



## Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

### Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

RMLD Board of Commissioners

Date: 2022-06-23

Time: 7:30 PM

Building: Reading Municipal Light Building

Location: Winfred Spurr Audio Visual Room

Address: 230 Ash Street

Session: Open Session

Purpose: General Business

Version: Final

#### Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Marlena Bitá, Chair; Philip Pacino, Vice Chair; David Talbot, Commissioner; Robert Coulter, Commissioner.

#### **Members - Not Present:**

John Stempeck, Commissioner.

#### **Others Present:**

RMLD Staff: Gregory Phipps, Interim General Manager; Erica Morse, Executive Assistant; Wendy Markiewicz, Director of Business Finance; Janet Walsh, Director of Human Resources; Hamid Jaffari, Director of Engineering and Operations.

RMLD Liaisons: Karen Herrick, Reading Select Board Liaison.

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:** Philip Pacino, Secretary Pro Tem

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### Topics of Discussion:

#### 1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Bitá called the Board of Commissioner's (BoC) meeting to order at 7:40 PM and announced that the meeting would be held both in person and remotely on Zoom plus will be streamed live on RCTV and YouTube.

#### **Opening Remarks and Introductions**

Chair Bitá read the RMLD BoC Code of Conduct and asked all remote attendees to identify themselves.

Commissioner Talbot participated in the meeting remotely on Zoom.

Commissioner Coulter served as Secretary at the meeting until the arrival of Vice Chair Pacino, who then served as the Secretary.

#### 2. Public Comment

##### **Liaisons to RMLD Board**

Karen Herrick, Reading Select Board Liaison, provided comments at the meeting.

Herrick said that the Reading community is thrilled about the EV Chargers and thanked the BoC for extending an invitation to the SB to attend the ribbon cutting.

The Town will be working on EV specific parking regulations; Town Hall staff will reach out and coordinate with RMLD. A draft will tentatively be presented at the July 19<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting.

Coleen O'Brien, General Manager, has been working within the industry on a letter regarding Green Communities. Currently, the legislation is waiting approval from the State House. Herrick, as a SB member, urges the RMLD to continue this work, which will be brought to the next SB meeting.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at the meeting.

### **3. Report on the Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting**

Commissioner Coulter attended the CAB meeting on June 23, 2022, immediately proceeding this BoC meeting, which had the same agenda items as the BoC meeting.

### **4. Interim General Manager Report**

Gregory Phipps, Acting General Manager, provided an update to the BoC.

### **Talent Acquisition and Talent Management**

Phipps referenced the current employment opportunities, located on the RMLD website.

Phipps said that there are currently 11 open positions across a variety of different roles.

Julie Blackley, the new Communications Manager, will be working with HR to actively promote RMLD as a dynamic entity within a changing and dynamic industry.

RMLD attended several events at local colleges, which resulted in three summer interns, who are currently working on a variety of things in the Integrated Resources Department.

Phipps noted that networking is a common way to find opportunities and encouraged the BoC and Reading Select Board to direct anyone interested in RMLD to the RMLD website.

The primary contact for recruitment is Janet Walsh, Director of HR, but those who are interested are welcome to speak with anyone at RMLD.

Phipps said that talent acquisition is a critical piece for RMLD; there is a series of transitions happening due to growth, retirement, and open positions.

### **Salary Survey**

The RMLD plans to commission an external salary survey in the month of July. The Department is currently pursuing a few parties through the procurement process.

RMLD uses the annual MEAM salary survey; but is commissioning the external survey to ensure that the Department attracts and retains the right people.

## 5. Annual Report Confirmation

Phipps presented the Annual Report confirmation. The annual report can be found in the BoC packet on the RMLD website (Pages 3- 75).

The CY21 report theme is versatility; a new focus championed by the GM in 2021.

Portions of the standard format were revised for CY21. The report is more customer focused, organized around customer needs instead of the traditional organization by department.

Commissioner Coulter made a **motion**, seconded by Chair Bitá, that the Board of Commissioners approve the Annual Report for CY21 as presented, on the recommendation of the General Manager.

**Motion Carried: 3: 0: 2** (3 in favor; 2 absent). Vice Chair Pacino and Commissioner Stempeck were absent from the meeting. Vice Chair Pacino voiced his approval of the motion upon his arrival.

## 6. ENE Board of Directors

Phipps reported on the Energy New England (ENE) Board of Directors.

Phipps stated that RMLD is an equity owner in Energy New England (ENE) and the GM is the representative of RMLD on the Board of Directors.

The GM and Phipps attended the most recent meeting; the GM was thanked for her contributions to the Board of Directors on behalf of ENE.

The intention is for the Interim General Manager or newly appointed GM to fill the vacated role.

Commissioner Coulter asked a question relative to the Class B Director.

Phipps responded that the Class B director is related to the level of ownership RMLD holds.

Commissioner Talbot requested a timely update to the BoC on what ENE is working on both in advance of and after each meeting.

Commissioner Coulter made a **motion**, seconded by Chair Bitá, that pursuant to Section 3.2 of the Operating Agreement of the Energy New England, LLC, the Reading Municipal Light Department Board of Commissioners hereby appoint Greg Phipps as a Class B Director of the Energy New England, LLC Board of Directors for a term of three years.

**Motion Carried: 3: 0: 2** (3 in favor; 2 absent). Vice Chair Pacino and Commissioner Stempeck were absent from the meeting. Vice Chair Pacino voiced his approval of the motion upon his arrival.

## 7. 2022 NEPPA Conference

Phipps reported on the upcoming 2022 NEPPA Conference. The presented materials can be found in the BoC packet on the RMLD website (Pages 76-79).

Phipps noted that the NEPPA conference is an important regional event for the BoC, the CAB, and 1-2 members of the senior management team to attend.

Phipps stated that the topics are typically timely and relevant to the RMLD, the content useful, and networking opportunities beneficial.

Commissioner Coulter made a **motion**, seconded by Chair Bitá, that the Board approve Greg Phipps's travel to, and attendance at, the NEPPA Annual Conference to take place August 14-17, 2022, at Snowflake Mountain Resort, in Stowe, Vermont.

**Motion Carried: 3: 0: 2** (3 in favor; 2 absent). Vice Chair Pacino and Commissioner Stempeck were absent from the meeting. Vice Chair voiced his approval of the motion upon his arrival.

The BoC voted on Commissioner who can be in attendance at the 2022 NEPPA Conference.

Commissioner Coulter made a **motion**, seconded by Chair Bitá, that the Board approve travel to, and attendance at, the NEPPA Annual Conference to take place August 14-17, 2022, at Snowflake Mountain Resort, in Stowe, Vermont for up to five Commissioners.

**Motion Carried: 3: 0: 2** (3 in favor; 2 absent). Vice Chair Pacino and Commissioner Stempeck were absent from the meeting. Vice Chair Pacino voiced his approval of the motion upon his arrival.

#### 8. Report on Town Payments

Wendy Markiewicz, Director of Business Finance, presented on Town Payments. The presentation can be found in the BoC packet on the RMLD website (Pages 80-84).

Markiewicz stated that town payments occur twice a year; June 30 and December 31.

##### **Pilot Payment Breakdown for CY2022** (Page 82)

Markiewicz said that payments are based on \$86M net plant and 658,000 kWh sales. Each town's payment is based on the town's proportion of total RMLD load. The June 30 payment (issued) totals approximately \$860K. Each town was communicated to and should have received their check.

##### **New Calculation Formula** (Page 83)

##### **New Town of Reading ROI Estimated Payment Schedule** (Page 84)

Markiewicz explained that the three-year average of kWh sales is multiplied by 3.875 mils which gives a total payment to the Town of Reading for 2022 of \$2.5M. Three years prior the total was ~ \$2.4M each year.

Herrick requested that the new payment chart be circulated.

#### 9. IRD Report

Phipps presented the Integrated Resources report. The presentation can be found in the BoC packet on the RMLD website (Pages 85-90).



Additional information relative to this presentation will be made available on the RMLD website.

Vice Chair Pacino joined the meeting at 8:05 PM.

The presentation should be considered in the context of the significant amount of press circulating relative to the dramatic increase in energy costs.

The content of the presentation outlines what can be expected from a customer's perspective in terms of monthly electric bills from RMLD.

#### **Power Supply Context (Page 87)**

Phipps stated that the cost of natural gas is the primary driver of electricity in the wholesale market in New England.

Due to Russia's activities in the Ukraine, the cost of energy, specifically natural gas and oil, has been driven up. New England energy costs are now influenced by international events.

As 87% of RMLD's power supply is under fixed contracts, high increases in the wholesale market are only affecting 13% of power supply, in terms of MWH volume.

The global context, the forward price curve increases, and the Jan – May actuals results yield updated power supply forecast for the 2022 power supply at \$66M; or 9% higher than the original budget.

RMLD is in the process of increasing hedging. Typically hedged power is between 80-85%; currently RMLD's power supply is at 87% and striving towards the mid-90s. However, reasonably priced supply is very hard to find, most prices are at forward price curve levels and hence, not worth locking in high prices.

Phipps noted that the high cost of energy is expected to continue for 18-24 months. The duration and magnitude of the cost increase is heavily influenced by what is happening in Europe.

#### **Customer Cost - Residential Example (Page 101)**

Phipps noted that most customers are residential, 26,000 out of 30,000 meters and 40% of total load.

The monthly power supply cost (pass through) is the actual cost that RMLD occurs on behalf of customers.

Two cost variables are the fuel and PPCT charge (capacity and transmission). The rate stabilization and fuel funds act as buffers against variability.

The goal is to reflect actual cost and dampen volatility.

From a customer perspective, power supply is key piece and then annual operating cost.

Phipps noted that the 2022 line in the *Average Residential Bill by Month* graph reflects actuals for the first half of 2022 and forecasted for the rest of the year.

The typical residential bill ranges from just under \$100 to over \$170.

Seasonality is associated with what customers pay each month, which is primarily driven by usage. Phipps cited the example of AC in the summer.

Although costs driven by usage could change dramatically, in general, customer behavior is stable and predictable.

A rate increase was implemented in January 2022, which does not change until new rates are approved and filed. This leaves power supply cost as the only monthly variable.

In 2021 the typical average bill over the year was \$118. The 2022 forecast was ~ 12% higher (\$133). The \$15 difference is due to the stability of operating costs throughout the year and the unanticipated power supply variability. Power supply increased from \$67 in 2021 to \$77 in 2022. This is driven by external markets and the amount of energy the Department has in an open/unhedged position.

Phipps stated that the key takeaways of the presentation are as follows:

- The ability for the RMLD and the BoC members to provide informed responses when customers ask questions relative to increases in their bill. Phipps cited the example of explaining that the difference is driven by power supply costs and global factors.
- RMLD customers are in good shape, where the rate or cost shock will not be significant.
- Seasonality plays a role in cost; summer costs will be higher due to AC.

Vice Chair Pacino asked a question relative to the monthly bill chart. Phipps responded that the chart reflects only residential customers and is an average monthly bill Residential allows year to year comparison of the entire class.

Phipps noted that a question was posed at the CAB meeting relative to how RMLD compares to other utilities.

RMLD receives a quarterly report in terms of the Department's rates to other utilities in the region (both MLPs and IOUs).

In the residential space RMLD falls in the middle of the MLPs and significantly less than IOUs.

In the commercial and industrial space RMLD falls at the low end of the scale, largely due to the cost structure associated with the large customer concentration in Wilmington.

Residential requires more network equipment (poles, wire, transformers) to cover a larger geography.

RMLD, as an MLP, can implement long-term contracts, which reduce the exposure to the volatility that other energy providers face. From a legislative perspective, IOUs are limited to 6-month terms.

**Renewable Choice (Page 89)**

The renewable choice program has not been adopted as much as RMLD had hoped.

For residential, 66 out of 26K customers opted in; for commercial one out of 3K customers opted in, and zero industrial customers have opted in.

Two industrial customers are motivated to adopt the program to meet corporate goals. These companies have environmental targets they are mandated to meet. Public companies face the challenge of balancing the cost versus corporate requirements.

As previously stated, in July the RMLD will be transitioning its initial presence relative to social media use.

Vice Chair Pacino previously requested that the Department revisit the annualized line and see if there needs to be adjustments in 2022. This topic will be discussed in September.

Currently, RMLD is retiring 26% of all certificates. The Renewable Choice Program allows for customers to contribute and enables RMLD to retire more.

Chair Bitz suggested other ways to incentivize customers, such as an incentive for the first 1K customers who sign up. Chair Bitz cited the example of a gift card to a business in one of the four towns.

Phipps noted that because the program is opt-in, there is flexibility in terms of how the RMLD incentivizes customers. The incentive must be fair and flexible but can be creative.

Vice Chair Pacino commented that he is disappointed in the numbers.

Phipps stated that the RMLD is transitioning to a strategy that targets social media, where most customers are.

**10. RMLD Procurement Requests for Board Approval**

Hamid Jaffari, Director of Engineering and Operations reported the procurement requests for Board approval. The materials presented can be found in the BoC packet on the RMLD website (Pages 91-93).

**IFP 2022-25 – ABB Gridshield 15kV Reclosers**

IFP 2022-25 is part of the grid modernization initiative the RMLD started in 2015.

The delivery date has not changed since the previous bid in 2021.

The cost has increased by \$6,515 from the previous bid (\$20,243).

The increase in cost from 2021 is due to factors such as the rising cost of materials and labor, the energy crisis, and market volatility.

Vice Chair Pacino asked a question relative to the delivery dates being pushed back due to supply chain issues, and if there is a penalty for that. Hamid responded that for this item, delivery is likely to be closer to 17 weeks, but the timeframe is not certain and there is no penalty for delayed delivery.

Vice Chair Pacino made a **motion**, seconded by Chair Bitá, that proposal IFP 2022-25 for ABB GridShield 15kV Reclosers be awarded to: WESCO Distribution, Inc. for \$107,032, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 56D, on the recommendation of the General Manager.

**Motion Carried: 4:0:1** (4 in favor; one absent). Commissioner Stempeck was absent from the meeting.

#### 11. Scheduling

Chair Bitá presented on the upcoming RMLD BoC meeting dates and warrant schedule.

##### **Subsequent RMLD BoC Meetings**

Next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday July 21, 2022.

There will be no August meeting.

All future meetings will be tentatively scheduled for the Third Thursday of each month.

##### **Joint Meeting with the Select Board on Economic Development**

The next Joint meeting with the SB on Economic Development will be held on June 28, 2022, at Town Hall at 6:00 PM.

##### **Warrant Schedule**

For the July warrant, Commissioner Coulter will be covering the CAB; Commissioner Talbot will be covering AP; and Commissioner Stempeck will be covering payroll.

#### 12. Executive Session

At 8:30 PM, Vice Chair Pacino made a **motion**, seconded by Chair Bitá, that the Board of Commissioners go into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts G.L. c.164 section 47D, exemption from public records and open meeting requirements in certain instances, To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body; and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

**Motion Carried: 4:0:1** (4 in favor; one absent). Commissioner Stempeck was absent from the meeting.

#### 13. Adjournment

Vice Chair Pacino made a **motion**, seconded by Commissioner Talbot, that the RMLD Board of Commissioners adjourn regular session. Note: Roll call vote required

**Motion Carried: 4:0:1** (4 in favor; one absent). Commissioner Stempeck was absent from the meeting.

Regular Session adjourned at 9:19 PM.

A true copy of the RMLD Board of Commissioners minutes  
As approved by a majority the Commission.

  
Philip B Pacino (Dec 20, 2022 17:52 EST)

