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MMWEC Receives Federal Grant to Reduce Bucket Truck Emissions at Four Municipal Utilities

Ludlow, MA -- December 21, 2017 – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced that the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) has been awarded a federal grant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by bucket trucks used at four Massachusetts municipal utilities. The Diesel Emissions Reductions Act (DERA) grant, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is worth \$262,500.

The MMWEC grant is the only DERA grant awarded in Massachusetts under the competitive national grant competition.

Under the grant award, Shrewsbury Electric Light & Cable Operations and the Boylston Municipal Light Department each will use the funds to purchase one new bucket truck with advanced control emissions. In addition, the Ipswich Municipal Light Department and Hull Municipal Light Plant each will be able to purchase one new battery/diesel hybrid truck. MMWEC will disperse the funds to the light departments.

The replacement of these four vehicles will make an impact on the reduced emission of greenhouse gases in these communities. In total, it is projected that nitrous oxide emissions will be reduced by nearly 6,000 pounds annually, and particulate matter will be reduced by nearly 250 pounds annually, by the replacement of less efficient trucks with the newer, more efficient vehicles.

Emissions standards for medium and heavy-duty diesel equipment have changed markedly over the past ten years. The emissions limits for nitrous oxide and particulate matter have been slashed to just ten percent of the allowable limits in 2006. This grant funding will allow the four municipal utilities to serve as a model to others in the state by doing their part to help reduce diesel emissions in Massachusetts.

These truck replacements will improve the air quality for employees and customers in the municipal utility communities, while helping the Commonwealth of Massachusetts meet the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act.

“This award recognizes the initiative of four Massachusetts municipal utilities to reduce diesel emissions within their communities,” said MMWEC Chief Executive Officer Ronald C. DeCurzio. “This is just one component of a diversified portfolio of activities employed by municipal utilities to advance the clean energy goals of Massachusetts, including implementation of renewable energy, emerging technologies and other initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

MMWEC is the joint action agency for public power in Massachusetts, providing a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state’s consumer-owned, municipal utilities.

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