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**Stony Brook named “Pacesetter” power plant for value-added upgrades**

LUDLOW, Mass. – November 12, 2010 – The Stony Brook power plant, operated and principally owned by the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), has been named a "Pacesetter Plant" for 2009/2010 by the *Combined Cycle Journal* (CCJ), an international publication that tracks innovation and advanced technology in combined-cycle electric generators.

In naming Stony Brook a “Pacesetter Plant,” the CCJ cites MMWEC's role as an industry leader in retaining plant value through technological upgrades and innovative maintenance practices that address changing market conditions.

"Assets well cared for get better with age" is the title of a CCJ article about Stony Brook that discusses the challenges of managing power plants in today's marketplace, where there is little margin for error and missed opportunities to operate can be costly.

"However, the marketplace and technological expertise of MMWEC staff have enabled Stony Brook to keep pace with today's challenges," the CCJ article states.

In addition to practicing preventive maintenance, MMWEC has completed numerous major upgrades since the plant started operating nearly 30 years ago, including innovative retrofits to accommodate dual fuel use, reduce emissions, improve efficiency and extend the life of key components. In 1993, Stony Brook pioneered the use of new combustion technology that is today's industry standard for reducing nitrogen oxide emissions of gas-fired power plants.

The designation of Stony Brook as a "Pacesetter Plant" also reflects the successful installation this year of new generator control systems on four of the plant's five turbine generators. New controls will be installed on the fifth in the near future.

"Stony Brook is a great example of a facility with plenty of life remaining that returned to 'first class' with the controls retrofit," said CCJ Editor Robert G. Schwieger. "It sets a great example for other plants that will have to change to accommodate new grid rules," he said.

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The new controls replace legacy systems that had become difficult to maintain, potentially compromising the plant's ability to meet its power market commitments. Now, Stony Brook uses the latest control system technology to start and monitor operation of its turbine generators, including graphic displays and other new features that enhance the performance and value of the plant.

"The CCJ article reflects a philosophy about plant maintenance that MMWEC has practiced for many years: that assets well cared for maintain their value," said MMWEC Chief Executive Officer Ronald C. DeCurzio. "The organization's commitment to that philosophy, as well as the engineering and operations expertise of MMWEC staff, are responsible for the fact that Stony Brook is still a valuable asset for MMWEC and its project participants," he said.

A link to the full CCJ article is available on the home page of MMWEC's website at [www.mmwec.org](http://www.mmwec.org).

Stony Brook is a 527-megawatt, combined-cycle generating station located at MMWEC's corporate headquarters in Ludlow, Mass. The highly efficient combined-cycle process produces electricity in gas turbine generators and uses hot exhaust from these generators to produce steam and additional electricity in a steam turbine generator.

Stony Brook is capable of burning natural gas and oil to produce electricity that is sold to 25 Massachusetts municipal utilities and six Vermont utilities. The Massachusetts utilities are based in the communities of Ashburnham, Boylston, Danvers, Georgetown, Groton, Hingham, Holden, Holyoke, Hull, Ipswich, Littleton, Mansfield, Marblehead, Middleborough, Middleton, North Attleborough, Paxton, Peabody, Reading, Shrewsbury, Sterling, Templeton, Wakefield, West Boylston and Westfield.

MMWEC is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that provides a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state's consumer-owned, municipal utilities.