Philip B. Pacino, Secretary Pro Tem  
RMLD Board of Commissioners





**READING MUNICIPAL  
LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
REGULAR SESSION**

**Thursday June 23, 2022**

**ANNUAL REPORT CONFIRMATION**  
**ATTACHMENT 1**

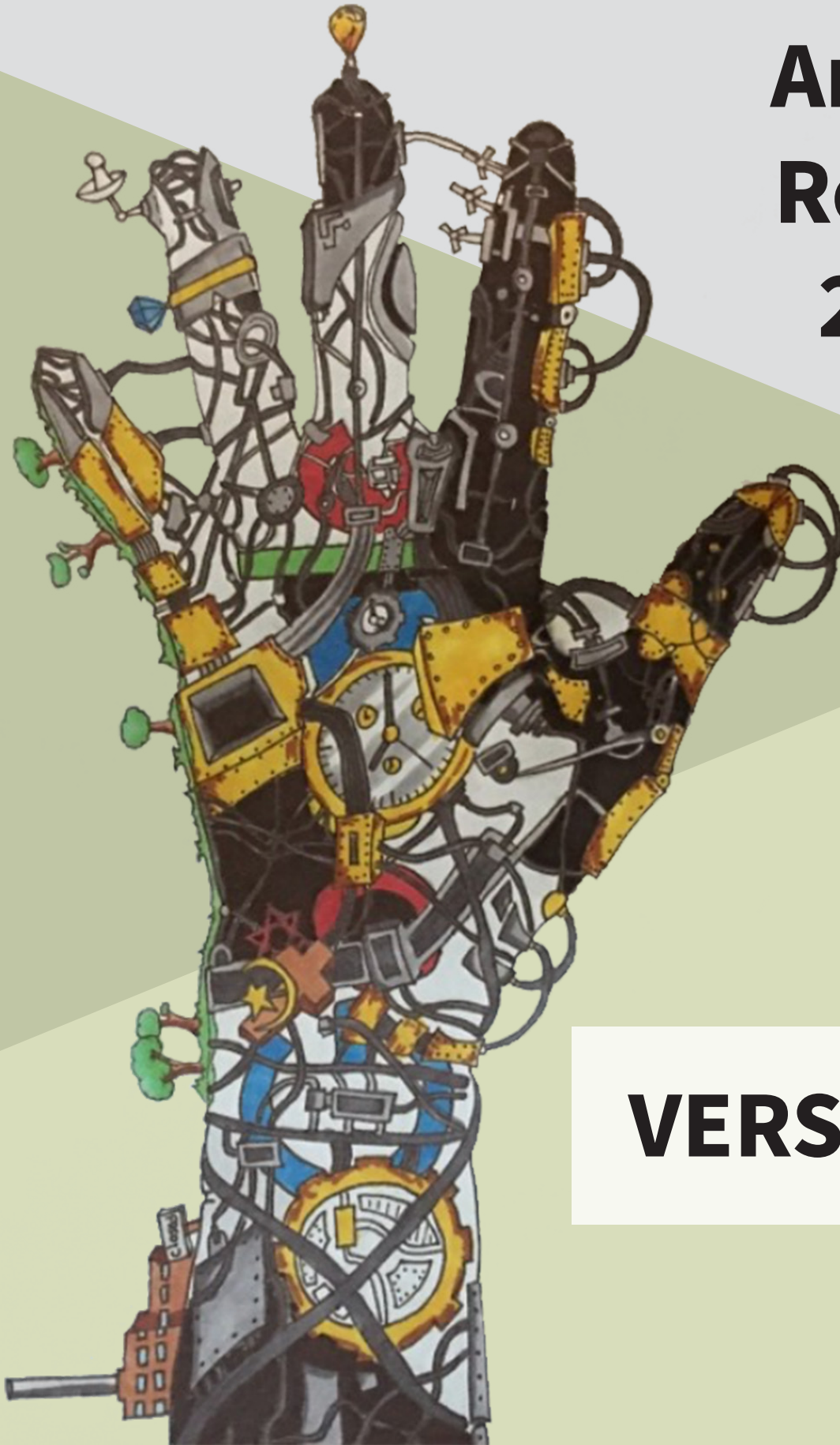


RMLD



Reading Municipal Light Department  
RELIABLE POWER

# Annual Report 2021



## VERSATILITY

# Pictured on Cover:

## *“Helping Hand”*

High School Art Contest - First-Place Winner

**Cameron Sullivan**

Wilmington High School, Grade 10



High School Art Contest - Second-Place Winner

**Keira Lord**

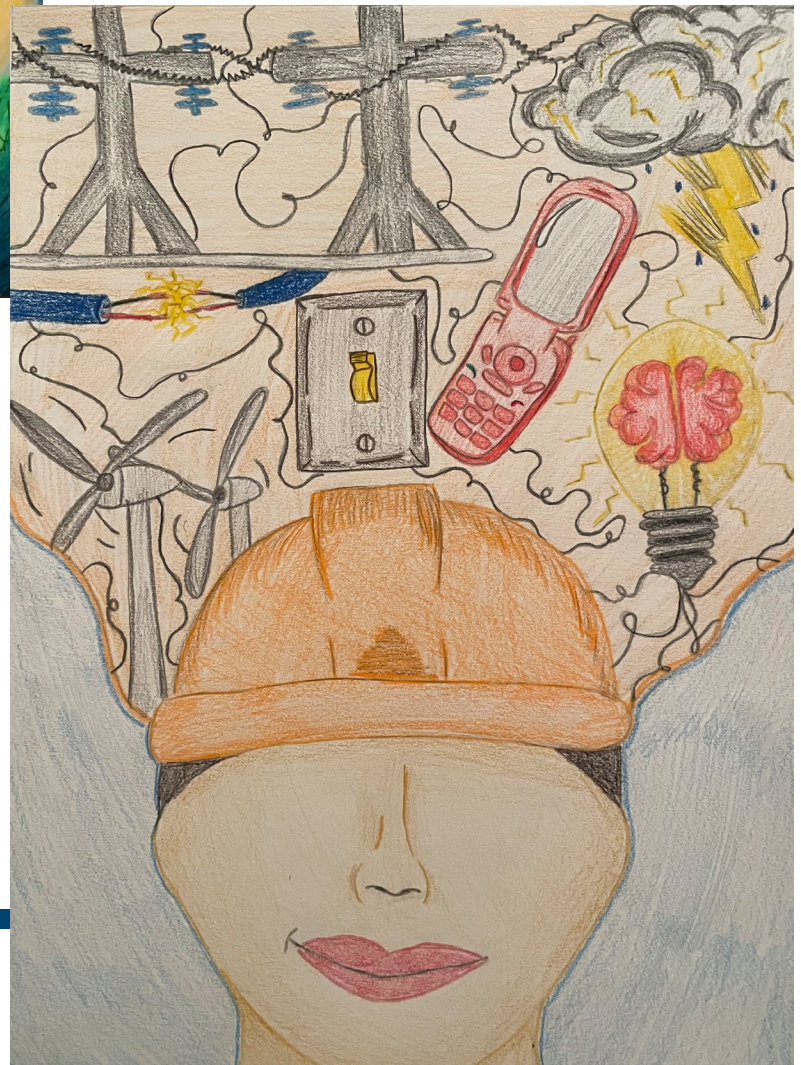
North Reading High School, Grade 12

## *“Connected by Light”*





High School Art Contest  
Third-Place Winner  
**Elanor Hart**  
North Reading High School  
Grade 11  
*“A Bright Idea”*



High School Art Contest  
Fourth-Place Winner  
**Carina O'Donnell**  
Wilmington High School  
Grade 11

*“Wired for Learning”*

All submissions and student write-ups are posted on [www.rml.com](http://www.rml.com).  
Thanks to the students who participated for submitting their beautiful artwork!



# READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Founded in 1894, Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) is a municipal electric utility serving over 70,000 residents in the towns of Reading, North Reading, Wilmington, and Lynnfield Center. RMLD has over 30,000 meter connections within its 51 square mile service territory.

Residential customers account for approximately 40% of RMLD’s electricity sales while commercial, industrial, and municipal customers account for about 60% of sales. There are over 3,000 commercial and/or industrial customers in the communities RMLD serves.

RMLD is the largest (in terms of electrical load) of 41 Massachusetts municipal light utilities and is not-for-profit, locally owned, and locally controlled.

A Citizens’ Advisory Board is comprised of representatives from the communities RMLD serves. The Citizens’ Advisory Board makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The five-member Board of Commissioners, elected by Reading voters, governs the utility.

Residents Served	Service Towns	Meters	Service Area
70K+	4	30K+	51 sq. miles

RMLD



Reading Municipal Light Department  
RELIABLE POWER

[www.rmlld.com](http://www.rmlld.com) | 781-942-6598 | Twitter: [@ReadingLight](https://twitter.com/ReadingLight)



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



**Robert Coulter**  
**Chair**



**Philip Pacino**  
**Vice Chair**



**David Talbot**  
**Commissioner**



**John Stempeck**  
**Commissioner**



**Marlena Bitá**  
**Commissioner**

# CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD



**Jason Small, Chair**  
**North Reading**



**Vivek Soni, Vice Chair**  
**Reading**



**George Hooper, Secretary**  
**Wilmington**

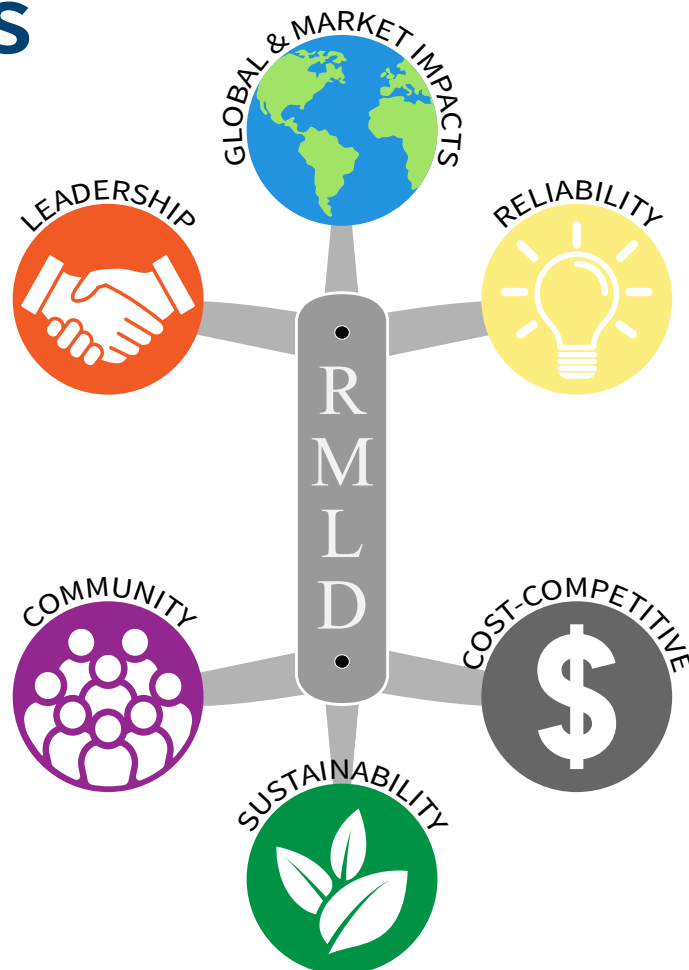


**Dennis Kelley**  
**Wilmington**

**Lynnfield Position - Vacant**

# TO OUR CUSTOMERS

The RMLD team exuded tremendous VERSATILITY in Calendar Year 2021 to successfully handle several seismic changes that impacted the electric utility industry, some short term and others perhaps indefinite. The new Massachusetts Climate Law requirements imposed on MLPs, supply chain challenges on pricing and delivery, reduced availability of construction vendor services, talent acquisition hurdles, and continued COVID pandemic waves, required an evolution of a new versatile and integrated workforce to achieve the critical functions necessary to support our customers. The RMLD ensured continued successes in reliability, competitive rates, sustainability, community programs, and safety.



On the heels of Calendar Year 2020, in which the novel virus pushed the world, the RMLD, and its communities into immediate behavioral changes; an improved RMLD emerged in 2021 with momentum in areas of virtual technology, automation, clean energy initiatives, and cyber security; supported by its employees, its governing bodies, and its customers.

**RMLD VERSATILITY:** the ability to adapt all the RMLD skill proficiencies to accomplish critical functions in leadership, global market impacts, reliability, cost-competitive, sustainability, and community for the benefit of our customers.



Be well,

**Coleen O'Brien**  
General Manager

# 2021 CRITICAL FUNCTIONS



## Leadership

Strategic  
Planning &  
Roadmaps

Financial Health

Cultural Health

Talent  
Acquisition and  
Management

Labor  
Compliance

Legislative and  
Industry  
Advocacy (local,  
state, federal)

Change  
Management

Training

Safety  
Compliance



## Global and Market Impacts

COVID protocols

2021 Climate  
Law

Global  
Workforce  
Impacts  
(vendor)

Supply Chain  
Challenges



## Reliability

Preventative  
Maintenance

Outage  
Management

Resilience

Infrastructure  
Improvements

Physical and  
Cyber Security



## Cost- Competitive

Operating  
Efficiency

Peak  
Management  
(Shred the Peak)

Power Supply  
Management

Digital/Paperless

Streamlined  
Integrated  
Processes



## Sustainability

Policy 30 / 2021  
Climate Law

Certificate  
Management

Power Supply  
Portfolio

Energy Efficiency

Electrification



## Community

Customer  
Communication

Customer  
Education

School Programs

# CRITICAL FUNCTIONS SUPPORTING RMLD CUSTOMERS

## Customer Facing

	Leadership	G&M Impacts	Reliability	Cost-Competive	Sustainability	Community
Increased customer communications and education via a monthly customer e-newsletter, webinars, and virtual Public Power Week programs which included videos and family activities to engage and educate on a variety of topics.					✓	✓
Completed customer survey on customer satisfaction; determined areas for improvement and future direction.	✓					✓
Worked with numerous customers facing hardships and implemented creative payment plans; achieved most successful accounts receivable turnaround in years - higher than pre-COVID numbers.		✓				✓
Installed customer Outage Management System (OMS) and Integrated Voice Response (IVR) for 2022 launch.			✓			✓
Developed Renewable Choice, an opt-in program for customers who wish to contribute to additional renewable resources above RMLD's annual renewable/non-carbon targets for 2022 launch.					✓	✓
Initiated cross training of Customer Service with Billing for faster issue resolution and improved efficiency.				✓		
Promoted Shred the Peak programs to reduce peak system load and reduce wholesale power costs for all customers.				✓	✓	✓



# CRITICAL FUNCTIONS SUPPORTING RMLD CUSTOMERS

## Customer Facing (Continued)

	Leadership	G&M Impacts	Reliability	Cost-Competive	Sustainability	Community
Completed Cost of Service Study and implemented updated rates for 2022, incorporating electrification and promoting cost equity across rate classes.				✓		
Won MasseVIP Grant to install five Level 2 EV chargers in RMLD service territory. Worked with Town leadership to identify three locations in Reading and two locations in Wilmington. Installation to be completed in 2022.					✓	✓
Initiated Meter Data Management (MDM) and Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) upgrade in preparation of increase customer control of energy use.	✓			✓		✓
Accelerated Air Source Heat Pump (efficient HVAC) adoption via webinars, program updates, and contractor recruitment; paid 271 rebates (up significantly from prior year).					✓	
Extended solar rebate program for behind-the-meter installations upon the expiration of the DOER matching rebate program to incentivize customers to install solar. Rebates supported 22 new residential and two new commercial solar installations in 2022.					✓	✓
Restructured RMLD's internal Renewable and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Regarding Power Supply Procurement Policy (Policy 30) to establish a decarbonization strategy and non-carbon certificate management program that meets the compliance requirements of the Massachusetts 2021 Climate Law while minimizing rate shock.				✓	✓	✓
Added over 200,000 MWH/year of new, long-term, non-carbon contracts to RMLD's power supply portfolio to help minimize future upward rate pressure.				✓	✓	✓

# CRITICAL FUNCTIONS SUPPORTING RMLD CUSTOMERS

## Distribution Network Reliability

	Leadership	G&M Impacts	Reliability	Cost-Competitive	Sustainability	Community
Completed site due diligence for potential location of new Wilmington substation to replace Substation 5, which has reached the end of its useful life. The new substation is critical to system reliability.			✓			
Received APPA three-year Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) Platinum designation (2021-2024).	✓		✓			
Completed electrification study to determine impact of increased load on distribution system.			✓			
Replaced 179 aged or overloaded transformers systemwide for improved system reliability.			✓			
Implemented proactive approach to stock management to ensure availability of spare parts in light of supply chain challenges.		✓	✓	✓		
Negotiated 3rd party Small Cell Attachment contracts with Verizon and AT&T for expansion of their 5G networks.	✓	✓				
Continued initiative to convert, upgrade, or replace primary metering sites to increase distribution network reliability.	✓		✓			
Upgraded underground distribution network at six locations for increased system reliability.			✓			
Completed Geographic Information System (GIS) overhaul for accurate tracking and management of system assets.			✓	✓		

# CRITICAL FUNCTIONS SUPPORTING RMLD CUSTOMERS

## Security and Technology

	Leadership	G&M Impacts	Reliability	Cost-Competive	Sustainability	Community
Implemented firewall upgrades for internet facing services and SCADA system to enhance distribution system security.			✓			
Rebuilt the entire Production Environment (Servers, Computers, Storage, Networks, Wireless) for increased reliability and productivity.			✓	✓		
Fulfilled NERC physical and cyber security standards requirements: implemented secure/isolated networks at substations.			✓			
Evaluated HRIS software and streamlined accounts payable and payroll processes with the goal of shifting to paperless to reduce the cost of supplies and benefit the environment.				✓		
Implemented new backup strategy and initiated comprehensive Disaster Recovery Plan to protect IT infrastructure and data. Added backup internet provider to provide redundancy. Added end-point protection, encryption, and multi-factor authentication for increased workstation security.	✓		✓			

# CRITICAL FUNCTIONS SUPPORTING RMLD CUSTOMERS

## Workforce

	Leadership	G&M Impacts	Reliability	Cost-Competitive	Sustainability	Community
Hired 13 new employees despite workforce challenges resulting from COVID-19.	✓	✓				
Initiated negotiation of three-year contracts with three collective bargaining units.	✓					
Completed Workplace Compliance & Employee Performance Review training for senior managers and sexual harassment prevention training for all employees.	✓					
Conducted RMLD and joined Town of Reading safety committee meetings. Completed OSHA safety compliance standards and planning for future improvements.	✓	✓	✓			
Promoted voluntary wellness programs to employees to support healthier lifestyles, reduced healthcare costs, and increased productivity.	✓			✓		
Managed COVID-19 impacts including internal communication to employees, updates to RMLD Infectious Disease Plan, payments of FFCRA benefits to qualifying employees, and tracking and reimbursement of eligible COVID-related costs.	✓	✓				

# 2021 STATISTICS

RETAIL SALES  
**658,334,436**  
kilowatt hours (kWh)

RMLD PEAK DEMAND  
**167,600 kWh**  
June 29, 2021

**2,547**  
Trouble calls answered

**134**  
Poles installed/replaced

**234**  
Routine meter replacements

**3,045**  
Tree spans trimmed

**5,571**  
Underground facility  
locations marked out

NEW SERVICES	
Reading	
141 Residential	14 Commercial
Lynnfield	
9 Residential	2 Commercial
North Reading	
69 Residential	16 Commercial
Wilmington	
27 Residential	15 Commercial
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>293</b>

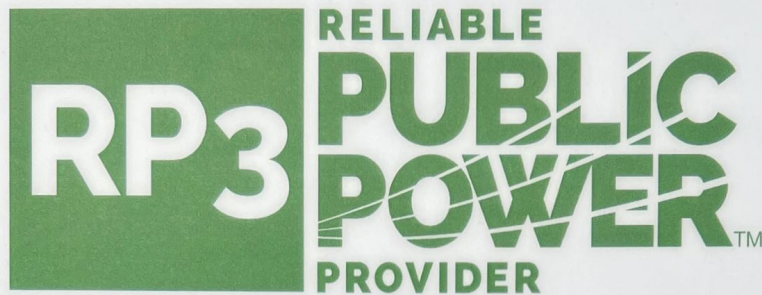
# RECOGNIZED FOR RELIABILITY

In 2021, RMLD earned the prestigious **Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3)**® designation from the American Public Power Association (APPA) for providing reliable and safe electric service.

The RP3 designation, which lasts for three years, recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. Criteria include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity. To be considered for the RP3 designation, utilities submit a detailed application with accompanying documentation which is reviewed and scored by a panel of nationwide utility experts. RMLD joined more than 275 (of the over 2,000) public power utilities nationwide that hold the RP3 designation.

In 2021, RMLD also earned APPA's **Certificate of Excellence in Reliability** for the sixth consecutive year.

Some of the preventative maintenance initiatives that are critical to achieving award-winning reliability include a comprehensive tree trimming program, planned upgrades to distribution assets including poles, wires, and transformers, and regular substation maintenance.



READING MUNICIPAL  
LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
READING, MA

PLATINUM MEMBER  
2021 – 2024

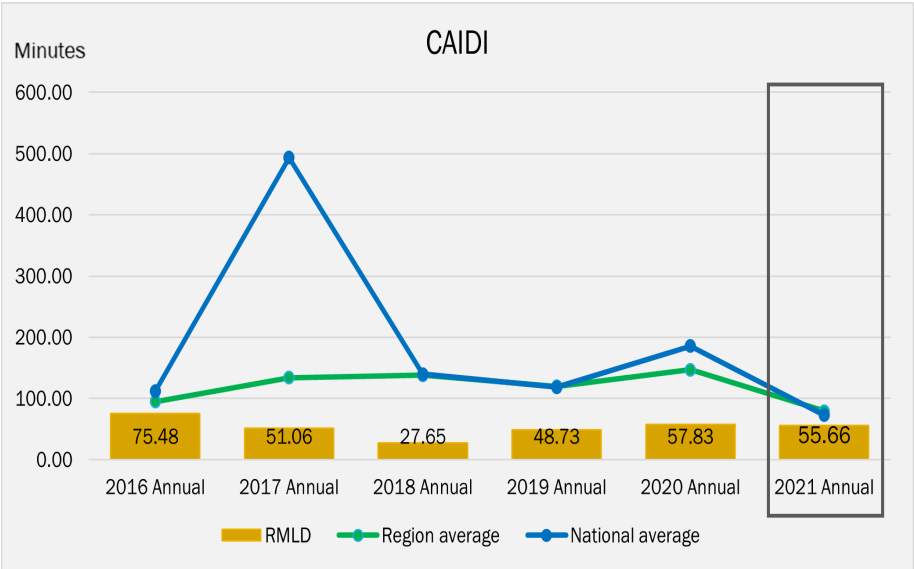
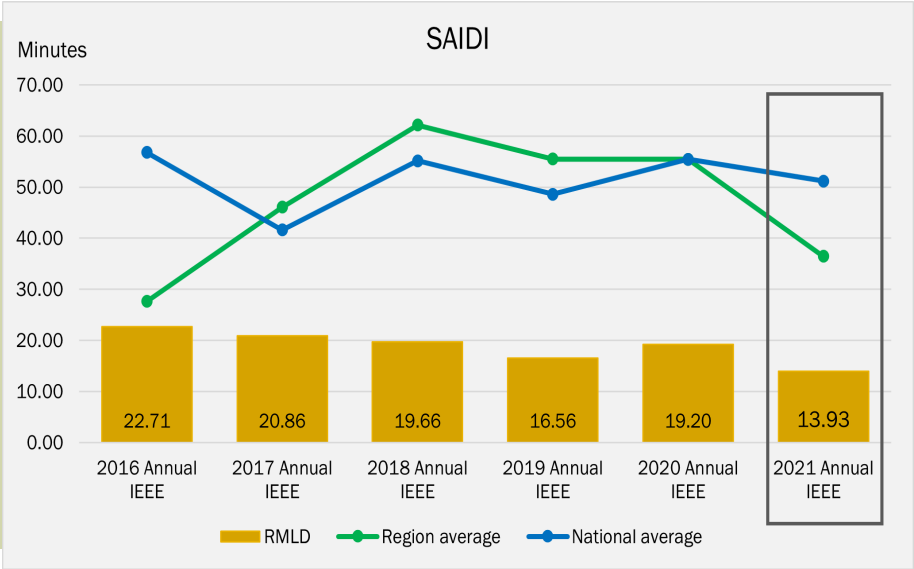


# SYSTEM RELIABILITY INDICES

Key industry-standard metrics enable the RMLD to measure and track system reliability.

**SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index)** is defined as the average interruption duration (in minutes) for customers served by the utility system during a specific time period. Lower numbers are better.

$$\text{SAIDI} = \frac{\text{the sum of all customer interruption durations within the specified timeframe}}{\text{average number of customers served during that period}}$$

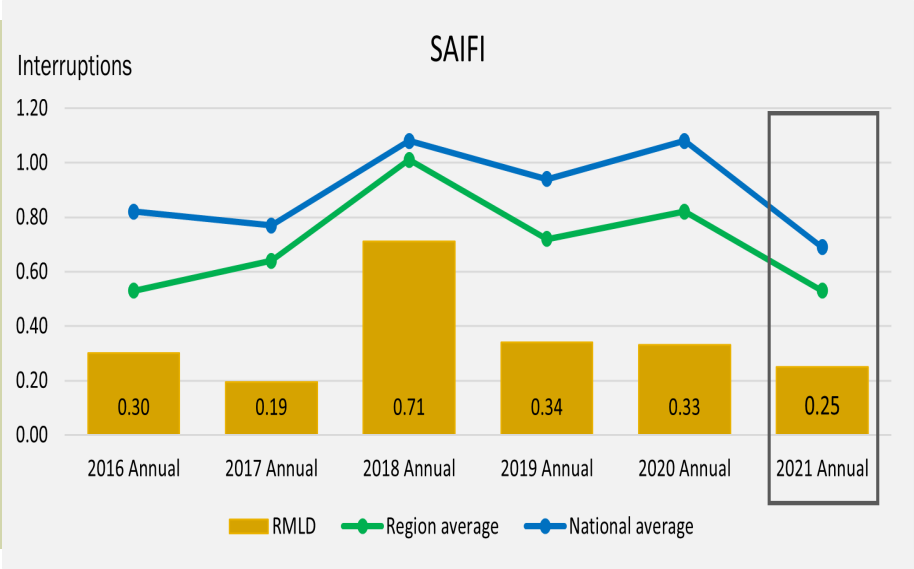


**CAIDI (Customer Average Interruption Duration Index)** is defined as the average duration (in minutes) of an interruption experienced by customers during a specific timeframe. Lower numbers are better.

$$\text{CAIDI} = \frac{\text{the sum of all customer interruption durations during that time period}}{\text{the number of customers that experienced one or more interruptions during that time period}}$$

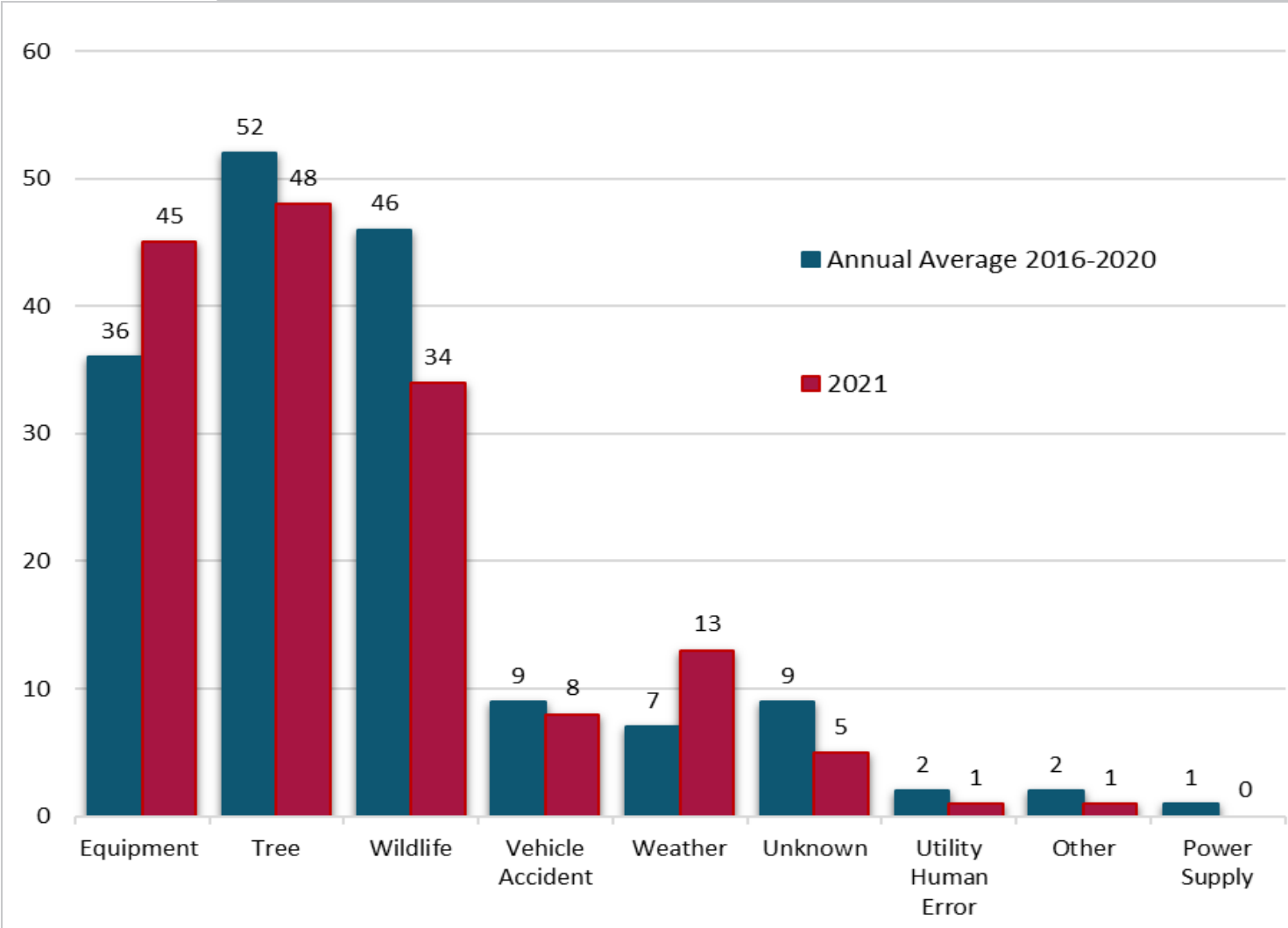
**SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency)** is defined as the average number of instances a customer on the utility system will experience an interruption during a specific time period. Lower numbers are better.

$$\text{SAIFI} = \frac{\text{the total number of customer interruptions}}{\text{average number of customers served during that period}}$$





# OUTAGE CAUSES





# ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ELECTRIFICATION

## PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Program	# of Customers
Cordless Electric Yard Equipment Rebates	291
Air Source Heat Pump Rebates	271
Electric Panel Upgrade Rebates	66
EV Charger Rebates - Residential	51
Energy Star Appliance Rebates - Residential	409
Heat Pump Water Heater Rebates - Residential	2
Online Store Rebates - Residential	182
Home Energy Assessments - Residential	145
Lighting Retrofit Rebates - Commercial (discontinued in 2021)	23
Custom Rebates - Commercial	1
Holiday Lighting Rebates - Municipal	3

**Total Annual Estimated Energy Saved:** 1,208,621 kWh

**Total Annual Estimated Carbon Reduction:** 3,712,226 Lbs



# PEAK DEMAND REDUCTION AND INSTALLED SOLAR

In 2021, RMLD continued efforts to offset wholesale power supply (capacity and transmission) costs related to peak demand. The following efforts produced a net savings of approximately \$1,000,000; these savings are passed directly to RMLD customers:

- Continued to optimally dispatch RMLD’s 5 MW, 10 MWh lithium-ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and 2.5 MW Distributed Generator located at Substation 3 to offset peak wholesale market costs resulting in savings of approximately \$980,000 in 2021.
- Promoted residential Shred the Peak Program and continued to enroll customers for email alerts (over 2,600 currently). An estimated 1,200 customers participated and reduced their load by an estimated 0.5 kW per home. This resulted in a total estimated reduction of approximately 0.60 MW and savings of approximately \$11,500.
- Continued pilot Peak Demand Reduction (PDR) Program for our largest commercial, industrial, and municipal customers to effectively promote demand management and reward key accounts who achieve load shed during events.
- Solar Choice 1, with a rating of 1 MW AC, produced 1,518,431 kWh. Solar Choice 2, with a rating of 1.7 MW AC, produced 2,297,490 kWh. The output from these two community Solar Choice projects during peak demand hours saved a combined total of about \$18,700 in 2021; these savings were distributed amongst program participants.

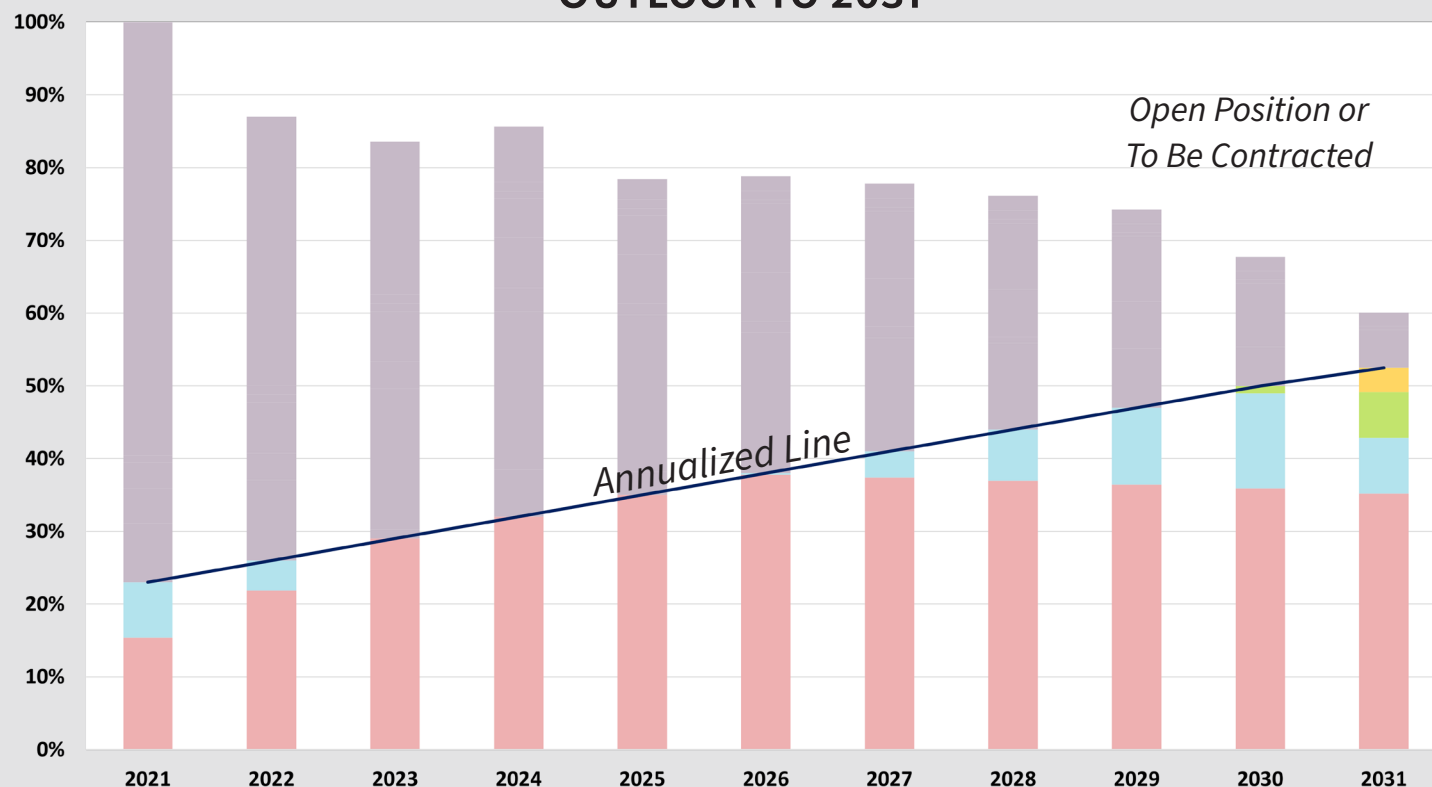


INSTALLED SOLAR			
Class	New Arrays	Total Arrays	Capacity (kilowatts)
Residential	22	174	1,302
Commercial	2	19	2,154
Wholesale	0	3	4,709

Total: 8,165 kW AC

# POWER SUPPLY CLIMATE BILL COMPLIANCE

## OUTLOOK TO 2031



Mixed & Sold

Hydro - Retired

Solar - Retired

Nuclear - Retired

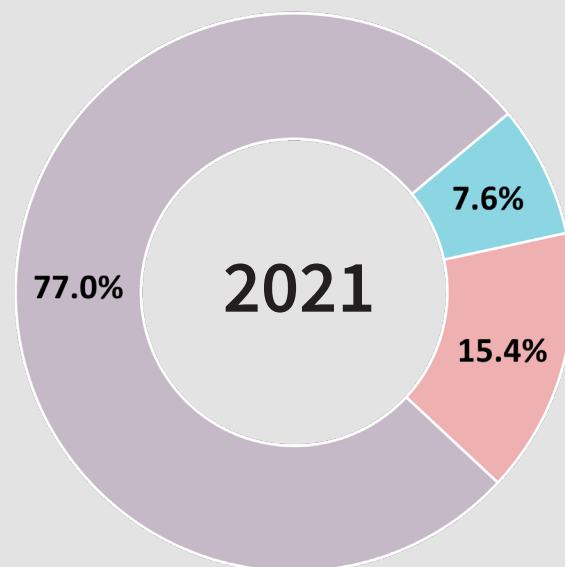
Wind - Retired

Annualized Target  
(Climate Law)

## DEFINITIONS

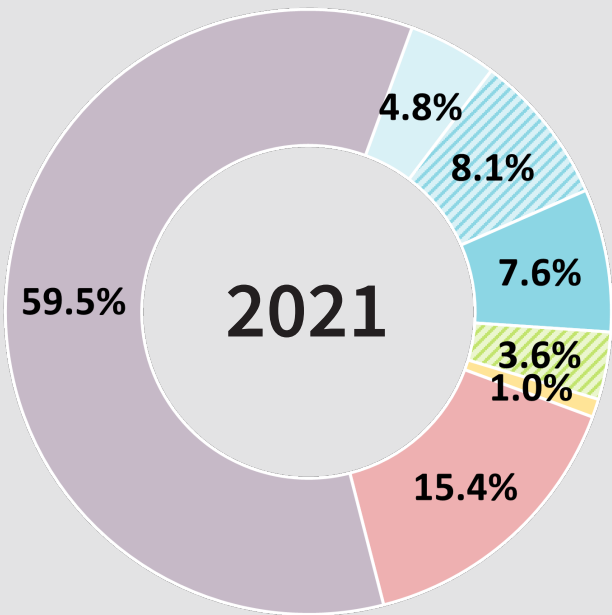
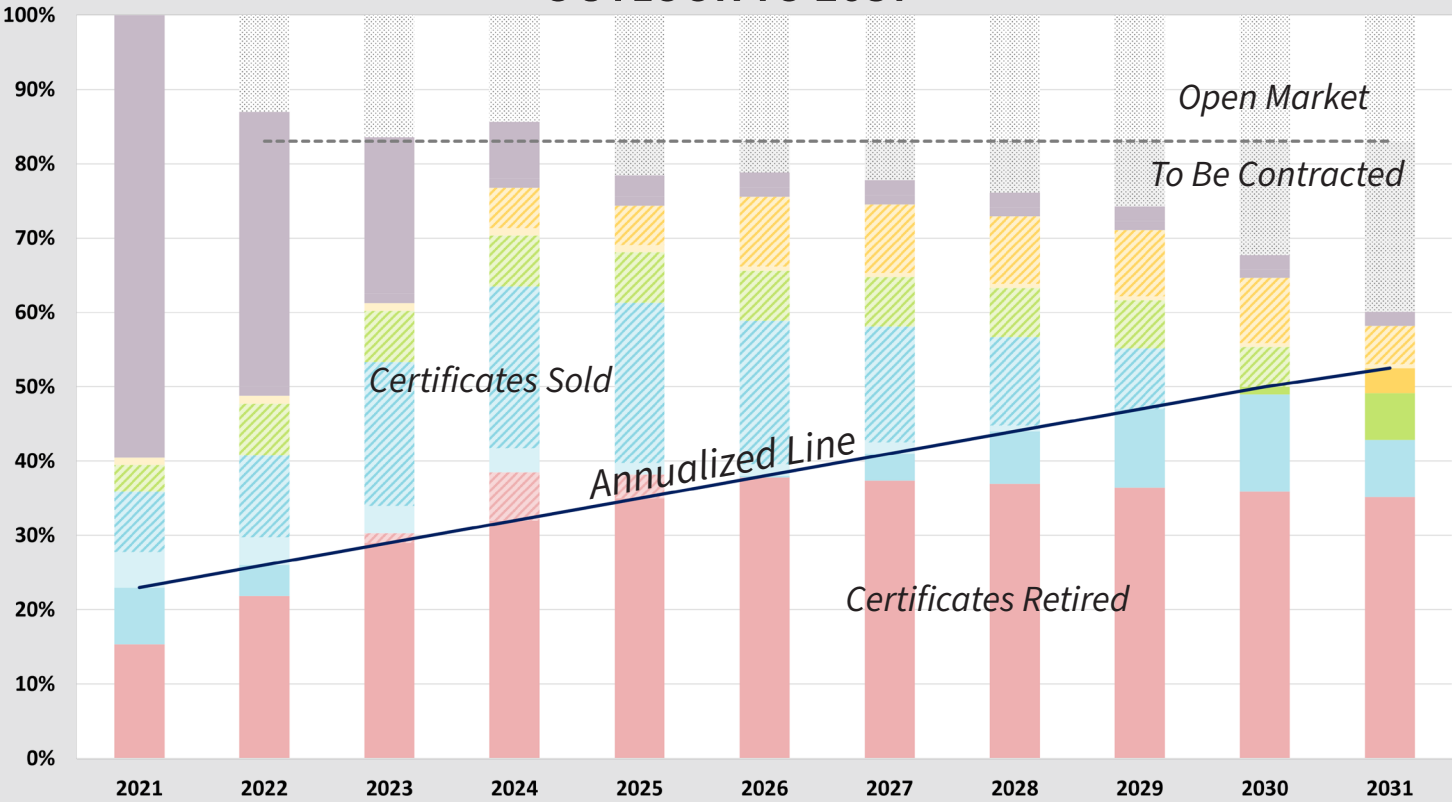
**Climate Law** – Massachusetts climate legislation which requires that the power sold by utilities be sourced from resources that are 50% non-carbon by 2030, 75% non-carbon by 2040, and net-zero carbon by 2050. To be considered a non-carbon resource, the associated energy certificates must be retired by the utility.

**Mixed Sources and Certificates Sold** – Contracts for non-specific power supply sources and day-ahead or real-time spot market purchases. These reflect the fuel mix of the New England grid and are assumed to be primarily carbon-emitting.



# POWER SUPPLY TRANSACTION BY SOURCE

OUTLOOK TO 2031



## DEFINITIONS

**Certificate Management** – RMLD retires certificates up to the annualized line then sells the balance which are typically higher value to help reduce power supply costs. The cross-hatched portions of the charts above represent actual certificate sales in 2021 and planned certificate sales going forward.



