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Press Release

Local Officials Join RMLD to Commemorate \$1M Grant for Energy Storage Project

December 20, 2017, Reading, MA – Representatives from the Baker-Polito Administration and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), along with local delegates of the Massachusetts House and Senate and local officials, joined Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) Commission members and staff at RMLD's offices to commemorate RMLD's recent \$1 million energy storage grant award. The grant, which is part of the Baker-Polito Administration's Energy Storage Initiative (ESI) Advancing Commonwealth Energy Storage (ACES) program, funded by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and administered by the MassCEC, will be utilized toward the installation of an energy storage unit at RMLD's North Reading substation to support "shredding the peak."

The 5-megawatt Lithium Ion Battery unit will be used to reduce usage during peak times when electricity is most expensive. The battery unit will be co-located with RMLD's new 2.5-megawatt Distributed Generator, which was also installed to help "shred the peak."

Energy storage technologies are expected to provide benefits such as reducing costs associated with peak energy usage, providing resiliency and reliability to the electric grid, expanding the use of renewables, and supporting economic development. "Storage technology changes the equation and offers tremendous cost saving potential," said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Judith Judson.

Of the 26 projects selected to receive funding, RMLD's project is the largest system in terms of power capability. "This project alone will deploy more storage than what currently exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," said MassCEC CEO Stephen Pike.

Secretary Matthew Beaton of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs congratulated RMLD for, "...submitting a strong application package that really stood out, and for receiving one of the more sizable awards."

RMLD would like to thank Senator Bruce Tarr, Representative Bradley Jones, Representative James Dwyer, Senator Thomas McGee, Senator Jason Lewis, Representative James Miceli, and Representative Ken Gordon for supporting RMLD's grant application.

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Photo Caption



From Left to Right: Representative Brad Jones, MassCEC CEO Stephen Pike, RMLD Commissioner David Talbot, DOER Commissioner Judith Judson, RMLD Engineer Tom Ollila, RMLD General Manager Coleen O'Brien, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton, Senator Jason Lewis, Town of Wilmington Board of Selectmen Chairman Michael Champoux, RMLD Director of Engineering and Operations Hamid Jaffari, RMLD Commissioner Thomas O'Rourke, RMLD Director of Integrated Resources Jane Parenteau