



OBSERVER REPORT

Marblehead Municipal Light Board: 5/27/21 LWVM Observers: Jody Howard and Nancy Powell

Members Present: MMLD Commissioners- Chairman Hull, Burke, Johnson and Wolf, Homan and General Manager, Kowalik

Joe Kowalik led a discussion of methods for encouraging customers to lower their energy consumption at peak times of the day when the cost is higher. He outlined an approach being piloted now in Groton MA called the 4/40 Program. The 4/40 rate structure (0.04 cents vs 0.40 cents per kilowatt hour) would encourage customers to lower their consumption at peak times (between 4-8pm) by postponing high electric use (EV charging, air conditioning, etc.) during peak hours. Currently costs are shared across all MMLD customers even if they do not contribute to those costs. The new rate structure would accomplish multiple objectives. It is a true representation of where MMLD's costs are incurred and would fairly distribute higher evening costs over the customers who use electricity when higher capacity and transmission costs occur. It also gives those same customers a way of reducing their costs by shifting their use to the 20 hours each day when generation costs are low. MMLD plans to build awareness about shaving the peak and time-of-use pricing through social media announcements, alerts, flyers, and billing inserts.

General Manager- Kowalik gave a Project 2015A update noting that Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) which had pushed the plant to satisfy surge capacity requirements for Peabody Municipal Light and the region has authorized a 30-day pause for the project amid concerns raised by North Shore residents and public officials about safety, quality of life and environmental impacts surrounding the project that was first proposed in 2015. While Commissioner Wolf spoke about the importance of looking at newer clean energy technology to address surge requirements, Kowalik questioned whether renewable energy alternatives such as batteries, solar, and wind would be reliable enough to provide emergency surge capacity in the case of a catastrophic event such as what happened this winter in Texas. MMLD plans to call a meeting to invite public participation in the coming weeks.

Village 13 substation update: Work continues on an upgrade of important battery storage infrastructure.

80 Commercial Street Flood Mitigation: General Manager Kowalik is in talks with Salem Sound Coastwatch regarding a plan to apply for a coastal resilience grant to fortify the sea wall surrounding the 80 Commercial Street plant.