# POWER SUPPLY BY CONTRACT

Name	Type	Duration	MWH	%
Millstone	Nuclear	1986-2045	41,610	6.13%
Seabrook	Nuclear	1990-2050	62,593	9.22%
Nuclear Total:			104,203	15.36%
NYPA	Hydro	2002-2025	27,878	4.11%
Aspinook	Hydro	2016-2022	15,912	2.34%
Collins	Hydro	2013-2028	4,731	0.70%
First Light	Hydro	2019-2023	47,976	7.07%
Hosiery Mills	Hydro	2014-2024	4,953	0.73%
Indian River	Hydro	2011-2026	3,485	0.51%
Pepperell	Hydro	2011-2026	6,847	1.01%
Pioneer	Hydro	2013-2028	6,680	0.98%
Turner's Falls	Hydro	2011-2026	1,227	0.18%
Woronoco	Hydro	2011-2026	9,148	1.35%
Quinebaug	Hydro	2020-2030	10,339	1.52%
Hydro Total:			139,176	20.51%
Kearsage	Solar	2017-2037	2,297	0.34%
Altus Power	Solar	2017-2037	1,487	0.22%
GSRP	Solar	2015-2025	2,873	0.42%
Solar Total:			6,658	0.98%
Jericho	Wind	2015-2035	7,472	1.10%
Saddleback	Wind	2015-2035	15,155	2.23%
Rox Wind	Wind	2021-2041	1,838	0.27%
Wind Total:			24,465	3.61%
Nextera	Bilateral Mixed	2016-2025	371,132	54.69%
ISO -NE SPOT	Bilateral Mixed	Ongoing	22,210	3.27%
Bilateral Mixed Total:			393,342	57.96%
StonyBrook Intermediate	Gas/Oil Peaker	Life of Unit	7,635	1.13%
StonyBrook Peaking	Gas/Oil Peaker	Life of Unit	372	0.05%
Braintree Watson	Gas/Oil Peaker	2009-2029	2,281	0.34%
Gas/Oil Peaker Total:			10,288	1.52%
RMLD Generator	Natural Gas	N/A	468	0.07%
TOTAL:			678,599	100%

# CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Line construction throughout the system is performed to provide reliability enhancement, to connect new load, or to address areas needing upgrades. This work includes both overhead and underground cable installation, service installation and upgrades, installation and removal of poles, transfer of electrical equipment, and work related to Massachusetts highway projects.

## READING

- Curtis Street (and part of George Street) – Verizon set 12 poles. RMLD reconductored 800 feet of single-phase primary and 1,400 feet of secondary cable, upgraded ten services and replaced/upgraded two transformers. This area will be converted once Heather Drive and George Street are completed.
- West Street, Reading and Wilmington – Finished reconductoring of circuit 4W4 from the West Street pole yard in Reading to pole 62-1 on West Street, Wilmington. Installed 1,700 circuit feet (5,100 linear feet) of 15 kV 750 kcmil CU cable.
- Hopkins Street – Replaced single-phase primary with three-phase primary. Approximately 1,250 feet of 1/0 spacer cable was installed.
- Willow Street – Replaced seven poles, reconductored 1,200 feet of three-phase primary for make ready for primary voltage conversion in coordination with Austin Preparatory School electrical upgrades.
- New Crossing Road – Replaced aged switchgear with new solid dielectric unit.
- Reading Woods – Replaced aged switchgear with new solid dielectric unit.

Notable examples of new service additions or upgrades:

- Residential Condominium – 259-267 Main Street
- Commercial/Residential Building – 22-24 Gould Street

## WILMINGTON

- Marion Street – Completed upgrade (Phase 2). Installed approximately 2,300 circuit feet of primary cable and replaced five overhead pole-mounted transformers, replaced approximately 3,300 feet of secondary 4/0 main cable and 1,700 of 1/0 service cable.
- Linda Lane Area - Verizon replaced 32 poles. RMLD installed approximately 3,700 feet of 1/0 primary, 4,000 feet of 4/0 secondary, upgraded/replaced seven transformers and replaced approximately 50 services.

# CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

- Woodland Road and Hanson Road - Verizon set 13 poles. RMLD reconductored 1,400 feet of single-phase primary, reconductored 1,625 feet of open wire secondaries, replaced/upgraded two pole-mounted transformers and upgraded 15 services.
- Glen Acres Estate – Reconductored 4,500 feet of underground primary cable and upgraded seven pad-mounted transformers.
- Valyn Lane – Reconductored 1,100 feet of underground primary cable and upgraded one pad-mounted transformer.
- Wisser and Brand Avenue - Verizon replaced 15 poles. RMLD reconductored 2,000 feet of single-phase primary, 2,200 feet of open wire secondaries, replaced/upgraded five pole-mounted transformers and upgraded 22 services.
- Industrial Way – Replaced two switchgear with new solid dielectric units.

Notable examples of new service additions or upgrades:

- Vapor IO – 26 Upton Drive

## NORTH READING

- Park Colony Condominiums – Replaced eight poles, reconductored 1,200 feet of single primary cable, upgraded six services and replaced/upgraded six transformers.
- Southwick Road - Replaced eight poles, reconductored 2,200 feet of open wire secondaries, upgraded 16 services and replaced/upgraded three transformers.
- Kristyn Lane and Jill Circle – Replaced five transformers upgrading the area.
- Central Street – 4kV area upgrade. Replaced approximately 2,400 feet of secondary overhead service cable, 12 transformers, 2,800 feet of primary underground cable, and six poles.
- 29 Concord Street – Completed upgrade of three transformers feeding commercial building.
- Country Club Estates – Replaced five transformers upgrading the area.
- Riverpark Drive – Replaced two aged switchgear with new solid dielectric units.

Notable examples of new service additions or upgrades:

- Commercial Site – 54 Concord Street
- Commercial Site – 25 Main Street
- Martins Landing Residential Condominiums – 240 Martins Landing
- Woodcutter Lane Residential Subdivision – 77 Elm Street

# CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

## LYNNFIELD

- Smith Farm Trail – Reconductored 2,000 feet of underground primary cable and replaced/upgraded two transformers.
- East Lowell Street/Durham Drive/Willowby Way/Daventry Court/Lansdowne Court – Verizon set 47 poles. RMLD reconductored 1,800 circuit feet of three-phase spacer cable, 2,500 feet of single-phase primary, 600 feet of secondary cable, upgraded 12 pole-mounted transformers and 28 services.
- Ostis Way – Reconductored 350 feet of underground primary cable and replaced/upgraded one pad-mounted transformers.
- Mohawk Drive - Reconductored 1,700 feet of underground primary cable and replaced/upgraded two pad-mounted transformers.
- Lil's Way – Reconductored 800 feet of underground primary cable and upgraded one pad- mounted transformer.

Notable examples of new service additions or upgrades:

- Sagamore Place Residential Subdivision – 1480 Main Street
- Tuttle Lane at Reedy Meadow Subdivision – 349 Summer Street





RMLD



Reading Municipal Light Department  
RELIABLE POWER

**TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS  
READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

Annual Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

(With Independent Auditor's Report Thereon)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<b>INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT</b>	1
<b>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</b>	5
<b>BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:</b>	
<b>Proprietary Fund:</b>	
Statement of Net Position	9
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Change in Net Position	10
Statement of Cash Flows	11
<b>Fiduciary Fund:</b>	
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position	12
Statement of Change in Fiduciary Net Position	13
<b>Notes to Financial Statements</b>	14
<b>REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Pension:</b>	
Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	44
Schedule of Pension Contributions	45
<b>OPEB:</b>	
Schedule of Changes in the Net OPEB Liability	46
Schedules of Net OPEB Liability, Contributions, and Investment Returns	47



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Municipal Light Board  
Town of Reading Municipal Light Department

### Report on the Financial Statements

#### Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Town of Reading Municipal Light Department (the Department) (an enterprise fund of the Town of Reading, Massachusetts), and its Other Post-Employment Benefits fiduciary fund, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Town of Reading Municipal Light Department and the fiduciary fund information as of December 31, 2021, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Department and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

The Department's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

---

Merrimack, New Hampshire  
Andover, Massachusetts  
Greenfield, Massachusetts  
Ellsworth, Maine



In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Department's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Department's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.



We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

### **Report on Summarized Comparative Information**

We have previously audited the Department's 2020 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated July 3, 2021. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020 is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

### **Emphasis of Matter**

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of the Department are intended to present the financial position, and the changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, of only that portion of the Town of Reading, Massachusetts that is attributable to the transactions of the Reading Municipal Light Department. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position the Town of Reading, Massachusetts as of December 31, 2021, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows, where applicable, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Required Supplementary Information**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and certain pension and OPEB schedules be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic



financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanson".

Andover, Massachusetts  
May 23, 2022



## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Within this section of the Town of Reading Municipal Light Department's (the Department) annual financial report, management provides a narrative discussion and analysis of the Department's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2021. The Department's performance is discussed and analyzed within the context of the accompanying financial statements and disclosures following this section.

### **Overview of the Financial Statements**

The basic financial statements include (1) the Proprietary Fund Statement of Net Position, (2) the Proprietary Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Position, (3) the Proprietary Fund Statement of Cash Flows, (4) the Fiduciary Funds Statement of Fiduciary Net Position, (5) the Fiduciary Fund Statement of Change in Fiduciary Net Position, and (6) Notes to Financial Statements.

#### ***Proprietary Fund***

Proprietary fund reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery), financial position, and cash flows. The proprietary fund category includes enterprise funds.

Enterprise funds are used to report activity for which a fee is charged to external users, and must be used when one of the following criteria are met: (1) activity is financed with debt that is secured solely by a pledge of the net revenues from fees and charges, (2) laws or regulations require the activity's costs of providing services be recovered with fees and charges, and (3) the pricing policies of the activity establish fees and charges designed to recover its costs, including capital costs such as depreciation or debt service. The primary focus on these criteria is on fees charged to external users.

#### ***Fiduciary Fund***

Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is much like that used for proprietary funds.

**Notes to Financial Statements**

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the fund financial statements.

**Other Information**

In calendar year 2020, the Department implemented ASC 980, *Accounting for the Effects of Certain Types of Regulation*, which essentially adjusts for differences between how revenue/rates are budgeted and how they are accounted for in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). In the Department's case, contributions in aid of construction (CIAC) are set aside (deferred) and are recognized equal to the annual depreciation expense on the related assets.

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information which is required to be disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Financial Highlights**

The Proprietary Fund Statement of Net Position is designed to indicate our financial position at a specific point in time. At December 31, 2021, it shows our net worth of \$122,032,806 which comprises \$86,032,232 invested in capital assets, \$8,268,321 and \$6,808,642 restricted for depreciation fund and the pension trust, respectively, and \$20,923,611 unrestricted.

The Proprietary Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position summarizes our operating results and reveals how much, if any, of a profit was earned for the year. As discussed in more detail below, our net profit for the year ended December 31, 2021 was \$2,697,994.

The Proprietary Fund Statement of Cash Flows provide information about cash receipts, cash payments, investing, and financing activities during the accounting period. A review of our Proprietary Fund Statement of Cash Flows indicates that cash receipts from operating activities adequately covered our operating expenses in the year ended December 31, 2021.



The following is a summary of the Department's financial data for the year ended December 31, 2021 (in thousands).

### Summary of Net Position

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Assets:		
Current and other assets	\$ 64,031	\$ 66,333
Capital assets	<u>86,032</u>	<u>82,772</u>
Total assets	150,063	149,105
Deferred outflows of resources	6,754	5,360
Liabilities:		
Long-term liabilities	18,068	21,443
Other liabilities	<u>12,388</u>	<u>11,035</u>
Total liabilities	30,456	32,478
Deferred inflows of resources	4,328	2,652
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets	86,032	82,772
Restricted for depreciation fund	8,268	8,225
Restricted for pension trust	6,809	6,585
Unrestricted	<u>20,924</u>	<u>21,753</u>
Total net position	\$ <u>122,033</u>	\$ <u>119,335</u>

### Summary of Change in Net Position

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operating revenues	\$ 86,404	\$ 85,572
Operating expenses	<u>(82,255)</u>	<u>(81,662)</u>
Operating income	4,149	3,910
Nonoperating revenues, net	<u>1,030</u>	<u>1,197</u>
Income Before Transfers	5,179	5,107
Return on investment to Town of Reading	<u>(2,481)</u>	<u>(2,481)</u>
Change in net position	2,698	2,626
Beginning net position	<u>119,335</u>	<u>116,709</u>
Ending net position	\$ <u>122,033</u>	\$ <u>119,335</u>

For the year ended December 31, 2021 electric sales (net of discounts) were \$87,931,688, an increase of 1.2% from the prior year. For the year ended December 31, 2021, kilowatt hours sold were 658,334,436, an increase of 1.1% from the prior year.

Operating expenses totaled \$82,254,549 for the year ended December 31, 2021, an increase of 0.7%. The largest portion of this total, \$60,291,708, was for purchase power costs. Other operating expenses included \$15,437,564 for general operating and maintenance costs, \$1,655,433 for voluntary payments to Towns, and depreciation expense of \$4,869,844. For the year ended December 31, 2021 the depreciation rate was 3.0%. Change in net position of \$2,697,994 results primarily from rates and charges set at a level to fund future capital improvements.

In the year ended December 31, 2021, the Pension Trust contributed \$2,140,481 to the Town of Reading Contributory Retirement System on behalf of the Department's employees.

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the Department contributed \$387,593 to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust ("OPEB Trust"). Additional information on the Department's OPEB Trust Fund can be found in corresponding note on page 33 of this report.

## **Capital Asset and Debt Administration**

### ***Capital Assets***

Total investment in land at year end amounted to \$1,265,842. Total investment in depreciable capital assets at year-end amounted to \$84,766,390 (net of accumulated depreciation), an increase of \$3,260,519 from the prior year. This investment in depreciable capital assets includes structures and improvements, equipment and furnishings, and infrastructure assets.

### ***Debt and Other Long-Term Obligations***

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Department had no outstanding bonded debt.

Additional information on capital assets and other long-term obligations can be found in the Notes to Financial Statements.

## **Requests for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Reading Municipal Light Department's finances for all those with an interest in the Department's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to:

Director of Business & Finance  
Reading Municipal Light Department  
230 Ash Street  
Reading, Massachusetts 01867

**TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS  
READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

Statement of Net Position  
December 31, 2021  
(With Comparative Totals as of December 31, 2020)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current:		
Unrestricted cash and short-term investments	\$ 16,901,052	\$ 20,158,534
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectable	8,592,933	7,768,519
Prepaid expenses	2,118,096	2,438,307
Inventory	<u>1,829,535</u>	<u>1,880,288</u>
Total current assets	29,441,616	32,245,648
Noncurrent:		
Restricted cash and short-term investments	30,782,846	30,350,390
Restricted investments	2,648,178	2,734,900
Investment in associated companies	883,966	822,083
Land	1,265,842	1,265,842
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	84,766,390	81,505,871
Other	<u>274,209</u>	<u>180,071</u>
Total noncurrent assets	<u>120,621,431</u>	<u>116,859,157</u>
Total Assets	150,063,047	149,104,805
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>		
Related to pensions	6,068,791	4,826,866
Related to OPEB	<u>685,706</u>	<u>533,543</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	6,754,497	5,360,409
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current:		
Accounts payable	7,734,077	6,740,339
Accrued liabilities	393,939	396,465
Customer deposits	1,547,700	1,406,058
Contributions in aid of construction	2,513,250	2,292,259
Other liabilities	200,000	200,000
Current portion of long-term liabilities:		
Compensated absences	<u>316,113</u>	<u>361,669</u>
Total current liabilities	12,705,079	11,396,790
Noncurrent:		
Net pension liability	11,954,138	12,054,935
Net OPEB liability	4,158,698	7,166,506
Compensated absences	<u>1,638,900</u>	<u>1,860,068</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>17,751,736</u>	<u>21,081,509</u>
Total Liabilities	30,456,815	32,478,299
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>		
Related to pensions	3,535,221	2,526,025
Related to OPEB	<u>792,702</u>	<u>126,078</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	4,327,923	2,652,103
<b>Net Position</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	86,032,232	82,771,713
Restricted for:		
Depreciation fund	8,268,321	8,224,591
Pension trust	6,808,642	6,585,203
Unrestricted	<u>20,923,611</u>	<u>21,753,305</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 122,032,806</u>	<u>\$ 119,334,812</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

Statement Of Revenues, Expenses, And Change In Net Position  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021  
(With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended December 31, 2020)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>		
Electric sales, net of discounts of \$4,015,220 and \$3,938,532, respectively	\$ 87,931,688	\$ 86,894,628
Purchase power adjustments:		
Fuel charge adjustment	(1,457,863)	(1,033,746)
Capacity and transmission adjustment	<u>(70,323)</u>	<u>(288,550)</u>
Total Operating Revenues	86,403,502	85,572,332
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Purchase power	60,291,708	57,292,309
Operating	13,353,630	15,642,969
Maintenance	2,083,934	2,421,394
Voluntary payments to towns	1,655,433	1,607,009
Depreciation	<u>4,869,844</u>	<u>4,699,207</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>82,254,549</u>	<u>81,662,888</u>
Operating Income	4,148,953	3,909,444
<b>Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)</b>		
Investment income	131,984	390,425
Intergovernmental grants	330,000	451,761
Loss on disposal of assets	(132,742)	(163,530)
Other	<u>700,305</u>	<u>518,273</u>
Total Nonoperating Revenues, net	<u>1,029,547</u>	<u>1,196,929</u>
Income Before Transfers	5,178,500	5,106,373
Return on investment transfer to Town of Reading	<u>(2,480,506)</u>	<u>(2,480,506)</u>
Change in Net Position	2,697,994	2,625,867
Net Position at Beginning of Year	<u>119,334,812</u>	<u>116,708,945</u>
Net Position at End of Year	\$ <u><u>122,032,806</u></u>	\$ <u><u>119,334,812</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS  
READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

Statement of Cash Flows  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021  
(With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended December 31, 2020)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>		
Receipts from customers and users	\$ 87,248,917	\$ 83,693,173
Payments to vendors and employees	(79,210,265)	(75,945,319)
Customer purchase power adjustments	<u>(1,528,186)</u>	<u>1,322,296</u>
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	6,510,466	9,070,150
<b>Cash Flows From Noncapital Financing Activities</b>		
Return on investment to Town of Reading	(2,480,506)	(2,480,506)
Other	<u>700,304</u>	<u>518,271</u>
Net Cash (Used For) Noncapital Financing Activities	(1,780,202)	(1,962,235)
<b>Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>		
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(8,277,017)	(7,283,998)
Contributions in aid of construction	234,903	340,018
Intergovernmental revenues	<u>330,000</u>	<u>451,761</u>
Net Cash (Used For) Capital and Related Financing Activities	(7,712,114)	(6,492,219)
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities</b>		
Investment income	131,984	390,425
Increase in investments	<u>24,840</u>	<u>(95,356)</u>
Net Cash Provided By Investing Activities	<u>156,824</u>	<u>295,069</u>
Net Change in Cash and Short-Term Investments	(2,825,026)	910,765
Cash and Short-Term Investments, Beginning of Period	<u>50,508,924</u>	<u>49,598,159</u>
Cash and Short-Term Investments, End of Period	<u>\$ 47,683,898</u>	<u>\$ 50,508,924</u>
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash provided by Operating Activities</b>		
Operating income	\$ 4,148,953	\$ 3,909,444
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities:		
Depreciation expense	4,869,844	4,699,207
Changes in assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows/inflows		
Accounts receivable	(824,414)	(654,272)
Prepaid and other assets	226,073	(22,186)
Inventory	50,753	(57,912)
Deferred outflows - related to pensions	(1,241,925)	2,826,041
Deferred outflows - related to OPEB	(152,163)	(84,334)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	724,488	152,055
Customer deposits	141,642	97,409
Net pension liability	(100,797)	(2,555,066)
Net OPEB liability	(3,007,808)	71,937
Deferred inflows - related to pensions	1,009,196	750,866
Deferred inflows - related to OPEB	<u>666,624</u>	<u>(63,039)</u>
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	<u>\$ 6,510,466</u>	<u>\$ 9,070,150</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS  
READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

Statement of Fiduciary Net Position  
December 31, 2021  
(With Comparative Totals as of December 31, 2020)

	Other Post Employment Benefits <u>Trust Fund</u>	
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and short-term investments	\$ -	\$ 4,508,256
Investments:		
Pooled investments	<u>5,084,284</u>	<u>-</u>
Total investments	<u>5,084,284</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Assets	<u>5,084,284</u>	<u>4,508,256</u>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Total net position held in trust	\$ <u><u>5,084,284</u></u>	\$ <u><u>4,508,256</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS  
READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

Statement of Change In Fiduciary Net Position  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021  
(With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended December 31, 2020)

	Other Post Employment Benefits <u>Trust Fund</u>	
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Additions</b>		
Contributions:		
Employer	\$ 937,222	\$ 1,042,087
Investment Income:		
Interest	<u>188,435</u>	<u>33,826</u>
Total additions	1,125,657	1,075,913
<b>Deductions</b>		
Benefit payments to plan members, beneficiaries and other systems	<u>549,629</u>	<u>655,233</u>
Net increase	576,028	420,680
<b>Net position restricted for OPEB purposes</b>		
Beginning of year	<u>4,508,256</u>	<u>4,087,576</u>
End of year	\$ <u><u>5,084,284</u></u>	\$ <u><u>4,508,256</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

### Notes to Financial Statements

#### 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies of the Town of Reading Municipal Light Department (the Department) (an enterprise fund of the Town of Reading, Massachusetts) are as follows:

##### ***Business Activity***

The Department purchases electricity for distribution to more than 70,000 residents within the towns of Reading, North Reading, Wilmington, and Lynnfield Center.

