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## **Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department Cuts Ribbon on Energy Storage Project**

Wakefield, MA—July 18, 2019 – Local and state officials gathered in Wakefield yesterday to cut the ribbon on the Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department’s (WMGLD) new three-megawatt, five-megawatt-hour battery storage project. The lithium ion battery, located at Beebe Substation, 163 Farm Street in Wakefield, became fully operational in March 2019.

The project was made possible through a grant of \$800,000 from the Advancing Commonwealth Energy Storage (ACES) program, which covered approximately 30 percent of the cost of the battery. The ACES program, a partnership between the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) and the state Department of Energy Resources (DOER), is a competitive grant initiative aimed at piloting innovative, broadly-replicable energy storage projects to advance energy storage technologies in Massachusetts. The remaining cost of the project was funded through the pooled loan program operated by the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), WMGLD’s joint action agency.

The battery, from Massachusetts-based NEC Energy Solutions, is helping WMGLD reduce its costs for transmission and capacity, which ultimately will benefit its customers. The battery is strategically dispatched to reduce the light department’s heaviest electric loads each month. These peak periods determine the light department’s yearly capacity costs and monthly transmission costs.

WMGLD is partnering with MMWEC, which has developed a peak load forecasting system and remote dispatch program, to optimize the benefits of the battery project. MMWEC staff predict the best time to dispatch the battery based on its forecasts, and the battery can be remotely dispatched from MMWEC’s offices in Ludlow.

“Investments in innovative energy storage projects like this one by the Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department highlight the Baker-Polito Administration’s commitment to embracing innovative clean energy solutions across the Commonwealth,” said Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Judith Judson. “Energy storage technologies have the potential to significantly alter the landscape in energy for Massachusetts, helping to lower the cost of energy for ratepayers while reducing emissions.”

“The WMGLD is proud to be one of the leaders in supporting the advancement of technologies that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” said WMGLD General Manager Peter D. Dion. “We are excited and grateful to be able to partner with MMWEC and the DOER on the grant program that helped make this possible.”

“MMWEC is pleased to support Wakefield in integrating emerging technologies into their system,” said MMWEC CEO Ronald C. DeCurzio. “WMGLD is doing its part to help the state meet its target of 200 megawatt hours of storage in the state by 2020.”

“As a local Massachusetts company, we’re proud to play an important role in the Wakefield energy storage project that will provide real value to the town’s ratepayers,” said Steve Fludder, CEO of NEC Energy Solutions. “It’s also great to be able to add another project to our growing portfolio of municipal projects and be a part of such a progressive and supportive community that fosters initiatives like the ACES grant program designed to advance energy storage usage and technologies here in the Bay State.”

In total, six MMWEC members have installed approximately 26 megawatt hours of battery storage.

MassCEC and DOER awarded \$20 million to 25 projects as part of the ACES program in 2017.

