

Vol. 44, No. 4 APRIL 2008 Newsletter of the Northeast Public Power Association

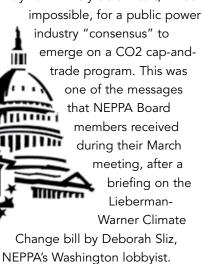
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NEPPA Board briefed on climate change legislation

Allocation of emissions allowances could divide the public power community

While there is a growing consensus that climate change legislation is likely to be passed by the United States Congress during the next few years, the details of that legislation will have enormous implications for public power systems around the country. It will likely be difficult, if not



As described by Sliz, the bill (which was voted out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in December 2007) is a classic case of major legislation being used to address a multitude of issues, some of which are barely related to the problems associated with climate change. As a consequence, the principal purpose of the bill (to reduce CO2 emissions below established "caps") could

be made more difficult to achieve due to the bureaucratic machinery needed to administer the allocation and auction of emissions allowances, and the development of complex carbon markets, where these allowances would be bought and sold. As an example of the complexity of the proposed legislation, Sliz listed the recipients of emission allowances in 2012, as contained in the Lieberman-Warner bill (see insert).

As reflected in the top three recipient groups, the bill would allocate most of the allowances in the early years to high volume energy producers and purchasers, although the final allocation formula will depend on the outcome of political negotiations in Congress among all the affected stakeholders. These negotiations, as Sliz stated, will be intense and lengthy, as lobbyists representing a wide diversity of interests (mining, transportation, manufacturing, agriculture, etc.) will seek to write in "set asides" for allocation allowances. Within the electric power generation and utility industry, strong differences have already emerged between companies with low carbon generation (nuclear, natural gas) and those with big investments in

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Continued on page 3

Executive Director's Report



by Patrick Hyland

A call to action

In its ongoing efforts to reform wholesale electric markets, the American Public Power Association has created the Campaign for Fair Electric Rates, a grassroots advocacy program focused on educating consumers, businesses and members of Congress on the problems in wholesale electric markets operated by regional transmission organizations. Participants in the campaign are asking their industry colleagues and other allies to contact their members of Congress and request that Congress urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to reexamine the operation of wholesale power markets and take necessary steps

to protect consumers against unjust and unreasonable electric rates.

As might be expected, there is strong and well-funded opposition to market reform, particularly from those companies who have found wholesale electric markets to be profitable places to do business. Many of these companies have joined together to form their own coalition called "Compete," and they have demonstrated a willingness to spend considerable money on their own public relations activities. They have also recruited several prominent former elected officials and a former

Continued on page 2

The Campaign for Fair Electric Rates is asking that FERC implement reforms to the wholesale electricity markets in order to achieve the following goals:

- A cost-based market structure that is fair and reasonable
- Improved and more timely transparency and accountability to consumers
- A consumer-focused system that assures reliability and capacity growth to meet future needs

Staff

Patrick Hyland executive director phyland@neppa.org

Kristin DiGirolamo administrative director kristind@neppa.org

Mary Harrington communications director mharrington@neppa.org

Sheila Boone administrative secretary sboone@neppa.org

David Fabrizius safety director dfabrizius@neppa.org

Sharon McDonald administrative assistant smcdonald@neppa.org

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tel: 508.482.5906 fax: 508.482.0932 website: www.neppa.org

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

Climate change

Continued from page 1

coal plants. As Sliz stated, this poses a large challenge for public power lobbyists and trade associations, such as APPA, which represent the full diversity of companies in the generation sector.

Going forward, Sliz and her Washington colleagues promised to keep the NEPPA

Board and membership informed about the Lieberman-Warner bill and other legislation related to climate change, and to work closely with the NEPPA Legislative Committee as it reviews the policy issues associated with this complex topic

Lieberman-Warner Bill

Emission allocation recipients in 2012

% allocation



Sliz

Fossil fuel-fired electric generators	19
Electric load-serving entities	9
Energy intensive manufacturers	10
Natural gas local distribution companies	5
Early action facilities	5
States with qualified efficiency or emission regulation programs	5
All states based on LIHEAP, population, fossil fuel production	5
All states for mass transit	1
US farmers and foresters	5
International forest protection	3
Carbon sequestration project	4
Tribal governments	0.5
• All other	0.5

Call to action

Continued from page 2

FERC commissioner to extol the virtues of "competitive markets."

