

Substation & Transmission Project Progress Update



Much of 2013's work on Belmont's new substation and transmission line project centered on key project management activities, preparation of 20 Flanders Road Demolition and Site Preparation bid package,

environmental permitting, and voltage and ownership decisions that were critical in moving the project forward. With these decisions and agreements now in place, the focus for the first quarter of 2014 transitioned toward the physical implementation of the project.

Over the past three months, Belmont Light's substation project team agreed to approaches that will reconcile concerns with abutting Flanders Road neighbors. The project team also finalized a review of the building demolition at 20 Flanders Road, the site plan preparation, and Party Wall design with the Flanders Road neighbors. Furthermore, in addition to receiving approval from the Belmont Conservation Commission at the end of 2013, the substation project received site plan approval from the Belmont Planning Board in January 2014.

With site plan approvals issued and plans finalized with abutting neighbors, Belmont Light issued a Request for Proposal for the demolition of the existing 20 Flanders Road building and the corresponding Party Wall modifications between the existing building and its abutting neighbor. This demolition contract was awarded to McConnell Enterprise Inc. in March and demolition-related activities are scheduled to begin in April and May.

Along with the tremendous progress made on the substation site, another milestone for the project this quarter was the signing of a Project Design Memorandum by NStar, for NStar-owned equipment, that includes design philosophies, specifications, and criteria.

After this Spring's demolition of 20 Flanders Road and the accompanying site preparation for the new substation building, the next phase of the project will see the completion of designs for the new substation building and transmission line route including the preparation of construction bid packages for each and the commencement of the procurement of electrical equipment.

Further technical efforts geared toward ISO-NE approvals, regulatory confirmations, a decision on Transmission Cost Allocation will be carried out in the second quarter of 2014.

Belmont Light's business office will be closed on the following dates:

Monday, April 21st in observance of Patriots Day

Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day

Friday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day

If you have an emergency, please call Belmont Light at 617-993-2800.

Dig Safe by Calling 811 Before You Dig

April is Dig Safe Month in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The governors of each of these five states have declared April as Safe Digging Month as a way to remind residents to call 811 before any project involving digging.

Since any movement or removal of earth, rock, or material is considered excavation under Massachusetts law, homeowners and contractors are also required to call Dig Safe at 811 or 888-344-7233 at least 72 business hours in advance of digging, and mark the location they plan to dig with white markers or paint.

When calling Dig Safe, callers should expect to provide information about the contractor, the work to be done, the location and the scope of the project. Dig Safe assigns each project a permit number as a confirmation. Utility staff then visit the site and identify and mark the location of any underground gas, phone, cable, water or electric lines prior to a homeowner or a contractor digging.

Member utilities, like Belmont Light, use paint, stakes or flags to identify the location of their underground lines. Color codes used to identify different types of utility are:

- Red – electric
- Yellow – gas, oil, steam
- Orange – communications
- Blue – potable water
- Purple – reclaimed water
- Green – sewer/drainage
- Pink – survey marks
- White – proposed excavation

There is no cost to homeowners or contractors for using the service; Dig Safe is funded entirely by member utilities.

Changes in soil erosion may bring underground utility lines closer to the surface, so projects as small as digging holes for mailbox posts or planting trees and shrubs require a call to Dig Safe. Some projects, such as tilling soil for agricultural purposes or using hand tools for gardening, are exempt from Dig Safe requirements.

For more information about Dig Safe, visit the website www.digsafe.com, or call Belmont Light at 617-993-2800.

Natural Gas Prices Escalate for New England

Growing demand for natural gas throughout New England—caused in part by this winter's bitter cold and the region's shift to natural gas as the primary resource for electric generation—has resulted in rising supply costs incurred by Belmont Light. Consequently, Belmont Light customers will see an increase in their monthly billing charges for the immediate future.

Belmont Light will continue to monitor costs as the weather gets warmer and demand decreases.

Spring Energy Tips

- Make sure all the fans in your home are working properly and are dust-free.
- Consider installing a timer switch on your bathroom fan.
- Make sure you change the direction of airflow on your ceiling fan. The fan should push warm air toward the floor in the winter. Switch the direction and draw air upward in the summer, cooling the room and ensuring constant airflow.
- Consider getting insulated, thermal-backed drapes for your windows. They'll help keep your home cool in summer and warm in winter.
- Before buying an air conditioning unit or system, find out its energy efficiency ratio (EER). You can calculate the EER by dividing the unit's cooling capacity (BTU's/hour) by its energy requirement (watts). An EER of 10 or more is very good, and 6 or 7 is fair. Remember to buy the smallest capacity unit or system that will meet your needs.

Belmont Resident Gun Buyback

Belmont residents will have the opportunity to dispose of unwanted firearms and ammunition at the Gun Buyback on Saturday, May 31, 2014 at the Belmont DPW Yard, 37 C Street from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Gun Buyback is sponsored by the Belmont Police Department, Belmont Religious Council, and individual houses of worship.

The Gun Buyback provides a safe, no questions asked, no identification required way for Belmont residents to relinquish unwanted firearms (working and nonworking) and ammunition. Guns turned in at the event must be unloaded with their safety engaged and must be contained in a bag, box, or case prior to transporting them for drop-off.

If you have questions and/or requests for assistance in safely transporting firearms, please call 617-993-2529, a special phone line that has been set up by the Belmont Police Department. Additional information regarding the event can be found on the event website: www.belmontgunbuyback.org.



Jim Palmer, second from left, General Manager of Belmont Light, was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Belmont Lions Club. The General Manager spoke about the light department, including the substation which will meet the growing electrical needs of the community. Among those who were at the meeting were (from left to right) Becca Keane, Executive Assistant to the General Manager; Palmer; Ralph Jones, Belmont Board of Selectmen and Belmont Light Board; Anthony J. Giunta, Lions Club President; and Thomas J. Hevey, Lions Club Secretary



Sustainable Belmont

Did you know that the type of window frame you have affects your home's energy

efficiency? Improving the thermal resistance of the frame can contribute to a window's overall energy efficiency, particularly its *U-factor*. *U-factor* is the rate at which a window, door, or skylight conducts non-solar heat flow. The lower the U-factor, the more energy-efficient the window.

When selecting windows for energy efficiency, customers should first consider the energy performance ratings in relation to your climate and your home's design. This will help narrow your selection. Also, it is important to know that there are advantages and disadvantages to all types of frame materials, but vinyl, wood, fiberglass, and some composite frame materials provide greater thermal resistance than metal. Metal or aluminum window frames conduct heat very rapidly, which makes metal a very poor insulating material.

The National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) operates a voluntary program that tests, certifies, and labels windows based on their energy performance ratings. The NFRC labeling system provides a reliable way to determine a window's energy properties and compare products. The NFRC label can be found on all ENERGY STAR® qualified windows.

If installing new windows is out of your price range, a less expensive (though less efficient alternative) is to install storm windows. The US Dept. of Energy has published a step-by-step do-it-yourself guide to installing exterior storm windows: www.energy.gov/energysaver/projects/savings-project-install-



Belmont Light General Manager Jim Palmer, (back row), talked about how electricity gets to local homes and businesses and ways to save energy with Belmont Cub Scouts from Den 3 Pack 377 during their recent visit to the Belmont Light offices. The scouts earned their Bear Badge on March 26th.

BELMONT LIGHT

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