



**RMILD**

**READING MUNICIPAL  
LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2023**



## Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

### Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

RMLD Board of Commissioners

Date: 2023-12-13

Time: 7:15 PM

Building: Reading Municipal Light Building

Location: Winfred Spurr Audio Visual Room

Address: 230 Ash Street

Agenda:

Purpose: General Business

Meeting Called By: Philip B. Pacino, Chair

Notices and agendas are to be posted 48 hours in advance of the meetings excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Legal Holidays. Please keep in mind the Town Clerk's hours of operation and make necessary arrangements to be sure your posting is made in an adequate amount of time. A listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting must be on the agenda.

**All Meeting Postings must be submitted in typed format; handwritten notices will not be accepted.**

### Topics of Discussion:

ON MARCH 29, 2023, GOVERNOR HEALEY SIGNED INTO LAW A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET BILL WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, EXTENDS THE TEMPORARY PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO THE OPEN MEETING LAW TO MARCH 31, 2025.

**THIS MEETING WILL HELD IN PERSON, REMOTELY ON ZOOM, AND STREAMED LIVE ON RCTV & YOUTUBE:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCTVStudios/videos?view=57>.

**FOR REMOTE AND/OR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Please email [rmldevents@rmld.com](mailto:rmldevents@rmld.com). Please include your full name, address, and phone number. Comments and questions will be monitored during the meeting.

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rmld.zoom.us/j/83344744388?from=addon>

Meeting ID: 833 4474 4388

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Find your local number: <https://rmld.zoom.us/u/kb2ReyIBwB>



## Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order – P. Pacino, Chair

**Code of Conduct:** The RMLD Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of hearing public comment, at the discretion of the Chair, on items on the official agenda. Once recognized by the Chair, all persons addressing the Board shall state their name and address prior to speaking. It the role of the Chair to maintain order in all public comment or ensuing discussion.

2. Public Comment - P. Pacino, Chair
  - Citizens' Advisory Board
  - Liaisons to the RMLD Board
  - Public Comment
3. Report on the Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting – P. Daskalakis, Commissioner
4. Approval of Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes (attachment 1) – P. Pacino, Chair

**Suggested Motion:** Move that the RMLD Board of Commissioners approve the July 20, 2023, and September 15, 2023, open session meeting minutes, as presented, on the recommendation of the General Manager and the Board Secretary.

5. Information Technology (IT) Report (attachment 2) – J. Pelletier, Director of IT
6. Certificate Management (attachment 3) – B. Bullock, Director of Integrated Resources
7. Policy Review (attachment 4) – G. Phipps, General Manager
  - Policy 30: Renewable And Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Regarding Power Supply Procurement

**Suggested Motion:** Move that the RMLD Board of Commissioners approve Policy 30: Renewable and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Regarding Power Supply Procurement (Revision 2), as presented, on the recommendation of the General Manager.

8. Procurement Requests for Board Approval (attachment 5) - G. Phipps, General Manager
  - IFP 2023-36 Single Phase Pole Mounted Transformers

**Suggested Motion:** Move that IFP 2023-36 for Single Phase Pole Mounted Transformers be awarded to: MVA Power, Inc., for \$381,752.00, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164 § 56D, on the recommendation of the General Manager.

9. 2024 NextEra Public Power Summit Attendance (attachment 6) - G. Phipps, General Manager

**Suggested Motion:** Move that the RMLD Board of Commissioners approve Greg Phipps's travel to, and attendance at, the 2024 Public Power Summit, to take place on

This Agenda has been prepared in advance and represents a listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. However the agenda does not necessarily include all matters which may be taken up at this meeting.



## Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

February 11th – 14th 2023, at the Boca Raton, Boca Raton, FL.

10. General Manager’s Report (attachment 7) – G. Phipps, General Manager

11. Scheduling – P. Pacino, Chair

### 2024 WARRANT SCHEDULE

	AP	PAYROLL	CAB Coverage
<b>December</b>	Talbot	Bitá	Daskalakis
<b>January</b>	Daskalakis	Coulter	Pacino
<b>February</b>	Bitá	Talbot	Daskalakis
<b>March</b>	Coulter	Pacino	Bitá
<b>April</b>	Talbot	Daskalakis	Coulter
<b>May</b>	Pacino	Bitá	Talbot
<b>June</b>	Daskalakis	Coulter	Pacino
<b>July</b>	Bitá	Talbot	Daskalakis
<b>August</b>	Coulter	Pacino	Bitá
<b>September</b>	Talbot	Daskalakis	Coulter
<b>October</b>	Pacino	Bitá	Talbot
<b>November</b>	Daskalakis	Coulter	Pacino
<b>December</b>	Bitá	Talbot	Daskalakis

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Location	CAB Coverage
Wednesday January 17, 2024	7:15 PM	RMLD AV Room	Welter
Wednesday February 21, 2024	7:15 PM	RMLD AV Room	Small
Wednesday March 20, 2024	7:15 PM	RMLD AV Room	Soni

### CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Location	BoC Coverage
Wednesday January 17, 2024	5:30 PM	RMLD AV Room	Pacino
Wednesday February 21, 2024	5:30 PM	RMLD AV Room	Daskalakis
Wednesday March 20, 2024	5:30 PM	RMLD AV Room	Bitá

12. Adjournment **ACTION ITEM**

**Suggested Motion:** Move that the Board of Commissioners adjourn regular session.  
Note: Roll call vote required.

### BOARD MATERIALS AVAILABLE BUT NOT DISCUSSED

Accounts Payable / Payroll Questions through December 4, 2023  
Surplus and Scrap Material Report November 2023

This Agenda has been prepared in advance and represents a listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. However the agenda does not necessarily include all matters which may be taken up at this meeting.

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**



# Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

2018-09-22 LAG

## Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

RMLD Board of Commissioners

Date: 2023-07-20

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: Draft

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

Philip Pacino, Chair; David Talbot, Vice Chair; Robert Coulter, Commissioner; Marlena Bitz, Commissioner; Pamela Daskalakis, Commissioner.

Commissioner Coulter attended the meeting remotely.

