



NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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At State House Event

Municipal utilities showcase value to consumers, support for state initiatives

Boston, MA – June 27, 2018 – Massachusetts municipal utilities are a valuable part of the electric utility industry that deliver low-cost, quality electric service to consumers while contributing significantly to achievement of the Commonwealth’s energy goals, according to speakers at a State House event sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), the joint action agency for Massachusetts municipal utilities.

The energy portfolio of MMWEC’s 20 member municipal utilities is approximately 76% carbon free, said MMWEC Chief Executive Officer Ronald C. DeCurzio. In outlining the clean energy projects included in the portfolio, DeCurzio also announced a new municipal utility wind project, which will add 4.6 megawatts (MW) to the existing 15-MW Berkshire Wind Power Project in Hancock, MA. The existing project, the second largest wind farm in Massachusetts, is owned by a cooperative consisting of 14 municipal utilities and MMWEC.

“Municipal utility involvement in clean energy projects dates back to the 1980s and has grown through the years as the economic, energy and environmental value of renewable energy and related technologies has increased,” DeCurzio said. “MMWEC and its members have and will continue to adapt to changes in the industry that enable greater customer control over how and when they use electricity,” he said.

Speakers at the event included Senate President Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester), who was recognized as “A Friend of Public Power” in an MMWEC Board of Directors resolution. Senator Chandler “understands and embraces the value of the public power business model, which is based upon customer ownership, local control and nonprofit operation of electric utilities that are responsive and responsible to the customers they serve,” the resolution states.

“I am honored to have been given this award and I want to graciously thank the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company’s Board of Directors for thinking of me. I am proud that municipal light plants across Massachusetts are able to deliver power directly to their communities, and I look forward to helping these plants succeed and thrive,” Senator Chandler said.

State Representative Thomas A. Golden, Jr. (D-Lowell), Chairman of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, also addressed the legislators and state and municipal utility officials attending the event.

“MMWEC and its member municipal light plants not only provide low-cost electric service to their customers, but their nearly 50% carbon-free portfolio also helps to diversify the Commonwealth’s energy mix,” said Representative Golden. “I applaud them for their significant achievements in accelerating the growth of clean energy, including their nationally-recognized work in deploying energy storage to reduce costs for customers.”

(more)

Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, 327 Moody St., Ludlow, MA 01056

MMWEC recently received a national award recognizing its innovative work with municipal utilities to implement emerging energy technologies and clean energy projects. The Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) Innovative Partner of the Year award recognizes MMWEC services that include the procurement, installation and remote dispatch of energy storage systems in a way that reduces costs for municipal utility consumers.

Katie Theoharides, Assistant Secretary for Climate Change in the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, pointed to the value of the state's energy partnerships with municipal utilities.

"The Baker-Polito administration is committed to creating a clean, reliable and cost-effective energy future for Massachusetts residents, and is proud of its nation-leading work on important issues like renewable energy and climate change, including announcing \$20 million in funding for energy storage demonstration projects to deliver benefits to Massachusetts ratepayers and modernize the electrical grid," Theoharides said. "Partnerships with municipal utilities and local stakeholders are the cornerstone of the administration's efforts to increase energy efficiency, reduce costs for ratepayers, and maximize clean energy and ratepayer benefits," she said.

By the end of 2018, MMWEC member utilities will have 58.2 MW of wind generation, 47.5 MW of solar and 22.5 MW of energy storage. Three of MMWEC's members received a total of \$1.64 million in grants through the Advancing Commonwealth Energy Storage (ACES) initiative, a coordinated effort between the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the state Department of Energy Resources.

In addition, MMWEC is using its statutory authorization to issue tax-exempt bonds to help municipal utilities finance clean energy projects, including a solar project in Shrewsbury and the three energy storage projects that received ACES grants. Traditionally, MMWEC has used tax-exempt bonds to finance ownership interests in larger generating plants, but a new model for the use of tax-exempt financing is enabling municipal utilities to expand their clean energy portfolios.

MMWEC's peak load forecasting and remote dispatch services enable the automated dispatch of batteries and other distributed energy resources during peak demand hours. This reduces peak loads, which determine a utility's transmission and capacity costs, resulting in savings for consumers. Currently, MMWEC is remotely dispatching seven distributed energy resources for six member utilities, and will add three more resources by the end of the year.

Much of this work has been accomplished through MMWEC's Emerging Technologies Initiative, which is an innovative partnership with member utilities to integrate distributed energy resources and related technologies into municipal distribution systems efficiently and economically. Through this initiative, MMWEC works with individual municipal utilities, providing customized services to analyze, plan, finance, install and operate various distributed energy initiatives.

"A key purpose of this initiative is to ensure members are ahead of the curve in terms of recognizing trends and implementing new technologies in an efficient, economic manner that is in the best strategic interest of their customers," DeCurzio said. "Some in the energy business describe the process of integrating emerging technologies as disruptive," he said. "MMWEC's approach facilitates integration without disruption."

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. MMWEC was created in 1969 and through an act of the state legislature became a nonprofit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth in 1976, empowered to issue tax-exempt bonds to finance energy facilities for the benefit of municipal utilities and their customers.

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