

# Reading Municipal Light Department

230 Ash St., Reading, MA 01867-0250  
ph: 781-944-1340 or 781-942-6598  
fx: 781-942-2409

---

## 10/26/2009 Power Contracts, Rate Setting, Green Power Minutes

Reading Municipal Light Board of Commissioners  
Power Contracts, Rate Setting, Green Power Committee  
October 26, 2009

Start Time: 7:30 pm  
End Time: 9:32 pm

### Attendees:

Commissioners: Ms. O'Neill, Mr. Hahn, and Mr. Soli  
CAB Member: Mr. Vale  
RMLD Staff: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Parenteau, and Mr. Seldon

Cushing, Jammallo, and Wheeler  
Richard Cushing

### Public Attendees

Derel Walker, Linda Wilkins, Bill Wilkins, Steve Chapman, Ronnie Bartalini

Commissioner Hahn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Hahn said that the purpose of the meeting was to have a presentation on the Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) issue at the Gaw Substation and get an update on power supply from the General Manager and Staff.

### **PCB Issue at the Gaw Substation**

Mr. Cameron said that he had Mr. Richard Cushing, from Cushing, Jammallo, and Wheeler, (CJW) the RMLD's licensed site professionals, is present tonight to make a presentation to the Committee and interested customers. Mr. Sullivan said that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) not complete sentence.

Mr. Cushing started his presentation by saying that Poly Chlorinated Biphenyl (PCBs) were detected in the soil?dirt that was excavated in connection to the transformer replacement project, which is ongoing at the Gaw Substation. The PCBs were discovered in late August prior to removal of the excavated soil from the premises. There was approximately 700,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil stored in the right of way as a result of the excavation. Mr. Cushing went on to point out where the contaminated soil was located in the substation and explain what action he and the RMLD have proposed to the what actions the RMLD plans in the future with respect to this issue. CJW is developing a report to send to the EPA that includes what contamination was found, the future sampling and removal includes, and the ongoing safety measures necessary to continue work at the site.

Mr. Chapman asked a question concerning how the samples were taken. Mr. Cushing said that some of the samples were composite and some were grab samples.

Ms. Wilkins asked is there was any way to tell if the residential properties abutting the substation were contaminated as a result of what has been discovered. Mr. Cushing said that twenty-five samples have been taken form the fence line where the substation abuts residential properties and no traces of PCB contamination were found.

Discussion ensued.

The committee thanked Mr. Cushing for his presentation.

### **Power Supply Update**

Ms. Parenteau stated that the RMLD had been contacted by Concord Steam and told that they had restructured their price structure so that the current? initial price for the project was in the \$.12/kWh range. In the past the RMLD Board had said that a price higher than \$12/kWh was not acceptable and that the RMLD should tell Concord Steam it was no

longer interested in the Concord Steam project. Mr. Parenteau said that the addition of Concord Steam into the RMLD's power supply resources will increase the overall power supply costs by about \$.003/kWh. Mr. Cameron said this increase could be abated if the RMLD sells the Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) related to the project.

Mr. Hahn made a motion seconded by Ms. O'Neill that the Power Contracts, Rate Setting, and Green Power Committee recommend to the RMLD Board that the RMLD enter into negotiations with Concord Steam for all market and attributes of the proposed wood burning plant at a capacity not to exceed 5 MW and for the General Manager to present to the RMLD Board a finalized power supply agreement for execution by the General Manager.

**Motion carried 3:0:0.**

Ms. Parenteau said that the RMLD signed an agreement for the Braintree Watson Generating Unit in November, 2008. Now that the financing is in place the contract needs to be amended for a few points. Mr. Seldon explained that the amendments to the BELD Watson Unit contract were related to the spare parts, initial fuel cost, and the bond premium related to the final financing.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hahn made a motion seconded by Ms. O'Neill that the Power Contracts, Rate Setting, and Green Power Committee recommend to the RMLD Board to authorize the General Manager to execute the "Amended and Restated Unit Power Contract between Braintree Electric Light Department and Reading Municipal Light Department Thomas A. Watson Power Plant.

**Motion carried 3:0:0.**

At 9:32 pm Mr. Hahn made a motion seconded by Ms. O'Neill to adjourn the Regular Session.

**Motion carried 3:0:0.**