And so, the battle has been joined over "competitive" wholesale power markets, and whether or not they are accomplishing the purposes for which they were created. Here in New England, we believe that they are only "working" for some participants, and that consumers have been often unrepresented in the ISO deci-

sion-making process. For these reasons, NEPPA supports the Campaign for Fair Electric Rates, and encourages its members to take an active role in delivering its message to public officials throughout New England. We need to remind Congress and the FERC that consumers are the reason that markets were created in the first place.

Rockie Blunt to join NEPPA as Training Consultant

NEPPA has taken another important step forward in the implementation of its strategic plan by retaining the services of training consultant Rockie Blunt. Beginning on April 7, Blunt will join the association as a part-time training con-

> sultant, and will work closely with the staff and a new Education and Training Committee to expand and strengthen NEPPA's training and educational programs in all areas of utility operations. Executive Director Pat Hyland expressed his pleasure that Blunt would soon be joining the organization:

"NEPPA is most fortunate to retain someone with the experience and qualifications of Rockie Blunt. He is widely recognized for his train-

ing and communications skills, and for his ability to communicate with individuals in many different industries. The staff and I are looking forward to having him on our team, and working closely with him to achieve the training goals of our strategic plan.

Blunt has been providing training and organizational development services to more than 150 organizations since he founded Blunt Consulting Group in 1987. He has taught communication and interpersonal skills, management and leadership skills, decision-making and problem solving, as well as organization development training. His clients include academic and educational organizations, retail operations, professional service firms, health care agencies, insurance and financial institutions, library organizations, manufacturing firms, nonprofit organizations and municipalities.

Blunt did his undergraduate work at Yale University, received a Masters in English from Clark University and an Ed.D in Human Resource Education from Boston University. He has taught at Clark University, Assumption College and Quinsigamond Community College.

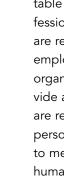
He began his career as a college English teacher and eventually his interests

Continued on next page



Blunt

Roundtable planned on human resource issues



NEPPA will host a discussion roundtable on May 7 for human resource professionals and personnel managers who are responsible for the administration of employment laws and practices in their organizations. The roundtable will provide an opportunity for individuals who are responsible for all or some aspect of personnel management at their utilities to meet, share ideas, and discuss best human resource practices with their public power colleagues. Topics for discussion will include the Family Medical Leave Act, ADA, drug and alcohol testing, harassment and non-discrimination policies, succession planning, and sound personnel management procedures.

NEPPA members who would like to attend the roundtable should notify Sheila Boone at the NEPPA office. Meeting details will be forwarded to all individuals who register in advance of the meeting.

Around New England

Back in the water business

On Monday, March 3, 2008, following seven years of purchasing water from a nearby water system, the Pascoag Utility District celebrated with the ribbon cutting of Well Number 5, which will supply the District with approximately one third of its required water supply while working to return Wells 3 and 3A to their former pumping capacity.

In August, 2001, the water district discovered both of its wells had been contaminated by Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether, commonly referred to as MTBE. As a result, the R.I. Department of Health forced the removal of those wells as a source of potable water to the Village of Pascoag, RI, sending the Pascoag Utility District's residents into 181 days without usable water.

Jack Reed, Senior Senator from Rhode Island, as well as many State and Local officials, were on hand to celebrate the District's achievement.



Top (I-r): William Bernstein, Esq.; Board of Utility Commissioners Chairman Albert Palmisicano; William Guertin, operations manager; Utility Commissioner Brian Choiniere. Bottom (I-4): Michael Lima, water superintendent; Juan Mariscal, RI Water Resource Board director; Judith Allaire, assistant general manager; State Representative Edwin Pacheco; Board of Utility Commissioner Vice-Chair Ann Polacek; Ted Garille, general manager

Blunt

Continued from previous page

expanded to marketing communications and public relations.

"I like hosting seminars that involve creating and evaluating problems," he said. "I also want to focus on program development and the whole nature of how people learn."

Blunt has been a speaker at several

NEPPA events over the years and a regular instructor at NEPPA's Public Utility Management Program.

"I have always thoroughly enjoyed my association with NEPPA," he said. "I was delighted when the opportunity came up to work with public power people to put together programs in addition to running them."

PURMA Risk Management Report

Liability

PURMA (The Public
Utilities Risk Management
Association) is a regional
association serving the risk
management and insurance needs of public power
systems throughout New
England. As affiliated service
providers to the northeast
public power community,
PURMA and NEPPA collaborate on a variety of informational and educational
activities.

An insurance coverage with which most people are familiar is general liability. Liability loss exposures arise out of legal wrongs: tort, crime, and breach of contract. General liability insurance generally deals with tort liability, although there may be scenarios resulting from crime or breach of contract wrongs which a general liability policy will cover. A general liability policy can be structured to respond on behalf of the individual or entity who assumed the tort liability of another through a hold harmless or indemnity provision of a contract. Such liability transferred through contracts is virtually the only area of contracts covered through general liability insurance.