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

### **Others Present:**

RMLD Liasons: Karen Herrick (Select Board)

RMLD Staff: Gregory Phipps, General Manager; Erica Morse, Executive Assistant; Benjamin Bloomenthal, Director of Finance and Accounting; Bill Bullock, Director of Integrated Resources; Sarah Harrington, Director of Human Resources; Erin MacDonough, Operational Assistant

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:** Philip B. Pacino Secretary Pro Tem

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## **Topics of Discussion:**

### **Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Pacino called the RMLD Board of Commissioner's (BoC) meeting to order at 7:34 PM and announced that the meeting would be held in person, remotely on Zoom, and will be streamed live on RCTV and YouTube.

### **Opening Remarks and Introductions**

Chair Pacino read the RMLD BoC Code of Conduct and asked all remote attendees to identify themselves. Chair Pacino served as Secretary at the meeting.

Commissioner Coulter attended the meeting remotely. All votes were taken as roll call.

### **Public Comment**

There was no comment from the public at this meeting.

### **Liaisons to RMLD Board**

Karen Herrick, Reading Select Board provided a public comment.

- Expressed gratitude for RMLD's support towards the Killam School Building Committee, highlighting its significance in Reading's rebuilding program.
- Stated that the Conservation Commission is developing a pavilion at Mattera Cabin on North 28 in Reading, aiming to transform it into a Learning Center.

- Notes there is an interest in collaborating on a public outreach project, particularly in demonstrating the use of solar panels on the pavilion. The pavilion will support the community garden, which contributes significantly to the local food pantry.

### **Commissioner Vacancy - Interim Appointment Update**

- Chair Pacino recognized Pamela Daskalakis as the 63rd commissioner in the history of the Commission.
- Stated that Commissioner Daskalakis's seat was established during the Charter Adoption of 1987, marking a change in Board membership from three to five members.

### **Approval of Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**

Materials: Approval of Meeting Minutes (attachment 1)

- The January 5, 2023, January 13, 2023, and January 18, 2023, meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Vice Chair Talbot made a **motion**, seconded by Commissioner Bitá, that the RMLD Board of Commissioners approve the January 5, 2023, January 13, 2023, and January 18, 2023, open session meeting minutes, as presented, on the recommendation of the General Manager and the Board Secretary. **Motion Carried: 4:0:1** (4 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstained) *Roll Call Vote: Chair Pacino, Aye; Vice Chair Talbot, Aye; Commissioner Coulter, Aye; Commissioner Bitá, Aye; Commissioner Daskalakis, Abstained.*

### **Reading Town Charter Review Committee Appointment**

Materials: Charter Review Letter Dates June 22, 2023 (attachment 2)

Chair Pacino reported on the appointment to the Reading Town Charter Review Committee.

- Mentioned the town charter requires a review every 10 years and a committee is being formed for this purpose.
- Stated that the committee is expected to convene for the first time in September.
- Chair Pacino expressed his desire to serve on the committee, citing his experience in the last charter review and his roles as former Chair of both the Town of Reading Finance Committee and the Bylaw Committee.
- A question was raised about the number of Commissioners required for the committee.
- Responded by confirming that only one was needed.
- Commissioner Bitá showed interest in helping but not being an official member.
- A query was raised regarding the key issues for review.
- Chair Pacino responded that he was unaware of any specific changes currently.
- Commissioner Coulter brought up the topic of potentially altering Robert's Rules in the charter, suggesting a shift to a different process that could expedite Town Meetings.
- Ms. Herrick stated that the Select Board had discussed this issue recently.
- Ms. Herrick noted changes since the last review, particularly regarding pronouns and the transition from 'selectmen' to 'selectboard'.
- Ms. Herrick referenced a memo in the Select Board packet detailing options for the review process.

Vice Chair Talbot made a **motion**, seconded by Commissioner Daskalakis, that the RMLD Board of Commissioners appoint Philip B Pacino to serve in an ex-officio capacity on the Town of Reading Charter Review Committee. **Motion Carried: 5:0:0** (5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained) *Roll Call Vote: Chair Pacino, Aye; Vice Chair Talbot, Aye; Commissioner Coulter, Aye; Commissioner Bitá, Aye; Commissioner Daskalakis, Aye.*

## **Integrated Resources Report**

Materials: Integrated Resources Report (attachment 2)

Mr. Bullock provided an Integrated Resources Report to the Board.

## **Battery Storage**

Materials: Battery Storage Presentation

Generation/Capacity, Transmission, Distribution (slide 2)

- Presented the battery storage project, including the recent request for information (RFI) process to select a battery provider, which occurred two months prior.
- Noted the RFI focused on providing the best overall value to RMLD and its ratepayers.
- Emphasized the economic justification for battery storage, focusing on reducing transmission and capacity charges.

Battery Energy Storage Systems (slide 3)

- Described the Lithium-ion technology system that was evaluated.
- Noted each system has a capacity of five MWhs and a storage period of three hours.
- Discussed plans to interconnect two systems at an existing substation and two more at other locations within the system.
- Outlined the 15-year shared savings contract, emphasizing its low-risk, pay-for-performance nature.
- Highlighted the anticipated annual savings of ~ \$600K per battery (after one year) totaling about \$2.4 million for all four batteries per year.

Citizen's Energy (slide 4)

- Stated that RMLD selected Citizen's Energy due to their offering of shared savings with the lowest risk profile.
- Noted there were ten respondents to the request for proposals, indicating high interest.
- Provided background of Citizen's Energy, highlighting its focus on the energy needs of low-income citizens and its experience with similar projects.
- Explained that the battery storage unit is containerized and resembles a trailer truck. It will be placed on a concrete pad near the substation, not on the street.
- Noted that the unit is designed as a quiet, weatherproof module.
- Stated that the RFI for the battery project was issued in May as an RFI, not an RFP, due to the nature of the service agreement rather than an equipment purchase.
- Questions were raised about the selection of Citizen's Energy, their experience, and the absence of penalties for non-discharge during peak times.
- Responded by explaining the load reducers' role, performance of batteries, and insurance responsibilities.
- Emphasized that the operational and technical risks are relatively low.
- Mentioned that the battery is expected to be installed by the end of 2024
- Discussed the absence of significant penalties for non-performance and the strategic plan to ensure operational readiness for reliability by January 2025, other than the shared savings structure is incentive for Citizens to perform since they have invested the



capital.

