

The Municipal Light Advisory Board (MLAB)
Community Room, Chenery Middle School
Wednesday, January 25, 2012
7:15 PM

ATTENDEES:

James Palmer, BMLD General Manager/CEO
Ashley Brown, Municipal Light Advisory Board (MLAB) Chair
Robert Forrester, Municipal Light Advisory Board Vice Chair
Tim McCarthy, Municipal Light Advisory Board
Patricia Diorio, Municipal Light Advisory Board
Gretchen McClain, Municipal Light Advisory Board
Ed Selgrade, BMLD Legal Counsel
Warrant Committee members

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Municipal Light Advisory Board (MLAB) was called to order at 7:30 PM by Municipal Light Advisory Board (MLAB) Chair, Ashley Brown.

BMLD's WARRANT ARTICLE II WARRANT COMMITTEE QUESTIONS:

The Warrant Committee had some questions in regards to what the cost will be for the 115kV project. Mr. Brown stated that a substation is very much needed due to being at firm capacity since 2001 and every year since then exceeding that capacity.

Mr. Palmer addressed the transient voltage problems. In July a supply line went out of service for approximately 24 hours. The transient problems he stated originated in Cambridge. The six supply lines that come into Belmont are connected to the Alewife station which is a distribution substation in Cambridge, which approximately 20 lines come out of. If any of those lines coming into Belmont fail then it causes a transient voltage. Mr. Palmer has spoken to NSTAR regarding the problem and resulted in installing a Delta connection. Mr. Palmer stated that if this was not done more voltage fluctuation would occur.

Mr. Palmer was asked what the impact has been to the commercial and residential customer's due to outages. He stated that there were a few complaints and they were dealt with promptly. These issues are major reason why the substation needs to be built. Mr. Palmer stated that building the substation will cure the voltage problems.

The discussion was moved to alternative substation questions. Mr. Brown stated that in regards to the alternatives such as Hittinger Street, there is nothing to be done with the aging infrastructure which was confirmed by an engineer. In regards to using generators during peak loads, Mr. Brown stated that that alternative would need at least 12 generators. The cost to buy the generators, operate them, fuel, permitting environmental issues and a site to hold the

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generators ended up being too high. The cost numbers didn't justify the generators and again does not solve the aging infrastructure.

Mr. McLaughlin asked Mr. Brown what would happen if nothing was done to the substation. Mr. Brown stated that NSTAR has a contract with the BMLD to serve all of our requirements. Eventually our peak will keep extending which will result in blackouts and NSTAR would control the cost. NSTAR would make any adjustments needed and the costs would get passed down the BMLD. Basically, the BMLD would lose control of how it is connected and lose control of cost. Mr. Brown stated that the need for the substation is ultimately in the best interest of the rate payers and the community.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting of the Belmont Municipal Advisory Board (MLAB) was adjourned at 9:30 PM by Ashley Brown, Municipal Light Advisory Board Chair.