A tort is a civil wrong, other than a breach of contract, for which the law provides money damages as a possible remedy. In order for a tort to occur, there must be an unjustified breach of a legal duty of one party causing bodily injury, property damage, financial loss, or reputational damage to a third party. An act causing damage may be intentional or unintentional. An example of an unintentional

tort would involve an injury to a person, i.e., resulting from a customer tripping on the door threshold of your office building. Examples of intentional torts are libel, slander, and false arrest.

Liability insurance protects organizations from legal liability arising out of their operations, premises, products, and completed work. A policy is divided into five sections: Coverage (A, B, and C), Who is an Insured, Limits of Insurance, Conditions, and Definitions.

The Insuring Agreement under each of the Coverage A, B or C, outlines that the coverage responds to certain losses that the policy will respond and that the damage must occur during the policy period. Coverage A provides for damages resulting from bodily injury or property damage; Coverage B provides for damages resulting from personal and advertising injury and Coverage C provides for payment of medical expenses resulting from injuries caused by an accident on or adjoining the insured's premises or operations regardless of fault.

Don't forget!

PURMA and PUMIC RRG Annual Members Meetings

April 24 - 25, Hilton Burlington Hotel, Burlington, Vermont



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Safety & Training Update



Raines to keynote Safety & Operations Conference

The 2008 NEPPA Safety and Operations Conference will feature Danny L. Raines, distribution and transmission safety consultant and founder of Raines Utility Safety Solutions, LCC. He will open the program with a keynote address and will also lead a discussion roundtable on root cause analysis of accidents.

Raines retired from Georgia Power Company after 40 years of service, where he provided all compliance training, risk assessments and safety observation programs.

Raines represented Southern Electric International/Southern Energy in Turkey as a project consultant for the Turkish Electric Authority and helped identify and enhance safety and training programs. He also served in Syria as a consultant for Al Furat Oil and Petroleum where he identified and made recommendations to solve construction problems. He is a contributing writer to Incident Prevention Magazine.

The Conference will also feature roundtables on substation safety, use of defibrillators, and the revised APPA safety manual, as well as a one-day Expo for utility vendors.

On the second day of the conference, the NEPPA training staff will hold a safety forum covering a variety of topics relating to field practices, linework and general workplace safety.

Please visit the NEPPA web site at www. neppa.org for more information and instructions on how to register.

Lineworker Pre-Qualification Program

May 5 & 6, 2008: NEPPA Training Facility, Pascoag, RI

A two-day program to assess the skills of potential apprentice line-worker candidates. Assessments will include math, mechanical, and climbing skills. Candidates will also be introduced to tool identification and usage, ropes and rigging, personal

protective equipment, and bucket truck usage.

To register participants, please contact Sharon McDonald at 508.482.5906 or

smcdonald@neppa.org

Safety & Training Schedule for April - May, 2008

April 8 - 11

Apprentice Lineworker I

Pascoag, R.I.

April 29 - May 2

Apprentice Lineworker II

Pascoag, R.I.

May 13 – 15

Substation Program

Pascoag, R.I.

May 20 - 22

Advanced Lineworker

Pascoag, R.I.

May 27 - 30

Apprentice Lineworker III

Pascoag, R.I.

Okonite welcomes new district manager

Effective February 11, 2008, David McCarthy joined The Okonite Company as District Manager in the the Hartford District. He replaces Bob Kilton who retired. His responsibilities will include the utility market and he will report to John Bachhuber, VP Eastern Region. Mickie Mokos continues as the Hartford customer service representative.

McCarthy comes to Okonite from Hubbell Wiring Devices after having

served for a number of years as a territory manager for Southern New England. He is a graduate of Colby College, Waterville, Maine and has a degree in Political Science. He lives in Wallingford, Conn. with his wife Joyce and three children.

The District office telephone number is (860) 258-1900. Dave's cell phone is (203) 535-2186 and he can be reached by email at mccarthy@okonite.com

NEPPA welcomes new members

VERTEX Construction Services, Inc

VERTEX Construction Services, Inc.of 20 Winter St., Peabody, Mass. has joined NEPPA as an Associate Member. The main contact is Michael Pellegri, vice president. He can be reached by phone at (781) 829-8588 or faxed at (781) 826-6466. VERTEX Construction Services, Inc. provides construction management services.