- Noted RMLD's engagement with the North Reading fire department and local permitting processes for installation.
- Discussed the shared savings model, performance terms, and capacity market operations.
- Mentioned the cost considerations if the battery systems were purchased and installed by RMLD.
- Emphasized the strategic decision to not own storage assets but to focus on generation assets and other projects.
- Discussed the relationship between the battery storage project and the Mystic Station issue, which was brought up at the Citizens' Advisory Board meeting.
- Noted that the primary purpose of the battery storage system is peak shaving, similar to the existing system, Mintueman, at Station 3.
- Highlighted the potential need for mandatory load reduction called by ISO New England, particularly due to the decommissioning of the Mystic generation system and changes at the Everett Marine Terminal.
- Explained how the battery storage system can be used for load reduction in emergency situations, thus avoiding the need to turn off circuits or customers to fulfill mandated ISO NE load reduction during extreme conditions.
- Emphasized the battery system's role in maintaining reliability, especially during extended periods of cold temperatures.
- Clarified that the risk of needing mandatory load reduction is lower in the summer due to excess natural gas supply. In winter, natural gas constraints are more likely due to heating demands.
- Noted the long-term possibility of New England becoming surplus in natural gas supply by early 1930's.
- Emphasized peak management as the primary economic benefit of the battery storage system.
- Explained the economic rationale behind the peak shaving strategy.
- Mentioned the 13 key hours that are significant for the system: one hour for capacity annually and one hour each month for transmission.
- Discussed the increasing costs of transmission and the distributed nature of renewable energy sources necessitating more transmission lines.
- Provided an overview of how the system encourages load reduction and the financial benefits of being proactive in reducing peak load.
- Noted that transmission costs constitute a significant portion of the budget, highlighting the importance of the battery storage project.
- Discussed rate structures and incentives for customers to reduce load, contributing to overall system efficiency.
- Chair Pacino noted that the Citizens' Advisory Board voted to approve this contract.

Vice Chair Talbot made a **motion**, seconded by Commissioner Bitz, that the RMLD Board of Commissioners, on the recommendation of the Citizen's Advisory Board, vote to accept the General Manager's recommendation to contract Citizen's Energy under an Energy Services Agreement for battery storage services connected to RMLD distribution network, as part of RMLD's peak load reduction program. **Motion Carried: 5:0:0** (5 in

favor, 0 against, 0 abstained) *Roll Call Vote: Chair Pacino, Aye; Vice Chair Talbot, Aye; Commissioner Coulter, Aye; Commissioner Bitz, Aye; Commissioner Daskalakis, Aye.*

## **Rates**

Materials: Industrial Coincident Peak + Economic Development Rates Presentation

- Discussed two rate proposals: industrial coincidence peak rate and economic development rate.
- Economic Development Rate (slides 2 and 3)
- Highlighted that the economic development rate aims to promote business growth, job creation, tax base expansion, and overall community vibrancy.
  - Noted that the rate offers an introductory discount to companies looking to locate or expand in the service territory, focusing on larger loads for greater impact.
  - Reiterated that the rate is intended for new customers or existing businesses that are expanding.
  - Stated that an 80% discount is proposed on the distribution demand charge for the first year for qualifying businesses. The discount will be clearly highlighted on bills.
  - Discussed the details of the rate, which is set to begin on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
  - Explained that growth is defined in terms of load increase.
  - Noted that load growth is anticipated in industrial areas in Wilmington and North Reading.
  - Discussed whether similar incentives are offered by other IOUs (Investor-Owned Utilities) or MLPs (Municipal Light Plants).
  - Questions were raised about the impact on existing businesses and how the rate would affect competition.
  - Responded by clarifying that the discount is a one-year introductory offer and is expected to benefit all ratepayers in the long run by distributing fixed costs over more kilowatt hours.
  - Discussed the mechanism of implementation as a rate rather than a financial incentive.
  - Explained that a separate incentive is not required, the participating customers are only placed on a temporary rate that expires in 12 months when the participating load moves to the standard rate
  - Provided a comparison with the implementation of a similar program in Braintree.
  - Questions were raised about the eligibility criteria and potential uptake among businesses.
  - Responded the rate is applicable to any business increasing load by 300KW or more.
  - As an example, at Braintree, mentioned the expansion of two key customers, and highlighted a bakery that significantly increased its size and implemented natural gas generators for peak shaving. This was part of a two-year Economic Development rate program.
  - Concerns were raised regarding the financial impact of a 16% savings program, questioning if it leads to monetary loss.
  - Addressed concerns by clarifying that it involves incremental load, and the distribution demand charge was targeted to avoid losses.
  - Concerns were expressed that the new discount for increased load might counteract existing programs encouraging load reduction and efficiency.

- Addressed concerns by discussing the balance in achieving meaningful discounts without encouraging wasteful energy use.
- Explained the opt-in process for customers, emphasizing the role of a communication plan and collaboration with economic development personnel.
- A question was raised about the eligibility for new businesses replacing old ones.
- Responded by confirming that the new business would be eligible.
- A question was raised about the duration of the program.
- Responded by explaining the flexibility in halting the program and the need to grow load.
- Chair Pacino noted a specific example where there would be a revenue reduction of around \$4K.
- Clarified the impact on the prompt payment discount.
- Emphasized balancing various factors without overextending benefits. The aim is to provide a meaningful discount, ideally between 10-20%.
- Highlighted that this initiative is part of a broader strategy to attract more customers, aligning with the efforts of Massachusetts economic development and local towns encouraging economic growth.

#### Industrial Coincident Peak Rate (slide 4).

- Discussed the industrial coincident peak rate, aimed at reducing peak demand.
- Explained that the rate provides monthly credits to customers who reduce their peak usage, aiming to correct the time lag between customer actions and rewards.
- Noted that the rate focuses on larger customers with significant impact on coincident peak contributions. It incentivizes them through real-time actionable intelligence and demand bill reduction.
- Explained that the proposed structure involves a PPCT charge and a system cost reduction based on demand reduction.
- Discussed two examples: a \$12 charge leading to a 22% reduction and an \$18 charge resulting in about a 6% reduction.
- Provided an analysis of the top 15 customers. Potential annual savings were estimated at \$1m, with \$800K for customers and \$200K for RMLD.
- Concerns were raised about the program's execution, communication challenges, and the potential gains for participating customers.
- Clarified that the rate is a non-punitive, incentive-based approach, focusing on customers capable of significant behavioral change.
- Commissioner Bitá and Ms. Herrick mentioned not receiving notifications for the residential "Shred the Peak" program.
- Mr. Phipps acknowledged the issue and committed to investigating communication channels, such as email and text alerts.
- A question was raised about advance notice for businesses regarding peak events.
- Responded by assuring that RMLD aims to provide as much notice as possible, with confirmations on the morning of the event.

