



Contact: David Tuohey, Director of Communications & External Affairs

(413) 308-1392; dtuohey@mmwec.org

MMWEC Annual Conference

Municipal Utilities Focus on Maintaining Energy Independence During Times of Transition

LUDLOW, Mass. – May 19, 2017 – Staying ahead of the curve while maintaining energy independence during times of transition was the focus of the 2017 MMWEC Annual Conference, held May 4 and 5 at the Ashworth by the Sea in Hampton, New Hampshire.

The conference included presentations on each of MMWEC’s projects: fossil fuel plants Stony Brook Energy Center in Ludlow, Mass., and Wyman Unit 4 in Yarmouth, Maine, and nuclear plants Millstone Unit 3 in Waterford, Conn., and Seabrook Station in Seabrook, N.H. MMWEC staff highlighted the unique strengths of MMWEC’s fossil fuel assets and the role flexible, fast-start generation can play by complementing the increase in renewables on the grid.

Millstone staff detailed Millstone’s benefits to the environment and the economy; proposed Connecticut legislation supporting the plant; and current and future challenges facing Millstone, including uncertain energy markets. Seabrook staff provided a comprehensive overview of Seabrook Station’s carbon-free attributes, and 40 conference attendees participated in a tour of the Seabrook plant.

The evening’s keynote speaker was Paul Levy of the ISO-New England Board of Directors. Levy worked for the state’s energy department in the 1970s and played a critical role in the creation of MMWEC.

Levy’s talk focused on transmission and resource developments helping to reduce energy and reliability costs, the benefits of transmission upgrades beyond reliability, and the increase in emerging technologies such as pumped storage hydro and flywheel technology used in energy storage. He said municipal light departments are uniquely qualified to advance new technologies because of the local control and autonomy they hold.

MMWEC recognized two individuals and a municipal light department during its awards presentation at the conference.



Peabody Municipal Light Plant General Manager Glenn Trueira accepts the Francis H. King Leadership Award on behalf of his light department. PMLP has been working for municipal utility independence since the 1960s, fighting for MLPs in both state and federal cases. PMLP is a founding member of MMWEC, and its representatives have served in many different roles and capacities in support of the organization.

The Francis H. King Leadership Award, named in honor of one of the founders of MMWEC, recognizes exceptional leadership and dedication to public power joint action, demonstrated by a long-term commitment to the ideals of public power and the philosophy of MMWEC. The award is given to a municipal light plant each year. This year's winner is Peabody Municipal Light Plant.



The James E. Baker Service Award was presented posthumously by Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department General Manager and MMWEC President Peter Dion, right, to William J. Wallace, former manager of the Wakefield light department. Wallace died in 2014. His wife, Judy, second from right, and children, from left, Bill and Wendy, were present to accept the award. Wallace served on the MMWEC Board of Directors for eight years and worked for the Wakefield utility for 43 years.

The James E. Baker Service Award, named in honor of the former manager of the Shrewsbury municipal utility, recognizes distinguished service to the MMWEC organization, including service as a director, officer or member of an MMWEC committee for at least five years. This year's award was presented posthumously to William J. Wallace.

The Philip W. Sweeney Public Service Award, named in honor of the director of MMWEC and chairman of the Marblehead Municipal Light Department Board of Commissioners, recognizes exceptional service to the public or in the public arena that advances the goals of public power. James Engel of Ipswich was selected for this award.

The second day of the conference began with a panel discussion, with experts from market analysis firm IHS Markit, the Smart Energy Power Alliance and the American Public Power Association. Panelists shared their views on regional and national trends relating to technology advances and market regulations which will affect the business model of municipal light plants in the region.

MMWEC's emerging technologies team presented on challenges to energy independence for municipal light plants, the evolving grid and ways that MLPs can turn challenges into opportunities. Other topics included the Berkshire Wind power project, community solar, the state's solar incentive program, battery storage, electric vehicles and chargers, and grants and project funding. ∞



The Philip W. Sweeney Award was presented to James Engel of Ipswich. Engel served on the Ipswich Municipal Light Board/Board of Selectmen for 15 years. He also served on the Ipswich Electric Light Subcommittee for about 15 years, and also is a member of the Ipswich Water and Wastewater subcommittees.