



## OBSERVER REPORT

**MUNICIPAL LIGHT COMMISSION:** April 27, 2021 4:30PM via GoToMeeting  
LWVM Observers: Jody Howard and Nancy Powell

Members Present: General Manager-Joseph Kowalik, Commissioners: Nathaniel Burke, Michael Hull, Karl Johnson, Lisa Wolf

The Marblehead Municipal Light Department met with MMWEC (MA Municipal Wholesale Electricity Company) to discuss Project 2015A, the Peabody gas-powered peaking plant that was proposed in 2015 and voted on in 2017. It will be located in the rear of the Pulaski Industrial Park, next to the Waters River Substation.

MMWEC says the plant will only be operating for 2.27% of the year during high energy usage, with reduced carbon emissions. According to MMWEC's Attorney Nick Scobbo, the land and infrastructure on the site are ideal, giving the munis a chance to join together to create a capacity asset and resource. At present Marblehead's electricity is 37% carbon free, being supplied energy from wind, solar, and hydro.

Sustainable Marblehead made a presentation of objections to the plant, asking to put a hold on the decision. The energy picture is quite different than it was in 2015. Not intending to delay the project, Sustainable Marblehead is looking to generate energy locally. They would like to see a comparison of the cost and storage capacity of a Battery Energy System for peak demand against that of the proposed dual-fuel peaker facility. Sustainable Marblehead asked if the Battery Energy Storage system would be less costly to purchase without incurring a penalty for the delay in redesign.