Vice Chair Talbot made a **motion**, seconded by Commissioner Bita that the Board of Commissioners, on the recommendation of the Citizens' Advisory Board, vote to accept the General Manager's recommendation to create the following MDPU rates effective for billings on or after August 1, 2023.

- 307 Economic Development Rate
- 308 Industrial Coincident Peak Rate

**Motion Carried: 5:0:0** (5 in favor; 0 against; 0 abstained) *Roll Call: Chair Pacino, Aye; Vice Chair Talbot, Aye; Commissioner Coulter, Aye; Commissioner Bita, Aye; Commissioner Daskalakis, Aye.*

### **Approval of CY23 Capital Budget Increases**

Materials: CY23 Capital Budget Increases (attachment 4)

Mr. Phipps presented the CY23 Capital Budget Increases to the Board.

Chair Pacino reported that the Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB) voted 3:0 on both items.

### **Substation Transformers** (slide 2)

Taken out of order.

- Emphasized that the need for a new substation in Wilmington has been recognized for over a decade, with earnest efforts for at least eight years.
- Clarified that the substation will replace Substation 5 located at 165 Wildwood, which is near the end of its useful life.
- Highlighted that the 2023 budget included \$2.6 million for power supply transformers, but recent market changes have significantly increased prices.
- Stated that the original estimate for transformers was \$2.6m, RMLD has received bids for transformers at \$5.8m and \$7.1m.
- Explained that a budget increase is needed to accommodate the higher costs since RMLD can not place an order unless the expense is included in the capital budget.
- Requested to increase the project budget by \$5 million over three years, primarily for transformers.
- Confirmed that the increase will not impact 2023 rates but may affect 2024 and 2025 budgets and rates.
- Detailed the transformer bid, noting that the selected bid offers a fixed price and meets the delivery timeline.
- Mentioned that transformers are custom-made and have long lead times.
- An inquiry was raised relative to the 2023 budget amount.
- Responded by clarifying that the 2023 capital budget is \$24 million, including the original transformer costs.
- Explained that the transformer market is currently strained, with factories allocating production slots rather than accepting performance requirements.
- Added that competitive bidding is limited due to high demand and limited supply.
- Commissioner Coulter suggested amending the increase from \$5m to \$6m for a buffer.
- Discussed Commissioner Coulter's suggested amendment, noting that the amended motion would have to be subject to the recommendation of the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB).

- Decided to keep the increase at \$5m due to the long lead time for transformers.

Vice Chair Talbot made a **motion**, seconded by Commissioner Daskalakis, that the RMLD Board of Commissioners, on the recommendation of the Citizens' Advisory Board, approve an additional five (5) million dollar increase for power distribution transformers for the new Wilmington Substation Project, originally approved as project 105 page 63-64 of the CY23 Capital Budget on the recommendation of the General Manager. **Motion Carried: 5:0:0** (5 in favor; 0 against; 0 abstained) *Roll Call: Chair Pacino, Aye; Vice Chair Talbot, Aye; Commissioner Coulter, Aye; Commissioner Bita, Aye; Commissioner Daskalakis, Aye.*

## **Two (2) Material Handler Trucks with Electric Drive PTO System (slide 1)**

- Detailed the material handler trucks within the 2023 capital budget.
- Noted the original approval included one material handler and one Digger Derrick truck.
- Explained that the material handler has a built-in winch at the bucket and overall functionality is mostly interchangeable with a high ranger.
- Noted that the proposed shift is from high ranger to material handler for better utility and to replace the next high Ranger with a material handler due to its added functionality.
- Explained that the Digger Derrick is used for drilling holes and setting poles.
- Noted that the plan is to defer the purchase of Digger Derrick to 2024 and buy two line trucks instead.
- Emphasized that extended build cycles for trucks, now at 18 months, necessitate early ordering.
- Mentioned the introduction of electric power takeoff (EPTO) for the boom, replacing hydraulic systems.
- Explained that this is part of a broader electrification strategy, aiming for quieter operation and lower emissions. The first phase involves only the boom electrification.
- An inquiry was raised about the impact of EPTO availability on the truck purchase.
- Responded by clarifying the additional cost of EPTO and its effect on budget and delivery time.

Commissioner Bita made a **motion**, seconded by Commissioner Daskalakis, that the RMLD Board of Commissioners, on the recommendation of the Citizens' Advisory Board, approve an additional 250,000 dollar increase to purchase (2) materials handler trucks with electric drive PTO systems, instead of (1) material handler truck and (1) digger derrick, within the Rolling Stock Replacement Program, originally approved as project 118, pages 27- 28, of the CY23 Capital Budget upon the recommendation of the General Manager. **Motion Carried: 5:0:0** (5 in favor; 0 against; 0 abstained) *Roll Call: Chair Pacino, Aye; Vice Chair Talbot, Aye; Commissioner Coulter, Aye; Commissioner Bita, Aye; Commissioner Daskalakis, Aye.*

### **Procurement Requests for Board Approval**

Materials: Procurement Requests for Board Approval (attachment 5)

### **IFP 2023-14 for Two (2) 115-13.8 kV Power Transformers**

Taken out of order.

- Explained two valid bids received for power transformers. First bid: \$7.1m from Virginia Transformer Corporation, fixed price. Second bid: \$5.8m, over a 42-month period, and not a firm price beyond 12 months.

- Emphasized the importance of timely completion, noting that the current timeline is already 10 years beyond initial plans.
- Highlighted the need for price stability noting that the first bid offers a fixed price, while the second bid is only firm for the first 12 months.
- Recommended choosing the bid from Virginia Transformer Corporation for its fixed price and adherence to the desired timeline.
- A query was raised about the longevity and inventory management of spare parts included in the quote.
- Responded by clarifying that typical lifespan of spare parts is 10 years.
- Noted the maintenance cycle for current transformers is more frequent due to their age (over 40 years).