##### ***Regulation and Basis of Accounting***

Under Massachusetts General Laws, the Department's electric rates are set by the Municipal Light Board. Electric rates, excluding the purchase power fuel charge and the purchase power capacity and transmission charge, cannot be changed more than once every three months. Rate schedules are filed with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU). While the DPU exercises general supervisory authority over the Department, the Department's rates are not subject to DPU approval. The Department's policy is to prepare its financial statements in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

The proprietary fund financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement* focus and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Under this method, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when liabilities are incurred.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the Department's proprietary fund are charges to customers for electric sales and services. Operating expenses for the Department's proprietary fund include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

##### ***Concentrations***

The Department operates within the electric utility industry. In 1998, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the Commonwealth) enacted energy deregulation legislation that restructured the Commonwealth's electricity industry to foster competition and promote reduced electric rates. Energy deregulation created a separation between the supply and delivery portions of electricity service and enabled consumers to purchase their energy



from a retail supplier of their choice. Municipal utilities are not currently subject to this legislation.

### ***Pension Trust***

The Reading Municipal Light Department Employees' Retirement Trust (the "Pension Trust") was established by the Reading Municipal Light Board on December 30, 1966, pursuant to Chapter 64 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Pension Trust constitutes the principal instrument of a plan established by the Reading Municipal Light Board to fund the Department's annual required contribution to the Town of Reading Contributory Retirement System (the System), a cost-sharing, multi-employer public employee retirement system.

In accordance with Government Accounting Standards Board Statement 68 (GASB 68), the Pension Trust was consolidated into the Department and is reflected in the Department's net position as "restricted for pension trust."

### ***Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust***

The Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund (the "OPEB Trust") was established by the Reading Municipal Light Board pursuant to Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The OPEB Trust constitutes the principal instrument of a plan established by the Municipal Light Board to fund the Department's annual actuarially determined OPEB contribution for future retirees.

### ***Revenues***

Revenues are based on rates established by the Department and filed with the DPU. Revenues from sales of electricity are recorded on the basis of bills rendered from monthly meter readings taken on a cycle basis and are stated net of discounts. Recognition is given to the amount of sales to customers which are unbilled at the end of the fiscal year.

### ***Cash and Short-Term Investments***

For the purposes of the Statements of Cash Flows, the Department considers unrestricted cash on deposit with the Town Treasurer to be cash and short-term investments. For purposes of the Statement of Net Position, both the proprietary fund and fiduciary fund consider unrestricted and restricted investments with original maturities of three months or less to be short-term investments.

### ***Investments***

Investments for the Department and the Pension Trust consist of domestic and foreign fixed income bonds which the Department intends to hold to maturity. These investments are reported at fair market value.

***Inventory***

Inventory consists of parts and accessories purchased for use in the utility business for construction, operation, and maintenance purposes and is stated at average cost. Meters and transformers are capitalized when purchased.

***Capital Assets and Depreciation***

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and utility plant infrastructure, are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost when purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of the donation.

The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as they are acquired or constructed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of proprietary fund capital assets is included as part of the capitalized value of the constructed asset. When capital assets are retired, the cost of the retired asset, less accumulated depreciation, salvage value and any cash proceeds, is charged to the Department's unrestricted net position.

Massachusetts General Laws require utility plant in service to be depreciated at a minimum annual rate of 3%. To change this rate, the Department must obtain approval from the DPU. Changes in annual depreciation rates may be made for financial factors relating to cash flow for plant expansion, rather than engineering factors relating to estimates of useful lives.

***Accrued Compensated Absences***

Employee vacation leave is vested annually but may only be carried forward to the succeeding year with supervisor approval and, if appropriate, within the terms of the applicable Department policy or union contract. Generally, sick leave may accumulate according to union and Department contracts and policy and is paid upon normal termination at the current rate of pay. The Department's policy is to recognize vacation costs at the time payments are made. The Department records accumulated, unused, vested sick pay as a liability. The amount recorded is the amount to be paid upon normal termination at the current rate of pay.

***Pension and OPEB Obligations***

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Reporting for Pensions*, employers report a net pension liability and related deferred outflows and inflows and related pension expense as determined by the plan. Disclosures required under GASB Statement No. 68 apply to the Department for its participation in the Town of Reading Contributory Retirement System defined benefit plan.

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits other than Pensions*, the Department reports net OPEB liability and related deferred outflows and inflows and related OPEB expense associated with the Department's OPEB plan.

### ***Use of Estimates***

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures for contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of the revenues and expenses during the fiscal year. Actual results could vary from estimates that were used.

### ***Rate of Return***

The Department's rates must be set such that earnings attributable to electric operations do not exceed 8% of the net cost of plant. The Department's audited financial statements are prepared in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. To determine the net income subject to the rate of return limitations, the Department performs the following calculation. Using the net income per the audited financial statements, the return on investment to the Town of Reading is added back, the fuel charge, capacity and transmission adjustments are added or deducted, and miscellaneous debits/credits (i.e., gain/loss on disposal of fixed assets, etc.) are added or deducted, leaving an adjusted net income figure for rate of return purposes. Investment interest income is then deducted from this figure to determine the net income subject to the rate of return. The net income subject to the rate of return is then subtracted from the allowable 8% rate of return, which is calculated by adding the book value of net plant and the investment in associated companies multiplied by 8%. From this calculation, the Department will determine what cash transfers need to be made at the end of the fiscal year.

## **2. Cash and Investments**

Total cash and investments as of December 31, 2021 are classified in the accompanying financial statements as follows:

Proprietary Fund:		
Unrestricted cash and short-term investments	\$	16,901,052
Restricted cash and short-term investments		30,782,846
Restricted investments		2,648,178
Fiduciary Fund:		
Pooled investments		<u>5,084,284</u>
Total cash and investments	\$	<u><u>55,416,360</u></u>

**Interest Rate Risk**

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment, the greater the sensitivity of its fair value to changes in market interest rates. The Department manages its exposure to interest rate risk by purchasing a combination of shorter term and longer-term investments and by timing cash flows from maturities so that a portion of the portfolio is maturing or coming close to maturity evenly over time as necessary to provide the cash flow and liquidity needed for operations.

As of December 31, 2021, the Department (including the Pension Trust and OPEB Trust) held cash and short-term investments in pooled investments with the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust (MMDT), FDIC-insured savings accounts, and 90-day FDIC-insured bank certificates of deposit. Because of their immediate liquidity and/or short-term maturity, these funds are classified as cash and short-term investments in the accompanying financial statements and are not considered to be exposed to significant interest rate risk.

As of December 31, 2021, the Department and Pension Trust held investments in domestic and foreign fixed income bonds with varying maturity dates as follows:

<u>Corporate Bonds</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>
AT&T Inc	\$ 447,552	12/01/22
General Electric Cap Corp	423,348	01/09/23
Wells Fargo & Co	419,472	08/15/23
Simon Property	418,306	03/15/27
Rabobank Nederland Bank	513,225	11/09/22
BNP Paribas	426,275	03/03/23
Total	\$ <u>2,648,178</u>	

**Credit Risk**

Generally, credit risk is the risk that the issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assigning of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. As of December 31, 2021, the

Department and Pension Trust held investments in domestic and foreign fixed income bonds with varying ratings as follows:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>	Moody's <u>Rating</u>
Corporate Bonds:		
AT&T Inc	\$ 447,552	Baa2
General Electric Cap Corp	423,348	Baa1
Wells Fargo & Co	419,472	A3
Simon Property	418,306	A3
Rabobank Nederland Bank	513,225	Baa1
BNP Paribas	426,275	Aa3
Total	<u>\$ 2,648,178</u>	

### ***Concentration of Credit Risk***

The Department follows the Town of Reading's investment policy, which does not limit the amount that can be invested in any one issuer beyond that stipulated by Massachusetts General Laws. At December 31, 2021, the Department and Pension Trust investments were held in domestic and foreign fixed income bonds, as detailed in the sections above. Five of the bonds each individually represent approximately 16% of the Department's total investments, while the investment in Rabobank Nederland Bank represents approximately 19%.

### ***Custodial Credit Risk***

Custodial credit risk for *deposits* is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the Department will not be able to recover its deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The custodial credit risk for *investments* is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty (e.g., broker-dealer) to a transaction, the Department will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of another party. Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 55, limits deposits "in a bank or trust company or banking company to an amount not exceeding sixty percent of the capital and surplus of such bank or trust company or banking company, unless satisfactory security is given to it by such bank or trust company or banking company for such excess." The Department follows the Massachusetts statute as written, as well as the Town of Reading's deposit policy for custodial credit risk.

Because the Department pools its cash and short-term investments with the Town of Reading, and bank accounts are maintained in the name of the Town, the amount of the Department's balance exposed to custodial credit risk at December 31, 2021, cannot be reasonably determined.

As of December 31, 2021, none of the Department or Pension Trust investments were exposed to custodial credit risk because the related securities were registered in the Department's name.

### ***Fair Value***

The Department categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application* (GASB 72).

The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset and give the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The hierarchy categorizes the inputs to valuation techniques used for fair value measurement into three levels as follows:

- Level 1 – inputs that reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that are accessible at the measurement date.
- Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for an asset or liability either directly or indirectly, including inputs in markets that are not considered to be active. Because they must often be priced on the basis of transactions involving similar but not identical securities or do not trade with sufficient frequency, certain directly held securities are categorized as Level 2.
- Level 3 – unobservable inputs based on the best information available, using assumptions in determining the fair value of investments and derivative instruments.

The net asset value (NAV) per share is the amount of net assets attributable to each share outstanding at the close of the period. Investments measured using NAV for fair value are not subject to level classification.

In instances where inputs used to measure fair value fall into different levels in the fair value hierarchy, fair value measurements in their entirety are categorized based on the lowest level input that is significant to the valuation. The Department's assessment of the significance of particular inputs to these fair value measurements requires judgment and considers factors specific to each asset or liability.



The Department has the following fair value measurements as of December 31, 2021:

		Fair Value Measurements Using:			
		Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	
Description	Amount				
Investments measured using fair value:					
Debt securities:					
Corporate bonds	\$ 2,648,178	\$ -	\$ 2,734,900	\$ -	
Investments measured at the net asset value (NAV):					
External investment pool	<u>5,084,284</u>				
Total	<u>\$ 7,732,462</u>				
		Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency (If currently eligible)	Redemption Notice Period	
Description	Amount				
External investment pool	\$ 5,084,284	\$ -	Quarterly	30 days	

### 3. Restricted Cash and Investments

The Department's restricted cash and investment balances represent the following reserves:

	<u>12/31/21</u>	
	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Investments</u>
Depreciation fund	\$ 8,268,321	\$ -
Construction fund	3,691,693	-
Deferred fuel reserve	1,669,140	-
Deferred energy conservation reserve	1,683,168	-
Rate stabilization	6,857,347	-
Reserve for uncollectible accounts	200,000	-
Sick leave benefits	630,924	1,324,089
Hazardous waste fund	750,000	-
Customer deposits	1,547,700	-
Pension trust	<u>5,484,553</u>	<u>1,324,089</u>
Total	<u>\$ 30,782,846</u>	<u>\$ 2,648,178</u>

The Department maintains the following reserves:

- Depreciation fund - The Department is normally required to reserve 3.0% of capital assets each year to fund capital improvements.
- Construction fund – This account represents amounts set aside by the Department for construction-related projects.
- Deferred fuel reserve - The Department transfers the difference between the customers' monthly fuel charge adjustment and actual fuel costs into this account to be used in the event of a sudden increase in fuel costs.
- Deferred energy conservation reserve - This account is used to reserve monies collected from a special energy charge added to customer bills. Customers who undertake measures to conserve and improve energy efficiency can apply for rebates that are paid from this account.
- Rate stabilization - This represents amounts set aside to help stabilize cost increases resulting from fluctuations in purchase power costs.
- Reserve for uncollectible accounts - This account was set up to offset a portion of the Department's bad debt reserve.
- Sick leave benefits - This account is used to offset the Department's compensated absence liability.
- Hazardous waste fund -This reserve was set up by the Municipal Light Board to cover the Department's insurance deductible in the event of a major hazardous materials incident.
- Customer deposits - Customer deposits that are held in escrow.
- Pension trust - The principal instrument of a plan established by the Municipal Light Board to fund the Department's annual required contribution to the Town of Reading Contributory Retirement System (the System), a cost-sharing, multi-employer public employee retirement system.

#### 4. Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable consist of the following at December 31, 2021:

Customer Accounts:		
Billed	\$	2,899,908
Less allowances:		
Uncollectible accounts		(200,000)
Sales discounts		<u>(189,756)</u>
Total billed		2,510,152
Unbilled, net of sales discounts		<u>5,657,252</u>
Total customer accounts		8,167,404
Other Accounts:		
Liens and other		<u>425,529</u>
Total other accounts		<u>425,529</u>
Total net receivables	\$	<u><u>8,592,933</u></u>

#### 5. Prepaid Expenses

Prepaid expenses consist of the following:

Insurance and other	\$	1,425,639
Purchase power		7,200
NYPA prepayment fund		307,573
WC Fuel - Watson		<u>377,684</u>
Total	\$	<u><u>2,118,096</u></u>

#### 6. Inventory

Inventory comprises supplies and materials at December 31, 2021, and is valued using the average cost method.

#### 7. Investment in Associated Companies

Investment in associated companies consists of the following, at December 31, 2021:

New England Hydro-Transmission (NEH & NHH)	\$	295,296
Energy New England		540,637
Black Rock Funding - Saddleback Ridge		<u>48,033</u>
Total	\$	<u><u>883,966</u></u>

Under agreements with the New England Hydro-Transmission Electric Company, Inc. (NEH) and the New England Hydro-Transmission Corporation (NHH), the Department has made the advances to fund its equity requirements for the Hydro-Quebec Phase II interconnection. The Department is carrying its investment at fair value, reduced by shares repurchased. The Department's equity position in the Project is less than one-half of one percent.

In April 2019, the Department invested in 8.334% shares of Energy New England (ENE). The Department's equity position at December 31, 2021 is based on ENE's capital, retained earnings, and the net profit from April 2019 through December of 2021.

In December 2013, the Department signed a purchase power agreement with Saddleback Ridge Wind, LLC for the output of Saddleback Ridge Wind located in Carthage, Maine. The contract for Saddleback Ridge Wind is effective from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2035. The Department receives energy plus all attributes for this contract. The average annual generation is estimated to be approximately 15,820 megawatt-hours per year.

## 8. Capital Assets

The following is a summary of the year ended December 31, 2021 activity in capital assets (in thousands):

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Structures and improvements	\$ 20,961	\$ 140	\$ -	\$ 21,101
Equipment and furnishings	36,151	1,086	(216)	37,021
Infrastructure	<u>105,681</u>	<u>7,051</u>	<u>(886)</u>	<u>111,846</u>
Total capital assets, being depreciated	162,793	8,277	(1,102)	169,968
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Structures and improvements	(11,345)	(569)	-	(11,914)
Equipment and furnishings	(24,222)	(881)	216	(24,887)
Infrastructure	<u>(45,720)</u>	<u>(3,434)</u>	<u>753</u>	<u>(48,401)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(81,287)</u>	<u>(4,884)</u>	<u>969</u>	<u>(85,202)</u>
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	81,506	3,393	(133)	84,766
Capital assets, not being depreciated:				
Land	<u>1,266</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,266</u>
Total capital assets, not being depreciated	<u>1,266</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,266</u>
Capital assets, net	<u>\$ 82,772</u>	<u>\$ 3,393</u>	<u>\$ (133)</u>	<u>\$ 86,032</u>

**9. Deferred Outflows of Resources**

Deferred outflows of resources represent the consumption of net position by the Department that is applicable to future reporting periods. Deferred outflows of resources have a positive effect on net position, similar to assets. Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions and OPEB, in accordance with GASB Statements No. 68 and 75, are more fully discussed in the corresponding pension and OPEB notes.

**10. Accounts Payable**

Accounts payable represent 2021 expenses that were paid after December 31, 2021.

**11. Accrued Liabilities**

Accrued liabilities consist of the following at December 31, 2021:

Accrued payroll	\$ 304,765
Accrued sales tax	83,966
Other	<u>5,208</u>
Total	<u>\$ 393,939</u>

**12. Customer Deposits**

This balance represents deposits received from customers that are held in escrow.

**13. Contributions in Aid of Construction**

The application of ASC 980 results in certain revenues and expenses being removed from the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position and reflected in the Statement of Net Position as contributions in aid of construction. The revenues that have been removed from the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position and added to the Statement of Net Position are the Department's contributions in aid of construction. These deferred inflows will be amortized over the life of the corresponding capital assets.

**14. Accrued Employee Compensated Absences**

Department employees are granted sick leave in varying amounts. Upon retirement, normal termination, or death, employees are compensated for unused sick leave (subject to certain limitations) at their then current rates of pay.

## 15. Long-Term Liabilities

### ***Changes in Long-Term Liabilities***

During the year ended December 31, 2021, the following changes occurred in long-term liabilities (in thousands):

	Beginning <u>Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	Ending <u>Balance</u>	Less <u>Current Portion</u>	Equals <u>Long-Term Portion</u>
Net pension liability	\$ 12,055	\$ -	\$ (101)	\$ 11,954	\$ -	\$ 11,954
Net OPEB liability	7,167	-	(3,008)	4,159	-	4,159
Compensated absences	<u>2,222</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(267)</u>	<u>1,955</u>	<u>(316)</u>	<u>1,639</u>
Totals	\$ <u>21,444</u>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>(3,376)</u>	\$ <u>18,068</u>	\$ <u>(316)</u>	\$ <u>17,752</u>

## 16. Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred inflows of resources represent the acquisition of net position by the Department that is applicable to future reporting periods. Deferred inflows of resources have a negative effect on net position, similar to liabilities. Deferred inflows of resources are related to pension and OPEB, and contributions in aid of construction. Pension and OPEB will be recognized as expense in future years and are more fully described in the corresponding pension and OPEB notes.

