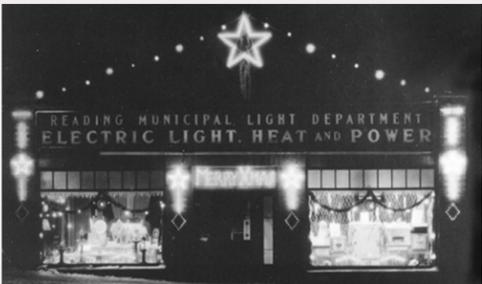




RMLD's generating station as pictured in the 1897 Annual Report



Excerpt from 1938 publication, "An Invitation to Reading"



RMLD's office at 525 Main St. decorated for the holidays circa 1929-1939



RMLD Bucket Truck circa 1962



Kenneth E. Gaw Substation, Reading circa 1970



RMLD's current office - 230 Ash St.

1910 - North Reading Joins RMLD

Electric service begins in North Reading with 87 public streetlights, followed by additions in 1911 of 42 customer connections, and 38 tungsten streetlights.

1911 - Wilmington Joins RMLD

Electric service is extended to Wilmington.

1895 - Local Generation Begins

Reading's generating station begins serving 81 customers with 1,550 incandescent lamps, and powering 123 street arc lamps. Streetlights are not lit on nights when the moon is bright.

1915 - Electric Rates Drop

Under the direction of RMLD General Manager Arthur Sias, the cost of electricity drops from 15 to 9 cents per kilowatt-hour, a move aimed at making electricity affordable to all.

1931 - Underground Service

An underground distribution system is installed in Reading Square.

1929 - Main Street Office

RMLD moves to 525 Main Street to accommodate its growing business. The new location houses RMLD's business offices and popular appliance showroom.

1925 - First Outside Power Purchase

RMLD buys power from Boston Edison to supplement its generating station due to the growing demand for electricity. In 1926, RMLD contracts with Boston Edison for all of its required electricity.

1906 - 24-Hour Service is Introduced

Prior to this, the power plant was not operated during daylight hours.

1908 - Legislation Allows Expansion

Special legislation in enacted to allow the Town of Reading to distribute and sell electricity in Lynnfield, North Reading, and Wilmington. Lynnfield Center residents take action to apply for electric service.

1909 - Lynnfield Center Joins RMLD

RMLD extends service to Lynnfield Center on December 10 with 17 customers and a promise of streetlighting service.

1928 - Residential Rate Established

A residential rate - a local innovation - makes national and even international news. Other utilities and regulatory bodies soon follow suit, but RMLD offers the lowest rate in the state at 2.33 cents per kilowatt-hour.

1938 - Hurricane Damage

RMLD's entire system sustains extensive damage in a devastating hurricane in September. The Blue Hill Observatory in Milton registers sustained winds of 121 mph and a peak gust of 186 mph during what is called The Great Hurricane.

1939 - Haven Street Office

RMLD's business office and appliance showroom move from 565 Main St. to Haven St. The Haven Street showroom operated until 1976, and appliance service work was discontinued at the end of 1977.

1959 - Explosive Growth

Annual kilowatt-hour consumption rises to 88,322,112, an increase of 30.4% over 1958, and more than double the 1955 consumption figure. New mercury streetlights are installed in much of Reading.

1974 - Energy Crisis

An oil embargo by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Companies in 1973 causes fuel costs to skyrocket, pushing up the cost of electricity and increasing interest in conservation. In 1974, for the first time in 41 years, sales of electricity at RMLD are less than that of the previous year - falling by 3.6%.

1976 - Wholesale Power Changes

A contract signed with Boston Edison will eventually allow RMLD to purchase wholesale power from other suppliers. This comes after years of ongoing litigation over Edison's wholesale power charges, and sets the stage for an independent power supply based on contracts with different suppliers.

1994 - Move to Ash Street

For the first time in more than 50 years, RMLD moves to a new facility located at 230 Ash St. The new building is completely networked for computers, and contains improved space for staff and customers.

1995 - Automated Meter Reading (AMR)

RMLD began the process of installing new residential meters equipped with Automated Meter Reading (AMR) technology that transmits readings via radio signal activated by remote equipment. The project was completed in 1997.

2002 - Rebates Introduced

At its inception, RMLD's popular Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program offered \$50 rebates, in the form of gift certificates to be used against the customer's electric bill, for the purchase of certain energy efficient appliances.

2003/04 - Online Bill Payment

In 2003, RMLD began the implementation process for a state-of-the-art Customer Information Billing and Financial Management System. In 2004, the system was implemented in full and online bill payment was introduced.

2009/10 - Rebate Programs Expand

As renewable energy makes its way into the main stream, RMLD expands its program by adding rebates for renewable systems for both residential and commercial customers. RMLD also adds commercial rebates for those who wish to reduce energy consumption in their facility.

2010 - Smart Grid Technology

RMLD continues to embrace Smart Grid Technology, adding automation to components that allow the grid to respond to dynamic and changing conditions automatically, thereby improving the resiliency of RMLD's electric grid.

2018 - Electric Vehicle and Charging Station

Plug-in electric vehicles offer opportunities to reduce carbon emissions while saving drivers money on fuel costs. RMLD purchases a 100% electric vehicle, and installs a public charging station in the parking lot of its main office. RMLD also runs a Pilot Plug-in Electric Vehicle Rebate Program to collect information that will be used to shape future programs.

2019 - Battery Storage Unit Installed

A 5-megawatt Lithium Ion Battery unit is installed next to the distributed generator at the North Reading Substation to further support "Shredding the Peak."

2017 - Community Solar is Introduced

RMLD's community shared solar program, Solar Choice, is introduced. Five hundred customers sign up to participate in the first project, which went live in June. The second project went live in 2018 with 660 customers participating.

2017 - Distributed Generator is Installed

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2006 - Green Choice Program

RMLD introduced a GREEN CHOICE option in 2006 to offer customers a simple, affordable way to support electricity production from green power sources such as wind, hydro, solar and biomass.

1995 - RMLD Launches Website

The first iteration of RMLD's website, www.rml.com, is launched.

2000 - New Substation Added

In June 2000, construction was completed on a distribution substation connected to 115,000-volt transmission lines in North Reading, designed to accommodate growth and enhance the entire system's efficiency and reliability.

2009 - Geographic Information System

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1985 - Good Neighbor Energy Fund

RMLD joins a statewide voluntary effort to raise money to help those in financial need pay their winter energy bills. Good Neighbor Energy Fund envelopes are inserted in bill envelopes in January, a tradition that continues today.

1970 - New Substation Completed

A new substation at Causeway Road in Reading is completed, part of the largest plant expansion project in RMLD's history. The new substation increases Reading's primary power supply from 13,800 volts to 115,000 volts.

1940/41 - Underground is Extended

The underground distribution system in Reading is extended, and RMLD completes its first residential underground development: Westcroft Park.

1948 - Record-Setting Growth

By 1948, RMLD has 8,270 customers using 18,774,600 kilowatt-hours per year. Since the end of the war in 1945, RMLD has spent nearly \$333,000 on plant expansion for everything from substation equipment to new meters.

1971 - New England Power Pool

In a historic change triggered by the 1965 Northeast Blackout, the six New England states become one interconnected power pool, providing profound economic and technical benefits to all electric utilities in New England.

1992 - Energy Audits

RMLD introduces energy audits for residential and commercial customers who wish to improve energy efficiency in their home or business.

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