Commissioner Bitá made a **motion**, seconded by Vice Chair Talbot, that IFP 2023-14 for Two (2) 115-13.8 kV Power Transformers be awarded to: Virginia Transformer Corp. for \$7,115,338, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164 § 56D, on the recommendation of the General Manager. **Motion Carried: 5:0:0** (5 in favor; 0 against; 0 abstained) *Roll Call: Chair Pacino, Aye; Vice Chair Talbot, Aye; Commissioner Coulter, Aye; Commissioner Bitá, Aye; Commissioner Daskalakis, Aye.*

### **IFP 2023-34 Two (2) Material Handler Trucks with Electric Drive PTO System**

- A question was raised relative to how many bids were received.
- Responded by confirming that bids were sent out to four companies, and one responded.

Commissioner Bitá made a **motion**, seconded by Commissioner Talbot, that proposal IFP 2023-34 for Two (2) Material Handler Trucks with Electric Drive PTO System be awarded to: James A. Kiley Company for \$992,158 pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 56D, on the recommendation of the General Manager. **Motion Carried: 5:0:0** (5 in favor; 0 against; 0 abstained) *Roll Call: Chair Pacino, Aye; Vice Chair Talbot, Aye; Commissioner Coulter, Aye; Commissioner Bitá, Aye; Commissioner Daskalakis, Aye.*

### **IFP 2023-35 - 750 MCM 15kV Power Cable**

- Highlighted that four bids were received, and two bids were rejected.
- Noted that the purchase is a regular budget item, with two-thirds allocated to specific projects and one-third for stock.
- Chair Pacino announced his abstention from voting due to a conflict of interest, as Arthur J. Hurley is a client of a client.
- Inquiries were raised about the number of bids and reasons for selecting this vendor.
- Responded by explaining that the chosen bid was from a large local supplier, known for reasonable pricing and availability.
- Emphasized that the chosen bid was the lowest among the three qualified bids at \$255K, and slightly higher than a non-qualified bid of \$242K.
- Explained that bids were disqualified due to technical issues and unacceptable conditions, such as price escalations.
- Noted that three qualified bids were from OKANITE, while two disqualified bids were from CME.

Commissioner Bitá made a **motion**, seconded by Commissioner Talbot, that IFP 2023-35 for 750 MCM 15kV Power Cable be awarded to: Arthur J. Hurley Company, Inc. for \$255,717 pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164 § 56D, on the recommendation of the General Manager. **Motion Carried: 4:0:1** (4 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstained) *Roll Call Vote: Chair Pacino, Abstained;*

*Vice Chair Talbot, Aye; Commissioner Coulter, Aye; Commissioner Bitz, Aye; Commissioner Daskalakis, Aye.*

## **General Manager's Report**

### Personnel and Morale

- Emphasized the importance of HR and personnel-related matters, noting that morale within the organization is high and there's a lot of energy.

### Upcoming Strategy Session

- Mentioned that a strategy session is planned for either September or October.
- Highlighted that the focus will be on the company's charter, which prioritizes reliability, low costs, and non-carbon operations.

### Focus on Reliability and Technology

- Stressed the emphasis on reliability, especially in the context of in territory generation and storage.
- Noted the development of a bi-directional DC fast charger as part of the Highland bus project for electric buses, contributing to peak management and increased load.

### Data Analytics

- Mentioned significant work in forecasting (load and power supply) on an hourly basis, moving away from monthly and annual forecasts.
- Explained that data analytics will be integrated across various departments, including line and technical crews.
- Noted the development of dashboards for internal use and information sharing.

### Financial Management

- Emphasized the need for careful management of cash, given that the primary source of revenue is from ratepayers.

### Grant Applications

- Reported that over \$40 million in grant applications are pending, with updates expected in the coming months.

### Key Projects

- Highlighted the Highland bus project which aims to encourage local bus companies to adopt electric buses, contributing to increased load and storage capabilities.
- Highlighted the Maple Meadows project in Wilmington, focused on land acquisition for within-territory generation of 5-10 megawatts of solar power.
- Emphasized that the goal of within-territory generation is for lower energy costs, increased reliability, and non-carbon operations.
- Mentioned small-scale solar projects on municipal buildings in various towns, with RMLD owning the generation assets.

### Charging Stations Expansion

- Reported on the addition of a new Level 2 charger and a bi-directional DC fast charger, with more installations planned in other towns.

- An inquiry was raised about the addition of charging stations.
- Responded by confirming the installation of two public charging stations and detailed plans for further expansion in multiple towns.
- Emphasized the importance of self-sufficiency and control in generation, tying back to the core strategy of reliability, low cost, and non-carbon operations.

### **Scheduling**

The next BoC Meeting will be held on Wednesday Sept 27, 2023.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Bitá made a **motion**, seconded by Vice Chair Talbot, that the Board of Commissioners adjourn regular session. **Motion Carried: 5:0:0** (5 in favor; 0 against; 0 abstained) *Roll Call: Chair Pacino, Aye; Vice Chair Talbot, Aye; Commissioner Coulter, Aye; Commissioner Bitá, Aye; Commissioner Daskalakis, Aye.*

DRAFT





# Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

2018-09-22 LAG

## Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

RMLD Board of Commissioners

Date: 2023-09-15

Time: 9:00 AM

Building: Reading Municipal Light Building

Location: Winfred Spurr Audio Visual Room

Address: 230 Ash Street

Session: Open Session

Purpose: General Business

Version: Draft

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

Board of Commissioners: Philip Pacino, Chair; David Talbot, Vice Chair; Robert Coulter, Commissioner; Marlena Bitá, Commissioner; Pamela Daskalakis, Commissioner.

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

### **Others Present:**

Citizens' Advisory Board Vivek Soni, Chair (Reading); Ken Welter, Vice Chair (Lynnfield); George Hooper (Wilmington); Dennis Kelley (Wilmington); Jason Small (North Reading).

RMLD Staff: Gregory Phipps, General Manager; Erica Morse, Executive Assistant; Bill Bullock, Erin MacDonough, Operational Assistant.

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:** Philip B. Pacino Secretary Pro Tem

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## **Topics of Discussion:**

### **Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Pacino called the RMLD Board of Commissioner's (BoC) meeting to order at 9:01 AM and announced that the meeting would be held remotely on Zoom.

Chair Soni called the Citizens' Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

### **Opening Remarks and Introductions**

Chair Pacino read the RMLD BoC Code of Conduct and asked all remote attendees to identify themselves. Chair Pacino served as Secretary at the meeting.

All participants attended the meeting remotely. All votes were taken as roll call.

### **Public Comment**

There was no comment from the public at this meeting.

