



**A Customer Owned Utility**  
*Serving Our Community Since 1894*

**August 1, 2016**

*NAED is one of only forty (40) municipal electric departments within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

*NAED is committed to providing quality utility services to its customers, and this community, in a manner that is deemed to be in the best interests of this community, as determined locally.*

**Monthly Update of North Attleborough Electric Department's Activities**

Dear Friends,

Happy summer...as always at this time of the year we encourage you to utilize good energy conservation practices to keep your bills low and help to ensure that there will be sufficient energy resources for all.

**I. UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD OF ELECTRIC COMMISSIONERS**

The Board held its monthly meeting on July 18, 2016. The meeting covered several matter, including a meeting with the Board of Selectmen. A summary is presented below:

**A. Discussion with the Board of Selectmen:** The Board of Electric Commissioners and Board of Selectmen met and discussed some areas in which the Town and NAED might work together. Projects discussed included possible municipal solar projects, economic development, LED street lights and payment in lieu of taxes.

**B. Project Updates:** The department presented updates to both boards relative to certain NAED projects. John Miller, System Engineer and Gene Allen, Operations Division Manager, reviewed NAED's planning and work activities relating to the forthcoming state road work in the area of Route 1/1A & 120, planned improvements along the department's "69kV line easement" to improve NAED's ability to access its poles and the projected 2017 work effort to install conduit and wire under the National Grid transmission lines to "tie-in" distribution circuits E-10 and E-11 (to improve the distribution system's reliability and redundancy).

**C. Power and Sales Update:** NAED consultants, Mark Magyar and Bruce Leymaster provided information to the Board about the New England energy market. The presentation included a midyear update to the Board relative to NAED's power budget and current/long term market projections.

**II. NAED ANNOUNCES IT WILL MAIL ALL TERMINATION NOTICES**

Effective August 1, 2016 NAED will mail all of its "Termination Notices" to its customers. The Board of Electric Commissioners approved the change at its June 28, 2016 meeting. Currently, the department mails some of its notices and "hand delivers" the remainder.

The "Termination Notices" provide a minimum of seventy two (72) hours' notice to a customer that his/her power will be "shut off" if an appropriate payment is not received. Massachusetts regulations provide that a customer's power may not be terminated until a minimum of forty eight (48) days after the receipt of his/her bill. During the past twelve months department records indicate that 5,656 "Termination Notices" were conveyed to NAED customers. In the past the department has estimated that the distribution of such notices requires approximately sixty eight (68) man days in a calendar year.

James Moynihan, General Manager, stated, "The change in distributing the "Termination Notices" will still allow NAED to provide proper statutory notice to our customers about the need to make appropriate

payments, while at the same time allowing NAED personnel to devote more of their time addressing customer concerns and preventive maintenance activities". Mr. Moynihan noted that NAED offers "Payment Plans" for its customers who may require assistance. He further stated that some customers may be eligible for "protection" from having their power shut off because of state regulations and/or may be eligible for NAED's "Low Income" customer rate. Any questions regarding the new procedure, or questions regarding NAED customer programs, may be directed to NAED's Customer Service representatives at 508-643-6300.

### III. NET METERING POLICY HAS BEEN AMENDED & REVIEW FEES ESTABLISHED

The Board of Electric Commissioners, at an advertised public hearing held on June 28, 2016, voted to amend the department's "Net Metering Policy" and establish two (2) fees related to the reviewing of solar facility plans and inspecting a solar facility prior to interconnecting the new solar facility into NAED's distribution system. The Board's actions were as follows:

**1. Policy Amendments:** The Board voted to amend the department's "Net Metering Policy", which was first established in 2012. The "Net Metering Policy" principally addresses the department's guidelines related to solar facility installations. The policy also presents the way that a customer is billed for electricity via "Net Metering". Perhaps the most substantive change in the policy is that the department has now increased the amount of solar power that it will accept within the NAED distribution system from two percent (2%) to three percent (3%). Three percent (3%) reflects the current state requirements for Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs). Currently, the system presently has approximately one percent (1%) solar generated from local solar sites. A copy of the amended policy has been posted on the NAED web site.

#### **2. Fees Established for Reviewing Solar Plans and Inspection:**

The department currently performs an on-site inspection of the new solar facility before allowing connection to NAED's distribution system. The focus of the inspection is to ensure that the facility has been constructed consistent with the application and that the "emergency disconnect" is operable and identifiable for NAED personnel. The department's "Net Metering Policy" now clarifies that "The customer shall be responsible for NAED's costs to inspect the Facility as a requisite for allowing the Facility's interconnection to NAED's distribution system. (Article V, Section 8(b)). Annual inspections are also required. Accordingly, following a review, the Board voted to approve, **effective August 1, 2016**, the following two (2) fees to assist the department to offset costs related to a solar project benefiting a single customer.

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Review of Plans by NAED:</b> | <b>\$140.00</b> |
| <b>Inspection of Facility:</b>  | <b>\$140.00</b> |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                   | <b>\$280.00</b> |

- (a) **Review of Solar Plans: \$140.00:** Based upon NAED's prior experiences related to reviewing plans and documentation related to creating a residential solar facility, NAED has determined that on average, such a review necessitates two (2) hours of a System Engineer's time. The rate established by the Board of Electric Commissioners reflects that average cost.
- (b) **On Site Inspection of the new Facility: \$140.00:** Based upon NAED's prior experiences with proposals related to the "Net Metering Policy" NAED projects that each application, on average, requires one (1) hour of NAED personnel time - which includes employees being on site. The fee is based upon having our Line Foreman and Meter Supervisor attend the inspection. The two classifications/personnel are the individuals whose personnel groupings will be most directly impacted by the operation of the new facility. The inspection fee is a one-time fee. Although the "Net Metering Policy" notes that annual inspections are required, there are no other fees related to future inspections.

Please continue to remember our fellow citizens who are defending our country throughout the world. As always, should you have any questions at any time, please feel free to contact me at 508.643.6300.

Sincerely,

James C. Moynihan  
General Manager