## 17. Reading Contributory Retirement System

The Department follows the provisions of GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*, with respect to the employees' retirement funds.

### ***Plan Description***

Substantially all employees of the Department are members of the Town of Reading Contributory Retirement System (the System), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer public employee retirement system (PERS). Eligible employees must participate in the System. The pension plan provides pension benefits, deferred allowances, and death and disability benefits. Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws establishes the authority of the System, as well as contribution percentages and benefits paid. The System Retirement Board does not have the authority to amend benefit provisions. Additional information is disclosed in the System's annual financial reports, which are publicly available from the System's administrative offices located at Reading Town Hall, 16 Lowell Street, Reading, Massachusetts, 01867.



***Participant Contributions***

Participants contribute a set percentage of their gross regular compensation annually. Employee contribution percentages are specified in Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws. The employee's individual contribution percentage is determined by their date of entry into the system. In addition, all employees hired on or after January 1, 1979 contribute an additional 2% on all gross regular compensation over the rate of \$30,000 per year. The percentages are as follows:

Before January 1, 1975	5%
January 1, 1975 - December 31, 1983	7%
January 1, 1984 - June 30, 1996	8%
Beginning July 1, 1996	9%

For those members entering a Massachusetts System on or after April 2, 2012 in Group 1, the contribution rate will be reduced to 6% when at least 30 years of creditable service has been attained.

***Participant Retirement Benefits***

A retirement allowance consists of two parts: an annuity and a pension. A member's accumulated total deductions and a portion of the interest they generate constitute the annuity. The difference between the total retirement allowance and the annuity is the pension. The average retirement benefit is approximately 80-85% pension and 15-20% annuity.

The System provides for retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member's highest 3-year average annual rate of regular compensation for those hired prior to April 2, 2012 and the highest 5-year average annual rate of regular compensation for those first becoming members of the Massachusetts System on or after that date. However, per Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011, for members who retire on or after April 2, 2012, if in the 5 years of creditable service immediately preceding retirement, the difference in the annual rate of regular compensation between any 2 consecutive years exceeds 100%, the normal yearly amount of the retirement allowance shall be based on the average annual rate of regular compensation received by the member during the period of 5 consecutive years preceding retirement. Benefit payments are based upon a member's age, length of creditable service, level of compensation, and group classification.

There are four classes of membership in the retirement system, but one of these classes, Group 3, is made up exclusively of the Massachusetts State Police. The other three classes are as follows:

- Group 1 – General employees, including clerical, administrative, technical, and all other employees not otherwise classified.

- Group 2 – Certain specified hazardous duty positions.
- Group 4 – Police officers, firefighters, and other specified hazardous positions.

A retirement allowance may be received at any age, upon attaining 20 years of service. The plan also provides for retirement at age 55 if the participant was a member prior to January 1, 1978, with no minimum vesting requirements. If the participant was a member on or after January 1, 1978 and a member of Groups 1 or 2, then a retirement allowance may be received if the participant (1) has at least 10 years of creditable service, (2) is age 55, (3) voluntarily left Department employment on or after that date, and (4) left accumulated annuity deductions in the fund. Members of Group 4 have no minimum vesting requirements, however, must be at least age 55. Groups 2 and 4 require that participants perform the duties of the Group position for at least 12 months immediately prior to retirement.

A participant who became a member on or after April 2, 2012 is eligible for a retirement allowance upon 10 years creditable service and reaching ages 60 or 55 for Groups 1 and 2, respectively. Participants in Group 4 must be at least age 55. Groups 2 and 4 require that participants perform the duties of the Group position for at least 12 months immediately prior to retirement.

### ***Methods of Payment***

A member may elect to receive his or her retirement allowance in one of three forms of payment as follows:

- Option A – Total annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement and terminating at the member's death.
- Option B – A reduced annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement and terminating at the death of the member, provided however, that if the total amount of the annuity portion received by the member is less than the amount of his or her accumulated deductions, including interest, the difference or balance of his accumulated deductions will be paid in a lump sum to the retiree's beneficiary or beneficiaries of choice.
- Option C – A reduced annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement. At the death of the retired employee, 2/3 of the allowance is payable to the member's designated beneficiary (who may be the spouse, or former spouse who has not remarried, child, parent, sister, or brother of the employee) for the life of the beneficiary. For members who retired on or after January 12, 1988, if the beneficiary pre-deceases the retiree, the benefit payable increases (or "pops up" to Option A) based on the factor used to determine the Option C benefit at retirement. For members who retired prior to January 12, 1988, if the System has accepted Section 288 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 1998 and the beneficiary pre-deceases the retiree,

the benefit payable “pops up” to Option A in the same fashion. The Option C became available to accidental disability retirees on November 7, 1996.

### ***Participant Refunds***

Employees who resign from service and who are not eligible to receive a retirement allowance are entitled to request a refund of their accumulated total deductions. Members voluntarily withdrawing with at least 10 years of service or involuntarily withdrawing, receive 100% of the regular interest that has accrued on those accumulated total deductions. Members voluntarily withdrawing with less than 10 years of service get credited interest each year at a rate of 3%.

### ***Employer Contributions***

Employers are required to contribute at actuarially determined rates as accepted by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC).

The Department’s contribution to the System for the year ended December 31, 2021 was \$2,140,461 which was equal to its actuarially determined contribution.

### ***Summary of Significant Accounting Policies***

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the System and additions to/deductions from System’s fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by System. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

### ***Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred (Inflows) of Resources Related to Pensions***

At December 31, 2021, the Department reported a liability of \$11,954,138 for its proportionate share of the System’s net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2020, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2021. The Department’s proportion of the net pension liability was based on an actuarially determined projection of the Department’s long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers. At December 31, 2020, the Department’s proportion was 26.82%.

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the Department recognized pension expense of \$1,806,956. In addition, the Department reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred (inflows) of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of <u>Resources</u>	Deferred Inflows of <u>Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 1,501,789	\$ 104,900
Changes of assumptions	2,426,521	645,288
Net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan	-	2,158,001
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	627,032
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>2,140,481</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 6,068,791</u>	<u>\$ 3,535,221</u>

The amount reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date and before the end of the fiscal year will be included as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2022.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred (inflows) of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended December 31:

2022	\$ 60,293
2023	557,096
2024	(410,358)
2025	87,475
2026	<u>98,583</u>
Total	<u>\$ 393,089</u>

**Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2021 using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Valuation Date	January 1, 2021
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal Cost Method
Actuarial Assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation (Previously 7.50%)
Projected salary increases	4.25%-6.00% for Groups 1 and 2
Inflation rate	2.30% Annually
Post-retirement cost-of-living adjustment	3.00% of first \$14,000

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table, with full generational mortality improvement using Scale MP-2018. For disabled members, RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table, set forward one year with full generational mortality improvement using MP-2018.

**Target Allocations**

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2020 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Asset Allocation</u>	<u>Long-term Expected Rates of Return</u>
Global equity	39.00%	4.43%
Core Fixed income	15.00%	0.40%
Private equity	13.00%	7.90%
Portfolio completion	11.00%	2.90%
Real estate	10.00%	3.70%
Value-added fixed income	8.00%	3.90%
Timberland	4.00%	4.30%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that the plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made at contractually required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current active and inactive plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following table presents the Department's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) calculated using the current discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what the Department's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage-point lower or 1 percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	Current	
1%	Discount	1%
Decrease	Rate	Increase
<u>(6.00%)</u>	<u>(7.00%)</u>	<u>(8.00%)</u>
\$18,387,897	\$11,954,138	\$6,507,398

**Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position**

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued System financial report.

**Town of Reading Municipal Light Department Employees Retirement Trust ("Pension Trust")**

The Department has established an irrevocable trust for the purpose of currently funding its annual required contribution to the Town of Reading Contributory Retirement System (RCRS). Annual contributions to the trust are actuarially determined to be the net normal cost for funding the Department's liability for pension benefits for covered employees, and both the principal and income of the trust is restricted for the exclusive benefit of Department employees and their beneficiaries. This Pension Trust is included in the proprietary fund statements in the Department's basic financial statements.

As noted in the first paragraph of this section, the Department's proportionate share of the RCRS net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2021. However, the actuarial valuation does not take into account the fiduciary net



position of the Department's Pension Trust at December 31, 2020 (the measurement date). As of December 31, 2020, the value of the pension trust was \$6,585,203.

## **18. Other Post-Employment Benefits (GASB 74 and GASB 75)**

GASB Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB)*, replaces the requirements of GASB Statement No. 43, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*. This applies if a trust fund has been established to fund future OPEB costs. In fiscal year 2010, the Department established a single employer defined benefit OPEB Trust Fund to provide funding for future employee health care costs. The OPEB Trust Fund does not issue a stand-alone financial report.

GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, replaces the requirements of GASB Statement No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. The Statement establishes standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. This statement identifies the methods and assumptions that are required to be used to project benefit payments, discounted projected benefit payments to their actuarial present value, and attribute that present value to periods of employee service.

All the following OPEB disclosures are based on a measurement date of December 31, 2021.

### ***General Information about the OPEB Plan***

#### ***Plan Description***

The Department provides post-employment healthcare benefits for retired employees through the Department's plan. The Department provides health insurance coverage through Blue Cross Blue Shield. The benefits, benefit levels, employee contributions, and employer contributions are governed by Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

#### ***Benefits Provided***

The Department provides medical and prescription drug insurance to retirees and their covered dependents. All active employees who retire from the Department and meet the eligibility criteria will receive these benefits.

#### ***Funding Policy***

The Department's funding policy includes financing the implicit subsidy on a pay-as-you-go basis, as required by statute. Additional contributions are based on actuarially determined amounts.

### *Plan Membership*

At June 30, 2020 (actuarial valuation date), the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments	106
Active employees	<u>47</u>
Total	<u>153</u>

### ***Investments***

The OPEB trust fund assets consist of investments with the State Retiree Benefit Trust Fund (SRBTF) in the Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT).

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the annual money-weighted rate of return on investments, net of investment expense, was not available. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

### ***Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs***

The net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2020, and used the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation	3.00%
	6.00% decreasing to 4.25% based on service for Group 1 and Group 2
Salary increases	
Investment rate of return	7.00% (Previously 7.25%)
Municipal bond rate	Unknown
Discount rate	7.00%
Healthcare cost trend rates	Medical/Prescription Drug: 7.00% decreasing by 0.25% for 10 years to an ultimate level of 4.50% per year. Contributions: Retiree contributions are expected to increase with medical trend.
Participation rate	100% of active employees

Mortality rates were based on:

- Pre-Retirement: RP-2014 Blue Collar Employee Mortality Table projected generationally using Scale MP-2018
- Healthy: RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table projected generationally using Scale MP-2018
- Disabled: RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table set forward one year projected generationally using Scale MP-2018

The actuarial assumptions used in the valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study as of June 30, 2020.

### ***Target Allocations***

The long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the target asset allocation as of June 30, 2020 are summarized in the following table.

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Asset Allocation</u>	<u>Long-term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Domestic equity	22.00%	6.28%
Core fixed income	15.00%	0.38%
Private equity	14.00%	10.11%
International developed markets equity	12.00%	7.00%
Real estate	10.00%	3.50%
Hedge fund, GTAA, risk parity	10.00%	2.35%
High yield fixed income	8.00%	2.97%
International emerging markets equity	5.00%	8.82%
Commodities	4.00%	3.45%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

### ***Contributions***

In addition to the implicit subsidy contribution, the Department's policy is to contribute the ADC.

### ***Discount Rate***

The discount rate used to measure the net OPEB liability was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rate.

Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members.

**Net OPEB Liability**

The components of the net OPEB liability, measured as of December 31, 2021, were as follows:

Total OPEB liability	\$ 9,242,982
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>5,084,284</u>
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 4,158,698</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	55.01%

The fiduciary net position has been determined on the same basis used by the OPEB Plan. For this purpose, the Plan recognizes benefit payments when due and payable.

**Changes in the Net OPEB Liability**

The following summarizes the changes in the net OPEB liability for the past year.

	Increase (Decrease)		
	Total OPEB	Plan	Net OPEB
	Liability	Fiduciary	Liability
	(a)	Net Position	(a) - (b)
Balances, beginning of year	\$ 11,674,762	\$ 4,508,256	\$ 7,166,506
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	346,715	-	346,715
Interest	851,982	-	851,982
Contributions - employer	-	937,222	(937,222)
Net investment income	-	188,435	(188,435)
Changes of benefit terms	(2,404,503)	-	(2,404,503)
Differences between expected and actual experience	296,537	-	296,537
Changes in assumptions or other inputs	(972,882)	-	(972,882)
Benefit payments	<u>(549,629)</u>	<u>(549,629)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Changes	<u>(2,431,780)</u>	<u>576,028</u>	<u>(3,007,808)</u>
Balances, end of year	<u>\$ 9,242,982</u>	<u>\$ 5,084,284</u>	<u>\$ 4,158,698</u>

***Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate***

The following presents the net OPEB liability, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

1% Decrease <u>(6.00%)</u>	Current Discount Rate <u>(7.00%)</u>	1% Increase <u>(8.00%)</u>
\$ 5,229,573	\$ 4,158,698	\$ 3,266,391

***Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates***

The following presents the net OPEB liability, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

1% Decrease <u>(6.00%)</u>	Current Healthcare Cost Trend Rates <u>(7.00%)</u>	1% Increase <u>(8.00%)</u>
\$ 3,105,951	\$ 4,158,698	\$ 5,436,485

***OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred (Inflows) of Resources Related to OPEB***

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the Department recognized an OPEB expense of \$(1,556,125). At December 31, 2021, the Department reported deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of <u>Resources</u>	Deferred Inflows of <u>Resources</u>
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 287,464	\$ -
Changes in assumptions	-	792,702
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB investment	<u>398,242</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 685,706</u>	<u>\$ 792,702</u>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows and (inflows) of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

<u>Year Ended December 31:</u>	
2022	\$ (9,423)
2023	(44,781)
2024	(83,285)
2025	<u>30,493</u>
Total	\$ <u>(106,996)</u>

#### **19. Participation in Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company**

The Town of Reading, acting through the Reading Municipal Light Department is a participant in certain Projects of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC).

MMWEC is a public corporation and a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, created as a means to develop a bulk power supply for its members and other utilities. MMWEC is authorized to construct, own or purchase ownership interests in, and to issue revenue bonds to finance, electric facilities (Projects). MMWEC has acquired ownership interests in electric facilities operated by other entities and also owns and operates its own electric facilities. MMWEC operates the Stony Brook Intermediate Project and the Stony Brook Peaking Project, both fossil-fueled power plants. MMWEC has the Nuclear Mix No 1 Project, Nuclear Project Three, Nuclear Project Four, Nuclear Project Five and Project Six, which comprise an 11.6% ownership interest in the Seabrook Station nuclear generating unit operated by NextEra Energy Seabrook, LLC and a 4.8% ownership interest in the Millstone Unit 3 nuclear unit, operated by Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. The operating license for Seabrook Station extends to March 15, 2050. The operating license for the Millstone Unit 3 nuclear unit extends to November 25, 2045.

MMWEC sells all of the capability (Project Capability) of each of its projects to its members and other utilities (Project Participants) under Power Sales Agreements (PSAs). The Department has entered into PSAs with MMWEC. Under the PSAs the Department is required to make certain payments to MMWEC payable solely from Department revenues. Among other things, the PSAs require each project participant to pay its pro rata share of MMWEC's costs related to the Project, which costs include debt service on the revenue bonds issued by MMWEC to finance the Project. In addition, should a project participant fail to make any payment when due, other project participants of that Project may be required to increase (step-up) their payments and correspondingly their participant's share of that Project's Project Capability. Project participants have covenanted to fix, revise and collect rates at least sufficient to meet their obligations under the PSAs. Each participant is unconditionally obligated to make payments due to



MMWEC whether or not the Project is completed or operating and notwithstanding the suspension or interruption of the output of the Project(s).

Pursuant to the PSAs, the MMWEC project participants are liable for their proportionate share of the costs associated with decommissioning the plants, which costs are being funded through monthly project billings. Also, the Millstone and Seabrook project participants are liable for their proportionate share of the uninsured costs of a nuclear incident that might be imposed under the Price-Anderson Act (Act). Originally enacted in 1957, the Act has been renewed several times. In July 2005, as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Congress extended the Act until the end of 2025.

MMWEC is involved in various legal actions. In the opinion of management, the outcome of such litigation or claims will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the company.

The total capital expenditures and annual capacity, fuel and transmission costs (which include debt service and decommissioning expenses as discussed above) associated with the Department's Project Capability of the Projects in which it participates for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively are listed in the table below.

Projects	Percentage Share	Years Ended		Capacity, Fuel & Transmission	
		Total Capital Expenditures	Total Capital Expenditures	Billed	Billed
		2021	2020	2021	2020
Stony Brook Peaking Project	19.5163%	\$ 12,088,787	\$ 11,804,463	\$ 778,875	\$ 737,155
Stony Brook Intermediate Project	15.9249%	29,170,553	28,760,974	2,320,014	2,211,613
Nuclear Mix No. 1-Seabrook	14.7191%	1,513,418	1,498,043	63,124	69,035
Nuclear Mix No. 1-Millstone	14.7191%	9,169,163	9,042,897	978,120	874,492
Nuclear Project No. 3-Millstone	5.2617%	7,973,312	7,883,321	696,645	626,561
Nuclear Project No. 4-Seabrook	12.5560%	38,169,208	37,820,072	1,438,529	1,572,540
Nuclear Project No. 5-Seabrook	6.1186%	5,033,573	4,990,509	180,368	196,683
		<u>\$ 103,118,014</u>	<u>\$ 101,800,279</u>	<u>\$ 6,455,675</u>	<u>\$ 6,288,079</u>

## 20. Non-Carbon Certificates

In April of 2021, Massachusetts put the 2021 Climate Law into effect. For the first time, Massachusetts municipal light plants are under emission compliance standards. Emission compliance targets were set for 2030, 2040, and 2050. Specifically, Massachusetts municipal light plants must source energy from non-carbon sources equal to or above a percentage of kwh sales, set as 50% of annual kwh sales in 2030, 75% of annual kwh sales in 2040, net-zero of annual kwh sales in 2050, with a 2020 baseline of 20% of annual kwh sales.

Compliance is recognized as retiring non-carbon certificates. Hence, the new metric is non-carbon certificates where renewable energy certificates are a subset of non-carbon certificates. Emissions Free Energy Certificates (EFECs) are classified as non-carbon certificates and are valid for compliance. Nuclear facilities can register EFECs with the NEPOOL GIS regional tracking system. Seabrook and Millstone nuclear facilities create EFEC's as part of the Departments' contracts and NYPA certificates are also EFECs.

In anticipation of the 2021 Climate Law, the Department updated its Policy no. 30 in February 2021. In an effort to avoid rate shocks in 2030, 2040, and 2050, the updated Department policy requires the retirement of non-carbon certificates at a level of 23% of annual 2021 kwh sales. The retirement level will increase 3% annually, such that the 50% compliance target is met in 2030, then 2.5% annual retirement increases thereafter.

The Department typically purchases non-carbon certificates bundled with energy, as an associated purchase of energy plus environmental attributes (certificates), and historically has not purchased non-carbon certificates in the open market.

The Departments power supply portfolio currently provides non-carbon certificates in excess of the retirement levels required by policy no. 30 and the certificates in excess of retirement targets are sold. Accounting for the 3 to 6 month minting process, the Department retires or sells non-carbon certificates on a quarterly basis.

The table below summarizes Department's non-carbon certificate holdings as of December 31, 2021. The table includes certificates acquired as part of power supply contracts, regardless of the timing of minting where minting is a prerequisite to the Department's ability to transact (retire or sell) these certificates.