### **Power Supply Update**

Materials: Power Supply Update (attachment 1)

Mr. Bullock presented a Power Supply update to the Boards.

### **Gravel Pit III / IV Solar Project**

Mr. Phipps provided background on the Gravel Pit III / IV Solar Project.



## Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

- Emphasized that RMLD continuously works on power supply, with a focus on adding solar and wind to the portfolio.
  - Highlighted progress in wind energy procurement over the past eight months.
  - Reported that solar projects have been more challenging to complete (several delayed or cancelled).
  - Explained that this Gravel Pit solar project is an extension of (Gravel Pit 3 and 4), noting that the developer acquired additional land adjacent to the existing site.
  - Mentioned that Gravel Pit 5 was established as a separate contract from Gravel Pit 3, rather than an extension.
  - Clarified that a group of Municipal Light Plants (MLPs) are involved in the project, alongside Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) like Eversource and Grid.
- Mr. Bullock presented the Gravel Pit III / IV Solar Project to the Boards.
- Introduced Phase 5 of the Gravel Pit project, located in East Windsor, Connecticut, to the north and east of Hartford.
  - Highlighted that the new phase will supply 30 MWs. This is in addition to the 120 MWs that are currently under construction.
  - Noted that the developer of the project is DE Shaw, who RMLD has worked with in the past.
  - Reported that the project is expected to be commissioned in 2025.
  - Clarified that RMLD's share of Gravel Pit 3 is 16% of the total output, equating to ~ 10K MWs per year.
  - Highlighted that this production represents about 1% of the expected load in 2025.
  - Noted that RMLD is planning to take 22% of the project expansion output.
  - Explained that the annual energy yield of about 10,000 MWs is considered low, due to the lower capacity factors typical of solar plants.
  - Mentioned that the project involves a long-term contract spanning 25 years, which aligns well with the department's net-zero goal.
  - Highlighted that the project will generate Class One certificates, which are renewable and non-carbon in nature.
  - Explained that these certificates will be sold until they are needed to comply with compliance policies.
  - Explained that the price for this energy is slightly higher than the average for 2025, but it has the advantage of having no escalation, making it more affordable over the term of the 25-year contract.
  - Highlighted that RMLD's current solar portfolio mainly consists of energy from three community solar installations within the service territory.



## Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

- Stated that by 2026, with the inclusion of Gravel Pit 3 and 5, solar energy is expected to constitute 11% of the portfolio.
- Stated that based on predicted load growth and the electrification drivers in the territory, RMLD recognizes the need to meet increasing supply demands, particularly with non-carbon resources.
- Emphasized that this project is an important part of the overall strategy to meet the 2050 net-zero goal, including the intermediate targets set for 2030 and 2040.
- An inquiry was raised on whether the chart presented reflected current contracts or projections.
- Responded confirming it included current contracts and explained the strategic approach to long-term contracts.
- A question was raised about the total capacity of the project, understanding it to be 150 MWs by 2025.
- Responded confirming 120 MWs by 2024 and an additional 30 MWs by 2025.
- A question was raised about RMLD's specific share of the project.
- Responded clarifying it to be 16% of 50 MWs net, equating to 14 MWs net out of 150 MWs.
- A question was raised about the involvement of brokers in such deals and if they incurred fees.
- Responded that the department typically does not work with brokers and actively uncovers opportunities, often in collaboration with Energy New England.
- A question was raised on the strategy for Connecticut Class One Certificates.
- Responded by discussing the strategy to meet the non-carbon goal by 2030, detailing the gradual increase in retiring Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and the implications for rate adjustments.
- Commissioner Bitá suggested exploring strategies to exceed minimum requirements, considering the department's advantageous position.
- Mr. Bullock acknowledged the point and highlighted RMLD's role in supporting the energy transition through such contracts.
- Responded to the suggestions by proposing an analysis to potentially accelerate the adoption of the 3% increase in RECs retirement.
- Confirmed that a presentation of this proposal will be done at the December meeting.
- A question was raised about the expected time when output from the project would be lower than market rates and requested a calculation on the total savings impact.



## Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

- Responded by acknowledging the need for a sensitivity analysis around energy market inflation and committed to performing scenario modeling to address this inquiry.
- Confirmed that a review of analysis on retiring vs. not retiring or selling vs. not selling certificates will be presented.
- Discussed the fixed-rate program and energy cost updates.
- A query was raised on the fixed rate in comparison to market rate expected in 2025.
- Responded that relative to the solar portfolio, the fixed rate is about 10% higher; relative to the total contracted portfolio, it is about 70% higher.
- Confirmed that the current average energy cost is around 10 cents per kilowatt-hour.
- Outlined the cost breakdown, which includes energy, capacity, transmission, and certificate retirements.
- Commissioner Coulter suggested revisiting using brokers for identifying solar field deals.
- Acknowledged the challenges in acquiring solar projects and the absence of a formal policy for using brokers.
- A question was raised relative to contract comparison and price increase.
- Responded that the increase is primarily due to panel availability and cost.
- An inquiry was raised about the process and market dynamics of selling RECs.
- Responded by explaining that the market-driven pricing and the types of purchasers.
- Confirmed that a presentation of REC transactions will be prepared.
- Discussion on the renewable choice program allowing customers to opt-in for more certificate retirements.
- Discussion the importance of affordability in the current economic context.
- Noted low participation rate in the program and the potential for future discussion.
- Mr. Kelley entered the meeting at 9:23 AM Erica confirms time
- Commissioner Coulter left the meeting at 9:29 AM and recorded his vote as "in favor".

