

Substation Project Update



In 2011 the Town of Belmont acknowledged that problems with our power distribution system would soon make it impossible to deliver sufficient, reliable electricity to our residents, commercial and municipal users. Specifically, the major issues with the current system centered around a rapidly growing lack of capacity to meet the needs

of all users, an aging and increasingly unreliable infrastructure, and power quality issues – power surges – resulting from our current connection to NStar’s transmission line at Alewife. Recognizing the critical need to address these issues immediately, Belmont Town Meeting voted to approve the construction of a new substation and transmission line that will address all of these shortcomings of the current system.

Commencing upon Town Meeting approval in February, 2012, Belmont Light and its project team immediately got to work on the specifics of planning and executing each of the necessary steps to bring the new Substation and Transmission Line to Belmont. By the end of 2012, Belmont Light had negotiated and **purchased the site of the new Substation at 20 Flanders Road**. Additionally, Belmont Light successfully negotiated easement rights along the MBTA’s Commuter Rail line to secure the most efficient route of a new transmission line to be built between Alewife and 20 Flanders Road. That **Easement Agreement was officially signed in December, 2012**.

Once the site and route properties had been secured, Belmont Light and the project team went to work on developing many specific details of the project. In the first quarter of 2013, Belmont’s Municipal Light Advisory Board **approved the Project Schedule, Budget Estimate, Cash Flow and Financing Strategy** for the project. Additionally all **Professional Service Agreements were signed** and the **Project Design Memorandum was issued**. In May, 2013, the Belmont Light Board announced the **preferred Transmission Voltage – 115kV** – and Belmont Light **signed a Transmission Interconnection Agreement with NStar**.

In October, 2013, Belmont Light officially **presented project plans to ISO-NE** and in November, 2013, the project received an **Order of Conditions to proceed from the Belmont Conservation Commission**.

Next Steps:

With a Site Plan Review underway with the Belmont Planning Board, the Project will soon award a contract for the demolition of the current building at 20 Flanders Road, with demolition being concluded in 2014. Also in 2014, the Project expects to issue a System Impact Study, receive Transmission Task Force approval from ISO-NE, complete its Department of Public Utilities Filing, receive a decision of TCA eligibility and award contracts for construction.

Belmont Light Appliance Rebate Program

If you bought an appliance in 2013, you may qualify for a credit, up to \$150 annually on your Belmont Light bill! But you need to act fast -- **All rebate requests for the 2013 program must be completed and postmarked by January 31st, 2014!**

To download an application, or for more information about what appliances qualify, visit the Belmont Light website www.belmontlight.com or call 617-993-2800 to receive an application. Applications and documentation must be submitted directly to Belmont Light.

Once approved, the customer’s account will be credited within six to eight weeks. Completed applications must include a copy of the dated sales receipt, a copy of the Energy Guide Label or other documentation to indicate ENERGY STAR® compliance, and proof of the DPW or vendor disposal of the refrigerator or room air conditioner.

The 2014 Appliance Rebate Program will be announced in the near future.

Belmont Light on-line payment option

The Belmont Light on-line bill payment option makes it easier for customers to pay their monthly bill and manage their account online. Customers can pay by checking account, credit card, or debit card with credit card capabilities and have the option of scheduling their payments in advance. Please note that payments made by credit or debit card will incur a nominal processing fee.

Customers can visit the website, www.belmontlight.com and click on the payment option. Please have your account number and bank information available when you sign in. Customers will need to create a user name and password when they first use this convenient payment option.

For more information, or if you have questions, please call the Belmont Light at 617-993-2800.

Belmont Light reminders...

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

January 20th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 17th President’s Day

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

BELMONT LIGHT

POWERING YOUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1898

40 Prince Street
Belmont, MA 02478
617-993-2800

www.belmont-ma.gov/electric

COMMUNITY News...

Belmont Light supports the Good Neighbor Energy Fund

Belmont Light is continuing its support for the Salvation Army's Good Neighbor Energy Fund, a program that helps provide energy assistance to residents in temporary crisis who do not qualify for federal or state energy funds. This is the 29th year that the Good Neighbor Energy Fund has been providing energy assistance to residents who are struggling to pay their energy bills.

Belmont Light customers will receive a Good Neighbor Energy Fund envelope with their bill which they can use to make a tax-deductible donation, in any amount, to the Salvation Army.

In addition to using the envelopes in the bills, tax-deductible donations can also be made online at donate.salvationarmyusa.org/massachusetts/GNEF, or by sending a check made payable to "Good Neighbor Energy Fund" and sent to The Salvation Army, 25 Shawmut Road, Canton, MA 02021-1408.

Further information about the fund can be obtained on the Good Neighbor Energy Fund website www.magoodneighbor.org.

Anyone who is in a temporary crisis and would like to apply for funds can contact the Salvation Army at 800-334-3047, or visit the website at www.magoodneighbor.org. Applications will be available beginning on February 3rd, 2014. Additional information about other energy assistance programs can be obtained at the Belmont Light business office, on the website at www.belmontlight.com or by calling 617-993-2800.

DPW SNOW EMERGENCY HOTLINE: Belmont snow emergency information

Belmont Public Works Department Snow Emergency Hotline can be reached by calling 617-993-2698 from November through April **during snow and ice events only**. If there is an emergency after hours of a different nature, please call the E-911 Communications number at 617-993-2501.

Belmont Light celebrates the Winter Solstice



Belmont Light celebrated the Winter Solstice with its customers by collecting blankets, bedspreads, comforters and quilts for others in need. The event also included a visit from Frosty the Snowman and refreshments which were enjoyed by the Sanderson family of Belmont. Belmont

Light and General Manager Jim Palmer, left, and Advisory Board Chair Ashley Brown were on hand to welcome everyone who stopped by the celebration.



Insulate your home to save energy

Heating and cooling ("space conditioning") account for 50 to 70% of the energy used in the average American home. Insulating your home is one of the best ways to save energy and cut your heating bill.

Insulation Priorities:

- Insulate your attic to the recommended level, including the attic door, or hatch cover.
- Provide the recommended level of insulation under floors above unheated spaces and around walls in a heated basement or unventilated crawl space.
- When remodeling or redesigning your house, consider using the levels recommended for new construction in your existing walls.

How can you find out the recommended level for your home? The best way to find out is to register for a free energy audit. Go to www.sagewell.com to find out more. Or go to energystar.gov and search for 'Recommended levels of insulation'.

Sources

Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/doer/publications/insul.pdf> Energystar. http://www.energystar.gov/?c=home_sealing.hm_improvement_insulation_table

Need help this winter?

Belmont Light customers who need help with their energy bills this winter may be eligible for heating assistance and other programs, including Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Belmont Light Rate Change Program, and the Salvation Army Good Neighbor Energy Fund, among others. Information about the programs, as well as income guidelines and contact information, is contained in a pamphlet that will be available at Belmont Light in February.

Eligibility for the LIHEAP program is based on household size and the gross annual income of every household member, 18 years of age or older. Household income cannot exceed 60% of estimated State Median Income, which ranges from \$32,065 for a one-person household, to \$61,664 for a family of four. Homeowners and renters including households whose cost of heat is included in the rent can apply at the agency in their area. Belmont residents can apply for fuel assistance through Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI) in Lowell by calling toll free at 1-877-451-1082.

The Salvation Army Good Neighbor Energy Fund will be accepting applications on February 3rd, 2014.

For additional information, contact Belmont Light at 617-993-2800.