The following table reflects certificates acquired during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2021 and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2021, where 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2021 certificates would typically be transacted in February 2022 and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2021 certificates would be typically transacted in May 2022. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2021 certificates were transacted prior to December 31, 2021. The yearend certificate pricing reflects market prices as of December 31, 2021 and was sourced from weekly Marex Spectrometer US Environmental market price report dated December 31, 2021 (report: SpectrometerUSGreenWeekly\_27\_311221) for regularly traded certificates and most recent contract prices used for the rest.

Information regarding the Department's year ending December 31, 2021 non-carbon certificate balances is as follows:

Non-Carbon Certificates Holdings at December 31, 2021

	Projected <u>Certificates</u>	Estimated <u>Value</u>
MA Class I	\$ 4,676	\$ 188,213
MA/CT/RI/NH Class I	6,758	269,912
ME Class I	12,513	400,416
MA/RI/NH/ME Class I	3,328	127,092
CT/RI Class I	4,986	196,636
ME Class II	13,298	93,084
MA Class II	6,875	195,944
VT Tier I	390	2,730
EFECS	<u>63,594</u>	<u>120,829</u>
Total	<u>\$ 116,418</u>	<u>\$ 1,594,856</u>

Currently, there is no formal accounting guidance under GAAP for non-carbon certificates, including renewable energy certificates. The Department's non-carbon certificates holdings at December 31, 2021 are not recognized as an asset in the Statement of Net Position.

## 21. Leases

### ***Related Party Transaction - Property Sub-Lease***

The Department is the lessor of facilities that are currently sub-leased to the Reading Town Employees Federal Credit Union. The original sub-lease agreement commenced in December 2000 and was extended by various amendments through November 30, 2022. Following is the future minimum rental income to be received by the Department under the terms of this lease for the year ending December 31:

2022	\$ <u>8,984</u>
Total	\$ <u><u>8,984</u></u>

### ***Operating Lease - Warehouse***

The Department is the lessee of a warehouse facility owned by JCM Real Estate Trust. The original lease agreement for this facility commenced in December 1998 and was extended by various amendments through May 31, 2018. Under the terms of the most recent lease amendment, the Department has exercised the option to extend the lease for an

additional 60 months until May 31, 2025. Following is the future minimum rental expense to be paid by the Department for the year ending December 31:

2022	\$ 161,347
2023	161,347
2024	161,347
2025	<u>67,228</u>
Total	\$ <u>551,269</u>

## 22. Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through May 23, 2022, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

### ***Pension Trust Fund***

Subsequent to year end the Department voted to dissolve the Pension Trust. The assets in the Pension Trust were closed to unrestricted operating cash.

## 23. Commitments and Contingencies

### ***COVID-19***

The COVID-19 outbreak in the United States and across the globe has resulted in economic uncertainties. There is considerable uncertainty around the duration and scope of the economic disruption. The extent of the impact of COVID-19 on our operational and financial performance will depend on certain developments, including the duration and spread of the outbreak, special acts or legislation by the state or federal government, and the impact on our customers, employees, and vendors, all of which are uncertain and cannot be predicted. At this point, the extent to which COVID-19 may impact our financial condition or results of operations is uncertain. Additionally, the Department has not experienced any disruptions in operations or supply chains as of the date of the financial statements. The Department will continue to monitor the situation going forward.

### ***Outstanding Legal Issues***

On an ongoing basis, there are typically pending legal issues in which the Department is involved. The Department's management is of the opinion that the potential future settlement of these issues would not materially affect its financial statements taken as a whole.

## **24. New Pronouncements**

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued Statement No. 87, *Leases*, effective for the Department beginning with its calendar year ending December 31, 2022. This statement establishes new reporting and disclosure requirements, including the recording of various operating leases in the financial statements. Management has not yet evaluated the impact of GASB 87 on its financial statements.

**TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT**  
 Required Supplementary Information  
 Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

December 31, 2021  
 (Unaudited)

Reading Contributory Retirement System						
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Measurement Date</u>	<u>Proportion of the Net Pension Liability</u>	<u>Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability</u>	<u>Covered Payroll</u>	<u>Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll</u>	<u>Plan Fiduciary Net Position Percentage of the Total Pension Liability</u>
December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020	26.82%	\$11,954,138	\$6,758,995	176.86%	79.07%
December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019	28.35%	\$12,054,935	\$6,754,079	178.48%	78.24%
December 31, 2019	December 31, 2018	28.35%	\$14,610,001	\$6,513,347	224.31%	72.56%
December 31, 2018	December 31, 2017	29.15%	\$10,781,819	\$6,938,057	155.40%	79.32%
June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017	29.15%	\$10,781,819	\$6,938,057	155.40%	79.32%
June 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	29.15%	\$13,076,538	\$6,393,765	204.52%	73.43%
June 30, 2016	December 31, 2015	28.25%	\$12,862,732	\$6,147,851	209.22%	72.17%
June 30, 2015	December 31, 2014	28.25%	\$8,464,663	\$5,908,694	143.26%	79.89%

*Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

See notes to the Department's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See Independent Auditors' Report.

**TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of Pension Contributions

December 31, 2021  
(Unaudited)

Reading Contributory Retirement System

Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	Contributions in Relation to the		Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
		Actuarially Determined Contribution	Actuarially Determined Contribution			
December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020	\$ 2,140,461	\$ 2,140,461	\$ -	\$ 7,136,404	29.99%
December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019	\$ 2,039,462	\$ 2,039,462	\$ -	\$ 6,758,995	30.17%
December 31, 2019	December 31, 2018	\$ 1,781,345	\$ 1,781,345	\$ -	\$ 6,754,079	26.37%
December 31, 2018	December 31, 2017	\$ 1,691,058	\$ 1,691,058	\$ -	\$ 6,513,347	25.96%
June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017	\$ 1,650,416	\$ 1,650,416	\$ -	\$ 6,938,057	23.79%
June 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	\$ 1,579,345	\$ 1,579,345	\$ -	\$ 6,938,057	22.76%
June 30, 2016	December 31, 2015	\$ 1,461,650	\$ 1,461,650	\$ -	\$ 6,393,765	22.86%
June 30, 2015	December 31, 2014	\$ 1,401,638	\$ 1,401,638	\$ -	\$ 6,147,851	22.80%

*Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

See notes to the Department's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See Independent Auditors' Report.



**TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT**  
Required Supplementary Information  
Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)  
Schedule of Changes in the Net OPEB Liability

(Unaudited)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>					
Service cost	\$ 346,715	\$ 336,113	\$ 245,905	\$ 238,384	\$ 230,880
Interest	851,982	811,737	799,729	766,539	733,280
Changes of benefit terms	(2,404,503)	-	-	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	296,537	-	260,248	-	-
Changes of assumptions	(972,882)	-	(252,156)	-	-
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	<u>(549,629)</u>	<u>(655,233)</u>	<u>(577,471)</u>	<u>(552,351)</u>	<u>(504,917)</u>
Net change in total OPEB liability	(2,431,780)	492,617	476,255	452,572	459,243
Total OPEB liability - beginning	<u>11,674,762</u>	<u>11,182,145</u>	<u>10,705,890</u>	<u>10,253,318</u>	<u>9,794,075</u>
Total OPEB liability - ending (a)	9,242,982	11,674,762	11,182,145	10,705,890	10,253,318
<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position</b>					
Contributions - employer	937,222	1,042,087	1,012,408	1,159,476	813,663
Net investment income	188,435	33,826	90,920	75,522	35,045
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	<u>(549,629)</u>	<u>(655,233)</u>	<u>(577,471)</u>	<u>(552,351)</u>	<u>(504,917)</u>
Net change in plan fiduciary net position	576,028	420,680	525,857	682,647	343,791
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning	<u>4,508,256</u>	<u>4,087,576</u>	<u>3,561,719</u>	<u>2,879,072</u>	<u>2,535,281</u>
Plan fiduciary net position - ending (b)	<u>5,084,284</u>	<u>4,508,256</u>	<u>4,087,576</u>	<u>3,561,719</u>	<u>2,879,072</u>
Net OPEB liability - ending (a-b)	<u>\$ 4,158,698</u>	<u>\$ 7,166,506</u>	<u>\$ 7,094,569</u>	<u>\$ 7,144,171</u>	<u>\$ 7,374,246</u>

*Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

See notes to the Department's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See Independent Auditors' Report.

**TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS  
READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

Required Supplementary Information  
Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)  
Schedules of Net OPEB Liability, Contributions, and Investment Returns

(Unaudited)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Schedule of Net OPEB Liability</b>					
Total OPEB liability	\$ 9,242,982	\$ 11,674,762	\$ 11,182,145	\$ 10,705,890	\$ 10,253,318
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>5,084,284</u>	<u>4,508,256</u>	<u>4,087,576</u>	<u>3,561,719</u>	<u>2,879,072</u>
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 4,158,698</u>	<u>\$ 7,166,506</u>	<u>\$ 7,094,569</u>	<u>\$ 7,144,171</u>	<u>\$ 7,374,246</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	55.01%	38.62%	36.55%	33.27%	28.08%
Covered employee payroll	\$ unavailable	\$ unavailable	unavailable	\$ unavailable	unavailable
Participating employer net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of covered employee payroll	\$ unavailable	\$ unavailable	unavailable	\$ unavailable	unavailable
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Schedule of Contributions</b>					
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ 848,942	\$ 1,136,780	\$ 1,146,987	\$ 991,048	\$ 932,387
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	<u>937,222</u>	<u>1,042,087</u>	<u>1,012,408</u>	<u>1,159,476</u>	<u>813,663</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ (88,280)</u>	<u>\$ 94,693</u>	<u>\$ 134,579</u>	<u>\$ (168,428)</u>	<u>\$ 118,724</u>
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Schedule of Investment Returns</b>					
Annual money weighted rate of return, net of investment expense	unavailable	unavailable	unavailable	unavailable	unavailable

*Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

See notes to the Department's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See Independent Auditors' Report.

**2022 NEPPA CONFERENCE**  
**ATTACHMENT 2**

## **NEPPA's 2022 Annual Conference**

**Dates:** Sunday August 14 – Wednesday August 17, 2022

**Website Link:** [Annual Conference | NEPPA](#)

**Conference Location:** **The Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Conference Center**  
Address: 1746 Mountain Road, Stowe, VT 05672  
Phone Number: 800.253.2232

**Lodging:** **The Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Conference Center**  
Address: 1746 Mountain Road, Stowe, VT 05672  
Phone number: 800.253.2232

## NEPPA's 2022 Annual Conference Agenda At A Glance

*Agenda details are still being finalized and are therefore subject to change.*

### **Sunday, August 14, 2022**

- 1:00 PM      **Member Value Committee Meeting**
- 2:00 PM      **Registration, Welcome Wagon**
- 3:00 PM      **Advocacy & Reporting Committee Meeting**
- 6:00 PM      **Opening Reception**

### **Monday, August 15, 2022**

- 7:00 AM      **Registration, Breakfast**
- 8:00 AM      **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
- 8:15 AM      **Welcome from Vermont**
- 8:45 AM      **Keynote: “*The Evolving Northeastern Electricity Landscape: Navigating an Era of Rapid Change.*”**  
  
In this keynote, Mr. Kelly-Detwiler will discuss the accelerating pace of new technologies, business models, and evolving customer demand. He'll outline the implications for municipal utilities and some potential strategies for coping with a highly uncertain future.
- 9:45 AM      ***Break and Visit with Sponsors***
- 10:00 AM     ***General Session #1 Clean Energy in New England*** by Joe Curtone, Northeast Clean Energy Council
- 11:00 AM     ***Break and Visit Sponsors***
- 11:15 AM     ***General Session #2 Commonwealth Fusion TBD*** by Benjamin Byboth, Commonwealth Fusion
- 12:15 PM     **Lunch and Visit with Sponsors**
- 1:15 PM      ***General Session #3 The Future of NEPPA*** by Michael Hyland, NEPPA
- 2:15 PM      **Break and Visit with Sponsors**
- 2:30 PM      ***General Session #4 Fleet Electrification*** by Yann Kurp, eIQ Mobility/NextEra Energy Company
- 3:45 PM      **Annual Business Meeting**
- 5:45 PM      **Children's Program**
- 6:00 PM      **Networking Reception**

- 7:00 PM      **Awards Dinner**
- 9:00 PM      **Music and Open Bar Hosted by ENE**

**Tuesday, August 16, 2022**

- 7:00 AM      **Breakfast**
- 8:00 AM      ***General Session #5 Legislative Update by Elizabeth Whitney, Principal, Meguire Whitney, LLC.***
- 9:00 AM      **Break and Visit Sponsors**
- 9:15 AM      ***General Session #6 TBD***
- 10:15 AM     **Break and Visit Sponsors**
- 10:30 AM     ***General Session #7 Battery Storage Technology by Ted Wiley, Form Energy***
- 11:30 AM     **Box Lunch**
- 11:45 AM     **Benevolent Fund Activities:**
- #1 Golf Tournament -Shotgun Start at 1:00 PM**
- Lunch for Golfers Only at Course***
- Stowe Country Club***
- 744 Cape Cod Road***
- Stowe, VT 05672***
- #2 Benevolent Fund: *von Trapp Family History Tour***
- Trapp Family Lodge***
- 700 Trapp Hill Road***
- Stowe, VT 05672***
- 5:00 PM      **Dinner on Own**
- 7:00 PM      **Tournament Awards**
- 7:00 PM      **#NEPPAYPG Meet-up (Young Professional Group): TBD**

**Wednesday, August 17, 2022**

- 7:00 AM      **Farewell Breakfast**
- 9:00 AM      **NEPPA Board of Directors Meeting**
- 11:00 AM     **Conference Adjourns**

**REPORT ON TOWN PAYMENTS**  
**ATTACHMENT 3**

BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS  
&  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY  
BOARD

JUNE 23, 2022

# Town Payments

- ❖ Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) to All Towns
- ❖ Return on Investment (ROI) to Reading



# PILOT Payment Breakdown for CY2022

TOWN	CY2021 kWh Sales	kWh % Allocation	Annual PILOT Payment	Payment June 30,2022	Payment December 31, 2022
READING	137,856,682	20.94022%	\$360,307	\$180,153	\$180,153
LYNNFIELD	43,735,289	6.64332%	\$114,308	\$57,154	\$57,154
NORTH READING	120,007,052	18.22889%	\$313,654	\$156,827	\$156,827
WILMINGTON	356,735,413	54.18757%	\$932,375	\$466,187	\$466,187
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>658,334,436</b>	<b>100.0000%</b>	<b>\$1,720,644</b>	<b>\$860,322</b>	<b>\$860,322</b>

# New Calculation Formula

Beginning with the payment on June 30, 2022  
Town of Reading Below-the-Line Payment will be  
calculated by:

**Prior 3-year audited average of kWh sales per 3.875 mils**  
Voted by Board of Commissioners on May 21, 2020

# New Town of Reading ROI Estimated Payment Schedule

Year	Source	RMLD kWh Sales	3-Year Average kWh Sales	Mils per kWh	Below-the-Line Town of Reading Payment
					Mils per kWh Sales
CY 19	Audited Financials	647,214,654*			
CY 20	Audited Financials	651,179,904*			
CY 21	Audited Financials	658,334,436*	652,242,998*		
CY 22	Six Year Plan Projection	663,883,547	657,802,600	3.875	\$2,527,442*
CY 23	Six Year Plan Projection	669,226,164	663,818,020	3.875	\$2,548,985
CY 24	Six Year Plan Projection	674,649,452	669,253,054	3.875	\$2,572,295
CY 25	Six Year Plan Projection	680,061,792	674,645,803	3.875	\$2,593,356
CY 26	Six Year Plan Projection	685,525,136	680,078,793	3.875	\$2,614,252
CY 27	Six Year Plan Projection	691,040,020	685,542,316	3.875	\$2,635,305

**\* Payment derived by the average of three previous years of kWh's sold, per audited financial statements, calculated at 3.875 mils per kWh sold**

- ❖ Below-the-line payments are voluntary, pending non-catastrophic events
- ❖ KWH sales are projected based on the estimated six-year plan in the CY22 Budget, pending weather, catastrophic events, and electrification contributions

**IRD REPORT**  
**ATTACHMENT 4**



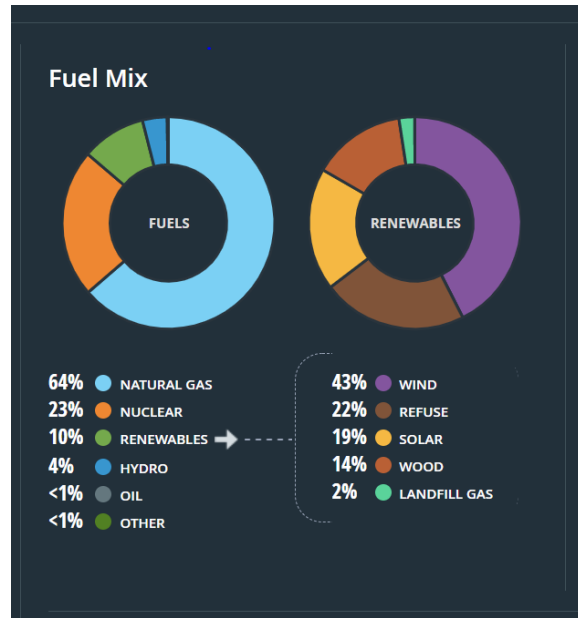
# Integrated Resources Report

## Customer Costs Renewable Choice

*Presented to the  
Board of Commissioners and  
Citizens' Advisory Board*

23 June 2022

natural gas ~ 50% of annual ISO NE fuel  
17 June 2022 snapshot (64%)

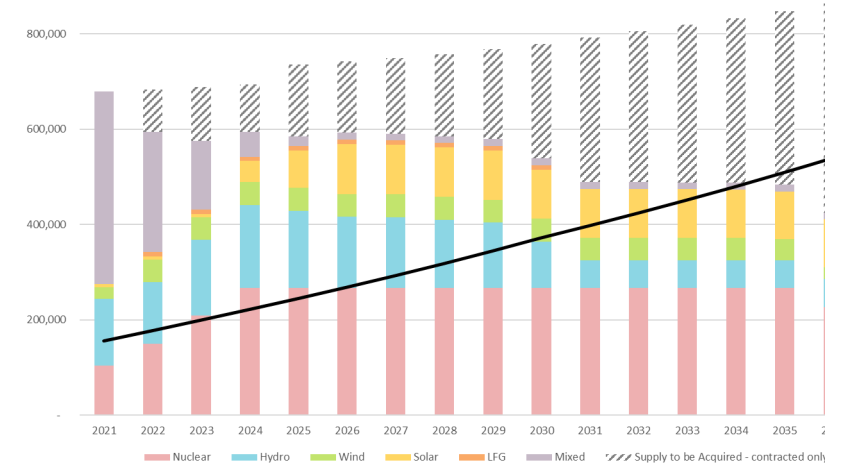


2022 RMLD power supply

a) \$61 million budget

b) \$66 million updated

Forecasted ~9% higher than budget



Natural gas wholesale

- summer 2021 **\$3.500** / mmbtu
- summer 2022 **\$7.800** / mmbtu
- fall 2022 **\$8.600** / mmbtu