**Citizens' Advisory Board:** Mr. Hooper made a **motion**, seconded by Chair Soni, that the Citizens' Advisory Board recommend that the Board of Commissioners vote to accept the General Manager's recommendation to contract with DE Shaw for a portion of energy and attributes, including Class1 certificates, from a to-be-built 30 MW expansion to the currently contracted 120 MW Gravel Pit III / IV solar project in central Connecticut, including environmental due diligence. **Motion carried: 5:0:0** (5 in favor, 0 against, 0 absent) *Roll*



## Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

*Call Vote: Chair Soni, Aye; Vice Chair Welter, Aye; Mr. Hopper, Aye; Mr. Kelley, Aye; Mr. Small, Aye.*

**Board of Commissioners:** Vice Chair Talbot made a **motion**, seconded by Commissioner Daskalakis, that the Board of Commissioners, on the recommendation of the Citizens' Advisory Board, vote to accept the General Manager's recommendation to contract DE Shaw for a portion of energy and attributes, including Class1 certificates, from a to-be-built 30 MW expansion to the currently contracted 120 MW Gravel Pit III / IV solar project in central Connecticut, including environmental due diligence. **Motion Carried: 5:0:0** (5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained) *Roll Call Vote: Chair Pacino, Aye; Vice Chair Talbot, Aye; Commissioner Coulter, Aye; Commissioner Bitz, Aye; Commissioner Daskalakis, Aye.*

### **Adjournment**

**Citizens' Advisory Board:** Mr. Hooper made a motion, seconded by Chair Soni, that the Citizens' Advisory Board adjourn regular session. **Motion carried: 5:0:0** (5 in favor, 0 against, 0 absent) *Roll Call Vote: Chair Soni, Aye; Vice Chair Welter, Aye; Mr. Hopper, Aye; Mr. Kelley, Aye; Mr. Small, Aye.*

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM

**Board of Commissioners:** Vice Chair Talbot made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Daskalakis, that the Board of Commissioners adjourn regular session. **Motion Carried: 5:0:0** (5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained) *Roll Call Vote: Chair Pacino, Aye; Vice Chair Talbot, Aye; Commissioner Coulter, Aye; Commissioner Bitz, Aye; Commissioner Daskalakis, Aye.*

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 AM

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT**



**PROTECT  
YOUR PROPERTY**

PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS  
TO YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS

**IT and  
CyberSecurity  
Report**

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December 2023

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## Agenda

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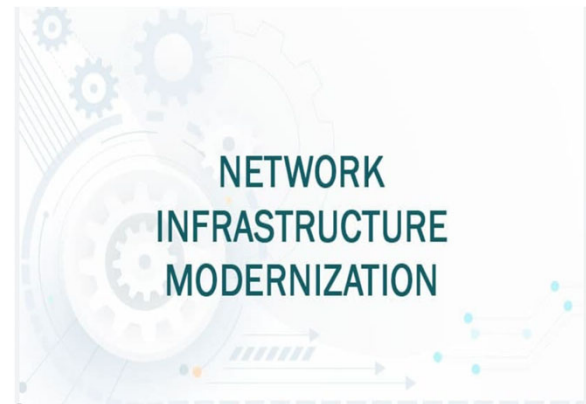
- IT and OT Modernization
- Virtual Environment upgrades
- Cogsdale upgrades
- SCADA upgrades
- End user CyberSecurity training
- OT CyberSecurity Investments
- IT staff skills development





## IT and OT Network Modernization

- All new Data Center core switching infrastructure
- New data switches in substations
- Increased fiber optic throughput to substations



## Virtualized Environment Upgrades

- Upgrades to virtualized compute and storage environments in Medford and Reading.



## Upgrade of business operations application suite

Entire application suite  
upgraded including:

- Billing
- Customer Service
- Financial
- Purchasing

**COGSDALE** 

## SCADA system upgrades

- Upgrades of virtual machines
- Application upgrades
- Upgrades of physical servers
- Security updates to latest patch levels



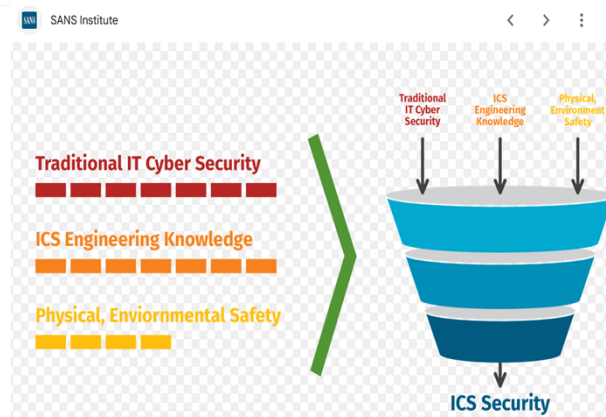
## RMLD ongoing commitment to employee CyberSecurity Awareness training

- RMLD conducts new employee CyberSecurity training.
- We also conduct quarterly Cybersecurity training for all employees.



## RMLD investment in OT/ICS specific CyberSecurity

- IT staff training with SANS Institute
- Implementation of purpose-built vulnerability detection suite in the OT environment<sup>1</sup>



## IT staff CyberSecurity skills development

- IT staff training in digital forensics
- Threat detection and remediation
- Vulnerability identification and management



