



NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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April is National Safe Digging Month, Reminds MMWEC

Ludlow, Mass. – April 2, 2018 -- The Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), owner and operator of the Stony Brook power plant and a natural gas pipeline in Ludlow, is reminding residents that April is National Safe Digging Month. Anyone planning to dig is required by law to call Dig Safe® by dialing the toll-free number, 811.

MMWEC installed, operates and maintains the natural gas pipeline that safely and reliably transports fuel to its Stony Brook power plant. It continually is seeking ways to raise awareness of and educate the community about pipeline safety.

Dig Safe® is a free service that coordinates information about the location of the MMWEC pipeline and other underground utilities such as water, sewer, telephone, or electric services. It is important to call Dig Safe® before starting any kind of excavation or project that requires digging, including activities such as planting shrubs or installing fence posts. Dig Safe® should be called three business days before any digging begins. During those three days, the appropriate utilities such as MMWEC, Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, Eversource and Verizon, will visit the site of expected excavation and mark the location of their respective utilities. Only then will it be safe to perform the anticipated digging activities.

MMWEC is providing this information, along with regular communication to pipeline abutters, contractors, town officials and first responders, under its pipeline Public Awareness Program. The PAP is intended to ensure that people living or working near the MMWEC pipeline know that the pipeline exists and approximately where it is; are aware of basic natural gas pipeline safety information; and know who to contact if they have questions or if there is an emergency. Under this program, relevant parties are notified when pipeline inspections, regular maintenance or other work is to be performed on the pipeline or along its route. This program is part of a pipeline integrity management plan maintained by MMWEC in accordance with federal requirements for gas transmission lines.

MMWEC welcomes feedback from the public regarding its pipeline Public Awareness Program.

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