



**A Customer Owned Utility**  
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**May 1, 2017**

*NAED is one of only forty-one (41) municipal electric departments within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We are committed to promoting the interests of "Public Power" on behalf of the citizens of this community.*

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

Dear Friends,

Again, Happy Spring to all! It is a pleasure to provide this month's update relative to NAED.

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

The Board held its monthly meeting on April 10, 2017. The meeting included:

- a. A welcoming of the newest Board member, Dale Langille and expressions of appreciation for the efforts of former Board member Edward Vandette
- b. Reorganization of the Board of Electric Commissioners. For the forthcoming year the Board members will serve as follows:

Brett Langille	Chairman
Steven Cabral	Secretary
Dale Langille	Member

- c. NAED's GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Manager, Heather Cabral and her intern from Bridgewater State University, Eva Ratcliffe, updated the Board about recent GIS projects.

#### **II. NAED RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR EXCEPTIONAL SYSTEM RELIABILITY IN 2016**

For the second consecutive year, the North Attleborough Electric Department (NAED) has received national recognition for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2016. The recognition comes from the American Public Power Association ([www.PublicPower.org](http://www.PublicPower.org)), a trade group that represents more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities.

The Association helps members track outage and restoration data through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service and then compares the data to national statistics tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration for all types of electric utilities.

"This recognition helps demonstrate public power's commitment to reliable electric service," said the Association's Senior Vice President of Engineering Services, Michael Hyland. Public power has a strong track record of reliability, said Hyland. Nationwide, the average public power customer has their lights out for less than half the time, compared to other types of utilities.

A statement by Edward Vandette, the Chairman of the Board of Electric Commissioners at the time of the announcement, stated, "It is with a great sense of pride that as my final act as Chairman I have the opportunity through the announcement of this award to, on behalf of the Board of Electric Commissioners, recognize the outstanding and nationally notable efforts of the men and women of NAED to "keep the lights on" in North Attleborough". Mr. Vandette also noted that the national recognition serves as testimony that factors such as NAED's system planning, annual Capital Improvement Plan, quality preventive maintenance programs and utilization of current technological tools, coupled with a trained and dedicated workforce, have contributed to limiting outages in North Attleborough.

### III. INFORMATION REGARDING NAED & MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANTS

At its March 23, 2017 meeting the Board also received an educational presentation about Municipal Light Plants, such as NAED, by NAED Legal Counsel Karla Doukas: Attorney Doukas also answered questions from both the Commissioners and those in the meeting audience.

In an effort to promote a greater understanding for our customers about NAED's organization and administrative structure, specifically, and the operations of Municipal Light Plants in Massachusetts, generally, the following information is presented, utilizing the written outline of the information presented by Attorney Doukas:

- *Municipal light plants generally are not governed by the same laws that govern cities and towns. Rather, General Laws Chapter 164 governs the management and operation of municipal light plants.*
- *The court discussed the financial independence of light plants in Town of Middleborough v Middleborough Gas and Electric Department.*
- *In concluding that light plants and municipalities are legally separate financial entities, the Supreme Judicial Court largely relied on the fact that light plants and cities and towns have different sources of revenues. As the court noted, ratepayers support the operations of municipal light departments, whereas towns and cities generate their revenues from the taxpayers. For instance, a large commercial and industrial customer may pay significant amounts in electric charges but not have a vote in elections or pay a proportionate amount in property taxes. Cost allocations for electric service are different than tax assessments to raise money for general tax relief, which are based on property valuations and tax rates.*
- *These distinctions and overall statutory scheme affect: (1) the process for approving light plant budgets and expenditures, and how light plant finances are handled; (2) the obligation of light plants to make payments in lieu of taxes to the town to help with general tax relief; and (3) whether cities and towns can change how light plants operate through charter provisions.*

### III, WINTER PROTECTION ENDS - PROTECTION FROM SHUT OFFS STILL AVAILABLE

As of April 1, 2017 "Winter Protection" ended. The department provides (per the provisions of 220 CMR 25.03(7), "protection" (no shut off of power) to customers unable to pay due to financial hardships during the winter months (November 15, 2016 - March 31, 2017, inclusive). Once "Winter Protection" ends, then those customers who have been "protected" are then responsible for paying NAED the total cost of the electricity used during the period of November 15, 2016 to March 31, 2017, inclusive. Such customers are then, as required, placed on "payment plans" designed to fully compensate NAED for the unpaid electricity costs prior to the commencement of the next "Winter Protection" period (November 15, 2017). Protection is still available to customers after March 31st. Please contact NAED for further information.

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