IBEW LU #104

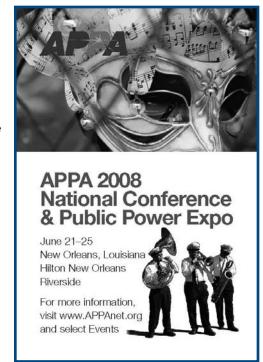
IBEW LU #104 of 130 West Street in Walpole, Mass., has joined NEPPA as an associate member. The main contact is Tyler Eaton, business manager. He may be reached at (508) 660-3900. They are outside line construction contractors.

Underground Devices

Underground Devices of 3304 Commercial Avenue in Northbrook, Illinois, has joined NEPPA as an associate member. The main contact is Chris Greene, regional sales manager. He may be reached at (847) 205-9000. Underground Devices manufactures duct spacers, bore spacers, and nonmetallic manhole cable racks for

the support of underground conduit and cable installations.

To learn about the benefits of NEPPA membership, go to www.neppa.org and click on To Join.



Appointments made to new committees

The NEPPA Board of Directors has formally approved the President's appointments to two new NEPPA committees, which were established as a result of the association's 2007 strategic plan. The **Audit Committee**, comprised of three members of the Board of Directors, has been assigned the following responsibilities:

- Selection and appointment of the association's external auditor
- Review of the audited financial statements and management letter
 - Review of audit disclosures
- Review of internal controls, financial procedures and risk factors
- Assure compliance with professional standards and statutory regulations for associations

Appointees to the Audit Committee are John Bilda (chair), Norwich Public Utilities, CT; Eric Werner, Hardwick Electric Department, VT; and James Bakas, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative. The committee met in early March to review the 2007 audited financial statements and management

letter with the NEPPA auditor, and presented their findings at the March 14 Board meeting.

The **Membership and Marketing Committee** has been assigned the following responsibilities, as included in the strategic plan:

- To assist with new member recruitment
 - To assist with member retention
- To assist in the development of new marketing ideas and strategies designed to expand association membership and increase participation in association programs, services and events.

Appointees to the Membership and Marketing Committee are Dick Joyce, Wellesley Municipal Light Plant, MA; Sean Hamilton, Templeton Municipal Light and Water Plant, MA; and Calvin Ames, Madison Electric Works, ME; In addition, two associate members of NEPPA were appointed to the committee: John Young of ABB, Inc., and Brian Feeney of Century Bank. The first meeting of the Membership and Marketing Committee will take place in April.

Employment

For complete descriptions of the employment opportunities listed below, go to www.neppa.org and click on Employment on the navigation bar. Deadline for listings in the May News Line is April 17.

Swan's Island Electric Cooperative, Inc., Line Superintendent

Hudson Light and Power Department **Electrical Engineer**

Peabody Municipal Light Plant

First Class Lineworker/Troubleman Senior Electrical Engineer

Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative
Chief Financial Officer

Belmont Municipal Light Department

Engineer/Operations Manager

Kennebunk Light and Power District **Electric Line Worker**

Littleton Electric Light & Water

First Class Lineworker Apprentice Lineworker

Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light

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Assistant Manager of Information

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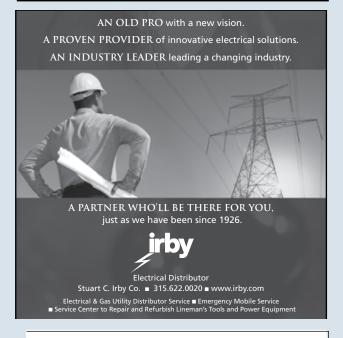


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Committee Meetings

May 9

Public Communications

10:30 a.m.

NEPPA Office

Milford, Mass.

June 10

Board of Directors

9 a.m.

Holiday Inn

Boxboro, Mass.

Upcoming Events

April 10-11

Customer Relations

Conference

Renaissance Hotel

Providence, R.I

April 15-17

Crew Leadership

Milford, Mass.

May 7

Human Resources Roundtable

TBD

June 10 - 11, 2008

Safety & Operations

Conference

Boxboro, Mass.

June 11

General Foreman/Crew Leader

Roundtable

Boxboro, Mass.

August 10-13, 2008

Annual Conference

Mt. Washington Resort

Bretton Woods, N.H.

September 11

General Foreman/Crew Leader

Roundtable

TBA

October 3

Annual Membership Meeting

Chocksett Inn

Sterling, Mass.

October. 28-30

Crew Leadership

Stowe, Vt.

November 17-19

Public Utility

Management Program

New England Center

Durham N.H

May 5 & 6, 2008:
Lineworker PreQualification Program
NEPPA Training Facility
Pascoag, RI