all the risk. That additional risk, brought on by extreme weather conditions causing regional load and subsequent prices to appreciate significantly, can only be offset by asset ownership; in this case SBI.



Stony Brook

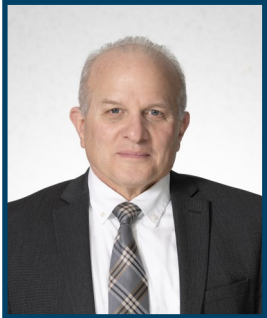
During four days in January 2025, when temperatures deviated by more than 10 degrees below normal, SBI was dispatched for a total of 18,350 megawatt hours (MWhs) to help meet the additional regional demand. Power prices during that four-day period reflected the extreme weather, and SBI generated \$1.3 million in incremental gross margin during that time. Those asset-ownership gains greatly offset any underperformance of forward hedges during those weather extremes.

Power supply risk mitigation programs require structure and diversity. Asset ownership is an integral part of any risk management program. Owning assets is the equivalent to being "long" a call option in a volatile market and necessary to mitigate weather-driven market extremes. SBI has been providing this added protection for its Participants for many years, and will continue to do so well into the future. ∞

Directors, Officers Elected to MMWEC Board

Several officers were elected to new terms at May 1 meetings of the MMWEC membership and Board of Directors.

Ronald C. DeCurzio was re-elected to a one-year term by the MMWEC membership to serve as chief executive officer and secretary.



Ronald DeCurzio

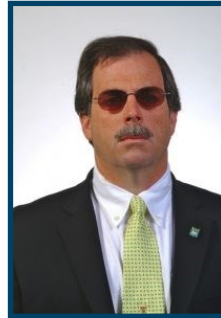
Michael J. Flynn, a gubernatorial appointee and Town of Wilbraham representative to the MMWEC board, was elected by the board to another one-year term as chairman. Flynn has been on the Board for 23 years, and has served as chairman since 2014.

Peter Dion, General Manager of the Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department, was elected to his 17th one-year term as MMWEC President.

Charmaine White, gubernatorial appointee to the Board, was elected to a one-year term on the MMWEC Nominating Committee.

Additional MMWEC officers for the coming year, as elected by the Board, are Haley Pedruczny, treasurer; Tom Barry, assistant treasurer; Peter Barry and Ryan Barry of Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas, LLC, general counsel; and Kathryn M. Roy, assistant secretary.

Other MMWEC directors, elected previously by the membership, are James Lavelle, general manager of the Holyoke Gas & Electric Department; Tara Rondeau, general manager of the Paxton Municipal Light Department; Joseph Sollecito, general manager of Mansfield



Michael Flynn

Municipal Electric Department; Christopher Roy, general manager of Shrewsbury Electric & Cable Operations; Joseph Anastasi, general manager of Peabody Municipal Light Plant, and Joseph Kowalik, general manager of Marblehead Municipal Light

Department.

Charmaine White of Springfield, and James Gennette, the representative for the Town of Ludlow, are also on the Board. ∞



Peter Dion



Charmaine White

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The Princeton Municipal Light Department received the 2025 Francis H. King Leadership Award, named in honor of one of the founders of MMWEC. This award recognizes exceptional leadership and dedication to public power joint action, demonstrated by a long-term commitment to the ideals of public power and the philosophy of MMWEC.

Longtime South Hadley Electric Light Department Commissioner John Hine received the 2025 Philip W. Sweeney Public Service Award, named in honor of the former director of MMWEC and chairman of the Marblehead Municipal Light Board. This award recognizes exceptional service to the public or in the public arena that advances the goals of public power. Boylston Municipal Light Department General Manager Mark Barakian received the James E. Baker Service Award. ∞

MMWEC Honors Former Mass. Governor

This spring, MMWEC paid special homage to former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis. Dukakis signed the legislation to establish MMWEC as a not for profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth, created to serve as the Commonwealth's designated joint action agency for municipal utilities. MMWEC CEO Ronald DeCurzio, President Peter Dion, and Chairman Michael Flynn visited Dukakis in honor of the 50th anniversary of the signing and presented him with a signed resolution. ∞



Michael Dukakis



MMWEC

A not-for-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth
Joint Action and economies of scale for Massachusetts municipal utilities

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