2022 ~**130%** higher than 2021

Active management of power supply

a) Higher hedging in 2022 – 2023

b) Pursuing new non-carbon projects



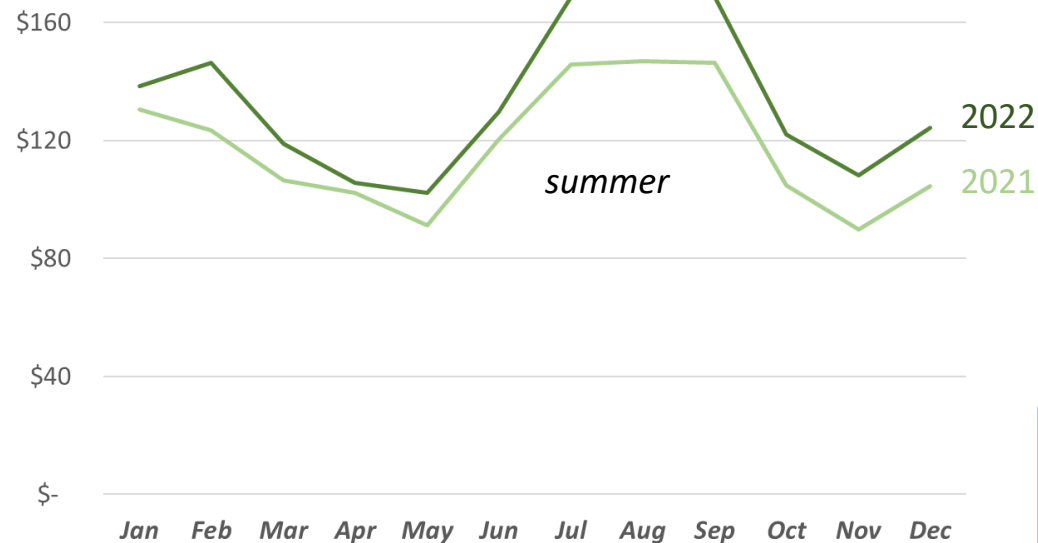
# Customer Cost – Residential Example

2021 actuals, 2022 YTD actuals through May, updated forecast thereafter

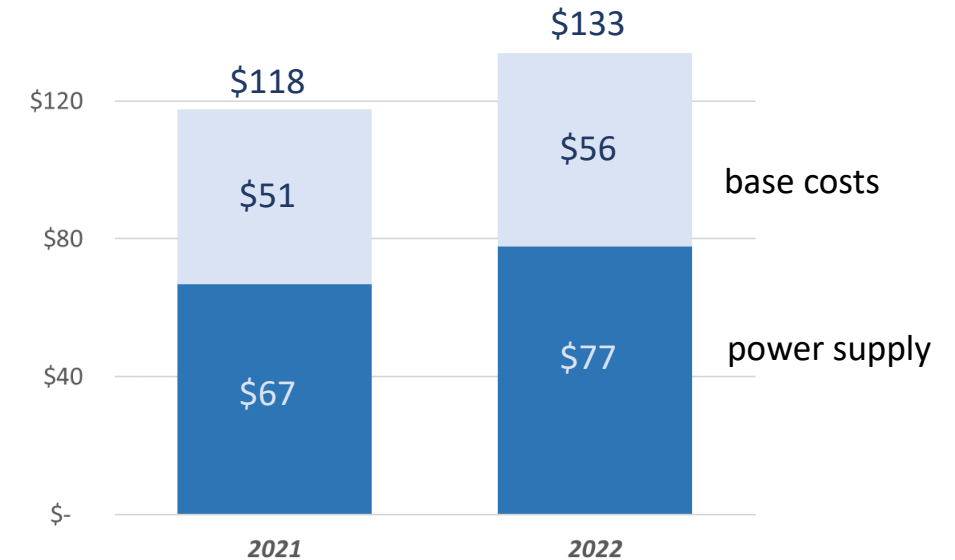
## Monthly bill drivers

- Monthly customer usage (kwh)
- Monthly power supply cost (actual cost pass through)
- Annual operating cost (base costs)

Average Residential Bill by Month



Average Residential Bill Across 12 Months



*Noteworthy variability in monthly customer bills*  
*Summer customer bills high due to higher summer usage*  
*Power supply cost higher due to global energy context*

# Renewable Choice – June 2022 Update

Renewable Choice 2022 Signups To Date			
	Residential <i>launched February 2022</i>	Commercial <i>launched April 2022</i>	Industrial <i>launched April 2022</i>
50%	14	-	discussions with 2 large customers, for internal ESG goals
75%	10	-	
100%	42	1	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>



## Communications promotion to date:

- RMLD Current Customer Newsletter: January, February, March (Both Residential and Commercial/Industrial)
- Press Releases: Program Launch in January (1/21), Addition of C&I Customers to Program (3/31)

## Future promotions:

- Add social media; continue newsletters; highlight at summer community events (match with contest drawing); update messaging
- Promote at C&I customer meetings (what's new); pitch as press article; ???



Thank You  
from the IRD Team

**RMLD PROCUREMENT REQUESTS  
REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL  
ATTACHMENT 5**



June 16, 2022

Town of Reading Municipal Light Board

Subject: IFP 2022-25 ABB GridShield 15kV Reclosers

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164 § 56D, on May 18, 2022, an invitation for proposals was placed as a legal notice in the Middlesex East Section of the Daily Times Chronicle and was posted on the RMLD website requesting sealed proposals for ABB GridShield 15kV Reclosers.

An invitation for proposals was sent to twelve (12) companies:

Sealed proposals were received from two (2) companies: Stuart C. Irby Company and WESCO Distribution, Inc.

The sealed proposals were publicly opened and read aloud at 11:00 a.m. on June 15, 2022, in the Town of Reading Municipal Light Department's Audio Visual Spurr Room, 230 Ash Street, Reading, Massachusetts.

The proposals were reviewed, analyzed, and evaluated by staff and recommended to the General Manager.

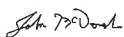
Move that IFP 2022-25 for ABB GridShield 15kV Reclosers be awarded to: **WESCO Distribution, Inc., for \$107,032.00<sup>1</sup>**, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164 § 56D, on the recommendation of the General Manager.

<sup>1</sup>See attached analysis.

The 2022 Capital Budget amount for these items is \$80,000.


  
Brian Smith (Jun 16, 2022 1:52 EDT)

Brian Smith

  
John McDonagh

  
Hamid Jaffari (Jun 16, 2022 14:22 EDT)

Hamid Jaffari

  
Coleen O'Brien (Jun 17, 2022 14:19 EDT)

Coleen O'Brien

**ABB GRIDSHIELD 15kV Reclosers**  
**IFP 2022-25**

<b>Proposer</b>	<b><u>Manufacturer</u></b>	<b><u>Delivery Date</u> <u>ARO</u></b>	<b><u>Unit Price</u></b>	<b><u>Qty</u></b>	<b><u>Total Price</u></b>	<b><u>Meet</u> <u>Specification</u> <u>Requirement</u></b>
Stuart C. Irby Company	ABB	17 weeks	\$26,964.00	4	\$107,856.00	yes
WESCO Distribution, Inc.	ABB	14-17 weeks	\$26,758.00	4	\$107,032.00	yes

## **MATERIALS AVAILABLE BUT NOT DISCUSSED**

**From:** [Maureen Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Erica Morse](#)  
**Cc:** [Paula O'Leary](#)  
**Subject:** Surplus Update - May 2022  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 10:59:40 AM

---

Good morning Erica,

I am sending this email to inform you that there were NO Surplus Items of Substantial Value that were disposed of in May 2022.

Thank you,  
Maureen

**Maureen Sullivan**  
Assistant Materials Manager  
Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD)  
230 Ash Street  
Reading, MA 01867

Tel. No. 781-942-6441  
Email: [msullivan@rmlld.com](mailto:msullivan@rmlld.com)

Town of Reading, Massachusetts  
Municipal Light Department  
Statement of Net Assets  
4/30/2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current:		
Unrestricted Cash	\$ 17,878,279	\$ 20,772,280
Restricted Cash	31,497,400	29,846,663
Restricted Investments	2,563,348	2,704,168
Receivables, Net	9,591,188	7,712,190
Prepaid Expenses	1,909,636	1,730,944
Inventory	2,004,258	2,196,985
Total Current Assets	<u>65,444,109</u>	<u>64,963,229</u>
Noncurrent:		
Investment in Associated Companies	964,270	822,086
Capital Assets, Net	86,139,323	82,892,082
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>87,103,593</u>	<u>83,714,168</u>
Deferred Outflows - Pension Plan	<u>6,754,497</u>	<u>5,360,409</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>159,302,199</u></u>	<u><u>154,037,806</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current		
Accounts Payable	9,083,941	6,439,148
Accrued Liabilities	267,958	263,962
Customer Deposits	1,568,733	1,412,320
Advances from Associated Companies	200,000	200,000
Customer Advances for Construction	2,581,544	2,306,021
Total Current Liabilities	<u>13,702,176</u>	<u>10,621,452</u>
Non-current		
Accrued Employee Compensated Absences	1,955,013	2,221,737
Net OPEB Obligation	4,158,698	7,166,506
Net Pension Liability	11,954,138	12,054,935
Total Non-current Liabilities	<u>18,067,849</u>	<u>21,443,178</u>
Deferred Inflows - Pension Plan	4,327,923	2,652,103
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>36,097,948</u>	<u>34,716,733</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>		
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	86,139,323	82,892,082
Restricted for Depreciation Fund	11,862,582	10,214,614
Restricted for Pension Trust	6,781,988	6,584,193
Unrestricted	18,420,358	19,630,184
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>	<u><u>123,204,251</u></u>	<u><u>119,321,073</u></u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 159,302,199</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 154,037,806</u></u>

Town of Reading, Massachusetts  
Municipal Light Department  
Business Type Proprietary Fund  
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Assets  
4/30/2022

	Month Current Year	Month Last Year	Year to Date Current Year	Year to Date Last Year	Percent Change
Operating Revenues					
Base Revenue	\$ 2,210,614	\$ 2,094,169	\$ 9,783,585	\$ 8,954,633	9.3%
Fuel Revenue	2,606,616	1,994,935	10,904,750	8,130,877	34.1%
Purchased Power Capacity & Transmission	2,202,320	2,543,542	10,387,155	10,763,121	(3.5%)
Forfeited Discounts	39,470	56,058	258,833	293,277	(11.7%)
Energy Conservation Revenue	143,771	49,902	632,128	209,240	202.1%
NYPA Credit	(73,902)	(101,914)	(463,471)	(404,437)	14.6%
Total Operating Revenues	7,128,888	6,636,693	31,502,979	27,946,710	12.7%
Expenses					
Power Expenses:					
547 Purchased Power Fuel	2,423,657	1,934,530	11,431,571	9,218,219	24.0%
555 Purchased Power Capacity	1,260,524	1,450,121	5,375,122	5,852,167	(8.2%)
565 Purchased Power Transmission	1,156,717	1,068,227	4,832,232	4,540,896	6.4%
Total Purchased Power	4,840,899	4,452,879	21,638,926	19,611,282	10.3%
Operations and Maintenance Expenses:					
580 Supervision and Engineering	90,667	73,842	354,738	340,077	4.3%
581 Station/Control Room Operators	37,346	37,972	157,596	149,910	5.1%
582 Station Technicians	46,955	30,664	175,861	226,053	(22.2%)
583 Line General Labor	48,995	41,015	271,160	208,434	30.1%
586 Meter General	14,413	14,746	59,278	54,348	9.1%
588 Materials Management	34,111	32,784	145,613	141,692	2.8%
593 Maintenance of Lines - Overhead	14,467	19,381	114,381	109,247	4.7%
593 Maintenance of Lines - Tree Trimming	123,414	54,953	253,655	83,746	202.9%
594 Maintenance of Lines - Underground	46,763	(3,211)	78,560	11,702	571.3%
595 Maintenance of Line - Transformers	16,350	15,571	45,845	44,328	3.4%
598 Line General Leave Time Labor	62,005	32,526	158,280	103,408	53.1%
Total Operations and Maintenance Expenses	535,487	350,245	1,814,967	1,472,945	23.2%
General & Administration Expenses:					
903 Customer Collections	84,120	115,882	337,851	360,041	(6.2%)
904 Uncollectible Accounts	5,000	8,750	20,000	35,000	(42.9%)
916 Energy Audit	74,742	12,754	253,329	217,201	16.6%
916 Energy Conservation	106,301	256,199	302,020	528,981	(42.9%)
920 Administrative and General Salaries	162,912	181,694	662,494	622,273	6.5%
921 Office Supplies and Expense	3,213	661	5,190	3,890	33.4%
923 Outside Services - Legal	50,853	29,959	123,457	70,764	74.5%
923 Outside Services - Contract	36,915	43,044	69,505	91,034	(23.6%)
923 Outside Services - Education	11,976	1,654	19,697	5,302	271.5%
924 Property Insurance	46,518	33,111	152,374	163,301	(6.7%)
925 Injuries and Damages		9,485	1,100	8,026	(86.3%)
926 Employee Pensions and Benefits	355,344	458,891	1,538,446	1,548,065	(0.6%)
930 Miscellaneous General Expense	35,260	21,807	183,124	142,987	28.1%
931 Rent Expense	20,675	16,459	80,590	80,195	0.5%
933 Vehicle Expenses	19,388	26,440	66,430	92,290	(28.0%)
933 Vehicle Expenses - Capital	(33,920)	(27,861)	(126,504)	(116,664)	8.4%
935 Maintenance of General Plant	79,113	65,068	188,486	223,762	(15.8%)
935 Maintenance of Building & Garage	144,654	58,178	411,807	269,316	52.9%
Total General & Administration Expenses	1,203,063	1,312,175	4,289,397	4,345,763	(1.3%)



Town of Reading, Massachusetts  
Municipal Light Department  
Business Type Proprietary Fund  
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Assets  
4/30/2022

	Month Current Year	Month Last Year	Year to Date Current Year	Year to Date Last Year	Percent Change
Other Operating Expenses:					
403 Depreciation	411,043	406,980	1,685,800	1,627,919	3.6%
408 Voluntary Payments to Towns	143,387	137,953	573,548	551,811	3.9%
Total Other Expenses	554,430	544,933	2,259,349	2,179,730	3.7%
Operating Income	(4,990)	(23,538)	1,500,341	336,991	345.2%
Non Operating Revenues (Expenses):					
419 Interest Income	65,783	5,468	41,575	13,883	199.5%
419 Other	45,066	(160,972)	464,421	477,294	(2.7%)
426 Return on Investment to Reading	(206,709)	(206,709)	(826,835)	(826,835)	0.0%
431 Interest Expense	(2,005)	(3,765)	(8,056)	(15,072)	(46.5%)
Total Non Operating Revenues (Expenses)	(97,865)	(365,978)	(328,895)	(350,730)	(6.2%)
Change in Net Assets	(102,856)	(389,515)	1,171,446	(13,740)	
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	122,032,806	119,334,812	122,032,806	119,334,812	
Ending Net Assets	\$ 121,929,950	\$ 118,945,297	\$ 123,204,251	\$ 119,321,073	

Town of Reading, Massachusetts  
Municipal Light Department  
Business Type Proprietary Fund  
Statement of Budgeted Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Assets  
4/30/2022

	Actual Year to Date	Budget through APRIL 2022	OVER/UNDER \$	OVER/UNDER %
<b>Operating Revenues</b>				
Base Revenue	\$ 9,783,585	\$ 10,033,190	\$ (249,605)	(2.5%)
Fuel Revenue	10,904,750	8,840,785	2,063,965	23.3%
Purchased Power Capacity & Transmission	10,387,155	11,811,832	(1,424,677)	(12.1%)
Forfeited Discounts	258,833	300,996	(42,163)	(14.0%)
Energy Conservation Revenue	632,128	663,884	(31,756)	(4.8%)
NYPA Credit	(463,471)	(352,434)	(111,037)	31.5%
Total Operating Revenues	31,502,979	31,298,252	204,727	0.7%
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Power Expenses:</b>				
555 Purchased Power Fuel	11,431,571	8,488,351	2,943,220	34.7%
555 Purchased Power Capacity	5,375,122	5,659,437	(284,315)	(5.0%)
565 Purchased Power Transmission	4,832,232	6,152,395	(1,320,162)	(21.5%)
Total Purchased Power	21,638,926	20,300,183	1,338,743	6.6%
<b>Operations and Maintenance Expenses:</b>				
580 Supervision and Engineering	354,738	384,530	(29,792)	(7.7%)
581 Station/Control Room Operators	157,596	179,647	(22,051)	(12.3%)
582 Station Technicians	175,861	224,855	(48,993)	(21.8%)
583 Line General Labor	271,160	374,948	(103,789)	(27.7%)
586 Meter General	59,278	65,929	(6,652)	(10.1%)
588 Materials Management	145,613	157,053	(11,440)	(7.3%)
593 Maintenance of Lines - Overhead	114,381	184,075	(69,694)	(37.9%)
593 Maintenance of Lines - Tree Trimming	253,655	302,592	(48,937)	(16.2%)
594 Maintenance of Lines - Underground	78,560	29,380	49,180	167.4%
595 Maintenance of Line - Transformers	45,845	124,387	(78,542)	(63.1%)
598 Line General Leave Time Labor	158,280	159,261	(981)	(0.6%)
Total Operations and Maintenance Expenses	1,814,967	2,186,657	(371,690)	(17.0%)
<b>General &amp; Administration Expenses:</b>				
903 Customer Collection	337,851	392,082	(54,231)	(13.8%)
904 Uncollectible Accounts	20,000	35,000	(15,000)	(42.9%)
916 Energy Audit	253,329	329,093	(75,764)	(23.0%)
916 Energy Conservation	302,020	813,700	(511,680)	(62.9%)
920 Administrative and General Salaries	662,494	791,279	(128,785)	(16.3%)
921 Office Supplies and Expense	5,190	6,667	(1,476)	(22.1%)
923 Outside Services - Legal	123,457	151,973	(28,516)	(18.8%)
923 Outside Services - Contract	69,505	245,233	(175,728)	(71.7%)
923 Outside Services - Education	19,697	109,942	(90,245)	(82.1%)
924 Property Insurance	152,374	185,500	(33,126)	(17.9%)
925 Injuries and Damages	1,100	8,533	(7,433)	(87.1%)
926 Employee Pensions and Benefits	1,538,446	1,273,775	264,671	20.8%
930 Miscellaneous General Expense	183,124	193,376	(10,252)	(5.3%)
931 Rent Expense	80,590	70,667	9,923	14.0%
933 Vehicle Expense	66,430	126,333	(59,903)	(47.4%)
933 Vehicle Expense - Capital Clearing	(126,504)	(92,143)	(34,361)	37.3%
935 Maintenance of General Plant	188,486	237,707	(49,220)	(20.7%)
935 Maintenance of Building & Garage	411,807	309,906	101,901	32.9%
Total General & Administration Expenses	4,289,397	5,188,624	(899,227)	(17.3%)

Town of Reading, Massachusetts  
Municipal Light Department  
Business Type Proprietary Fund  
Statement of Budgeted Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Assets  
4/30/2022

Other Operating Expenses:

403 Depreciation	1,685,800	1,686,292	(492)	(0.0%)
408 Voluntary Payments to Towns	573,548	569,280	4,269	0.7%
Total Other Expenses	2,259,349	2,255,572	3,777	0.2%
Operating Income	1,500,341	1,367,216	133,125	9.7%

Non Operating Revenues (Expenses):

419 Interest Income	41,575	100,000	(58,425)	(58.4%)
419 Other Income	464,421	236,667	227,754	96.2%
421 Intergovernment Grants	-	30,000	(30,000)	(100.0%)
426 Return on Investment to Reading	(826,835)	(842,862)	16,027	(1.9%)
426 Loss on Disposal	-	(33,333)	33,333	(100.0%)
431 Interest Expense	(8,056)	(13,333)	5,277	(39.6%)
Total Non Operating Revenues (Expenses)	(328,895)	(522,862)	193,967	(37.1%)
Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,171,446	\$ 844,354	\$ 327,092	38.7%

**From:** [Erica Morse](#)  
**To:** [Erica Morse](#)  
**Subject:** AP and Payroll Questions for the 22-6-23 Board of Commissioners Book  
**Date:** Friday, June 17, 2022 1:44:50 PM

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## **AP**

From May 13, 2022, to June 10, 2022, there were no Commissioner questions.

## **Payroll:**

From May 16, 2022, through June 13, 2022 there were no Commissioner questions.

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