E



# Thank You





**ATTACHMENT 3**  
**CERTIFICATE MANAGEMENT**



# Certificate Management

13 December 2023 BoC / CAB update

**RMLD**



**Reading Municipal Light Department**  
RELIABLE POWER

# Outline

Policy Timeline

Compliance

Certificates & Value

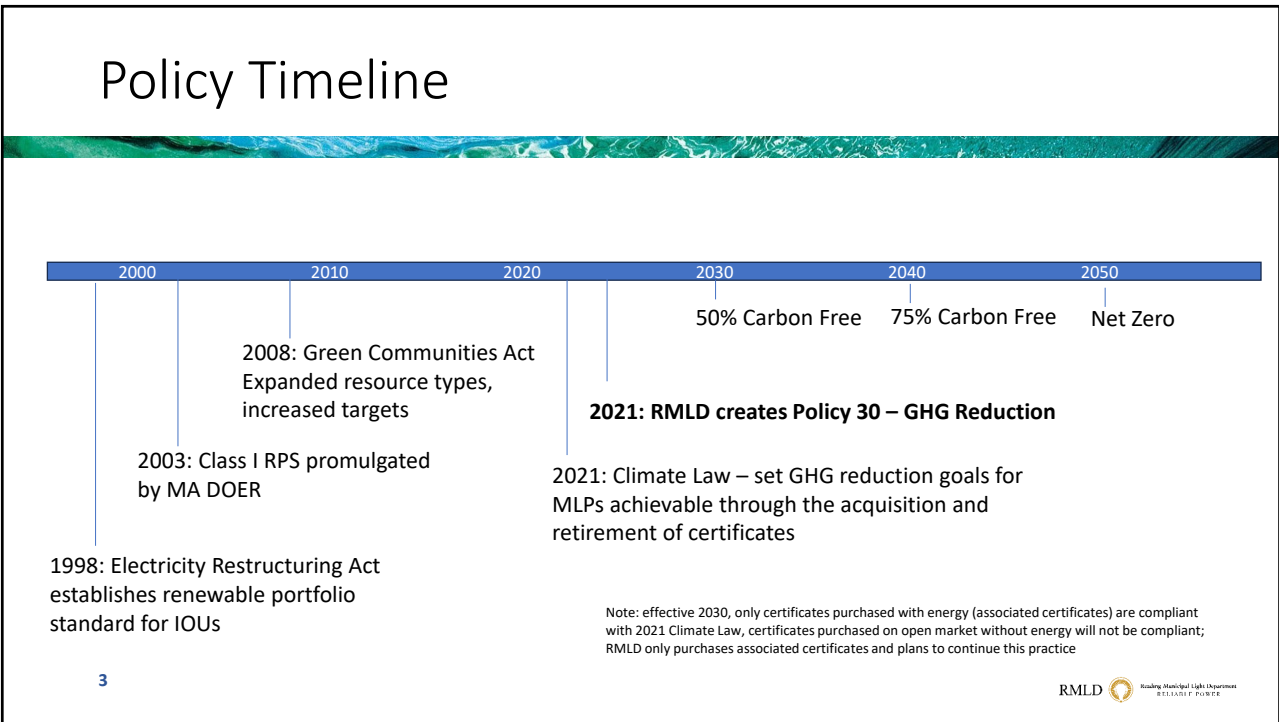
Policy 30

Bill Impacts

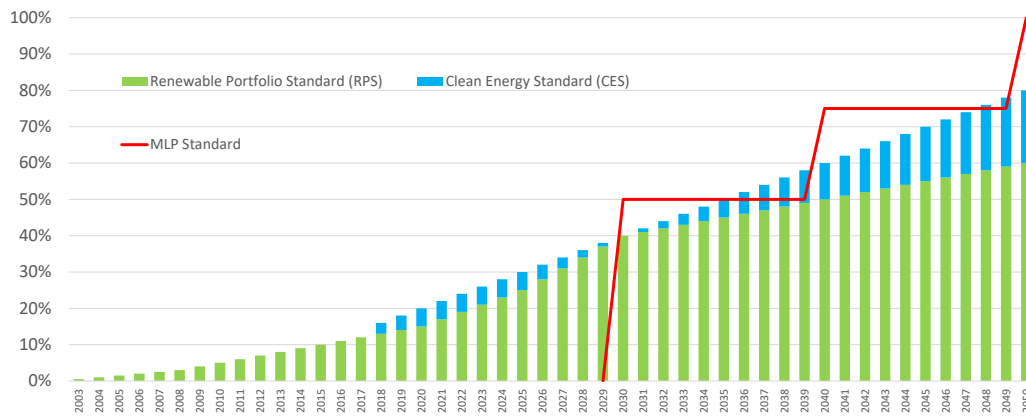
YTD Oct 2023 Power Supply Mix

IRD/EnergyServicesDrive/Communications/BOC CAB/2023/Policy 30 Review RMLD 2023-12-13 f4.ppt





# Compliance for RPS and MLP GGES



Source: Massachusetts' Decarbonization Goals; RMLD Considerations for Portfolio Planning & Policy 30 Evolution January 20, 2021 Sustain Energy Advantage, LLC

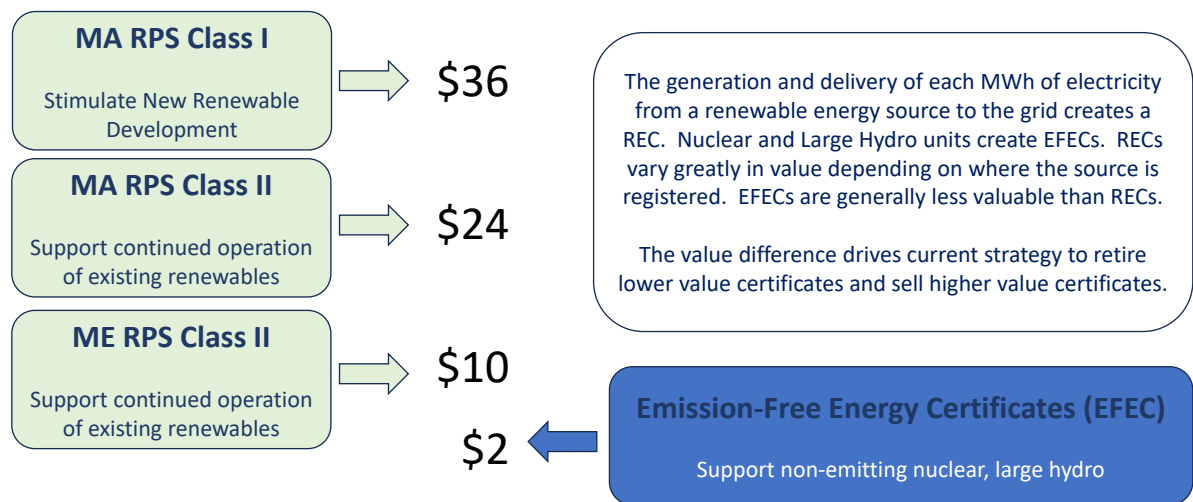


## Many Types of Certificates

		<i>classified renewable</i>	
		no	yes
<i>emitting emissions</i>	no	EFECs large hydro, nuclear	RECs small hydro, solar, wind
	yes	no certificates conventional	CECs (and RECs) LFG, MSW

*numerous certificates types created to drive generation emphasis*

## Certificate purpose and market prices

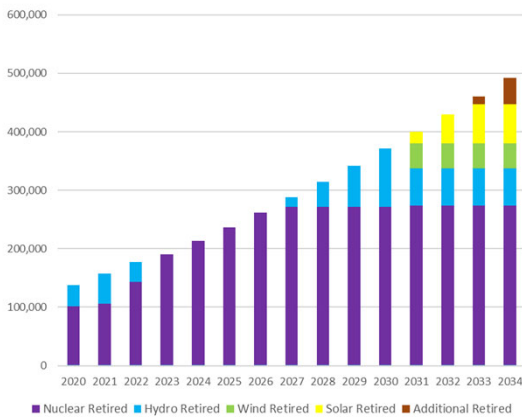


6 Source(s): prior RMLD presentations, internal analysis, Spectra Market Reports

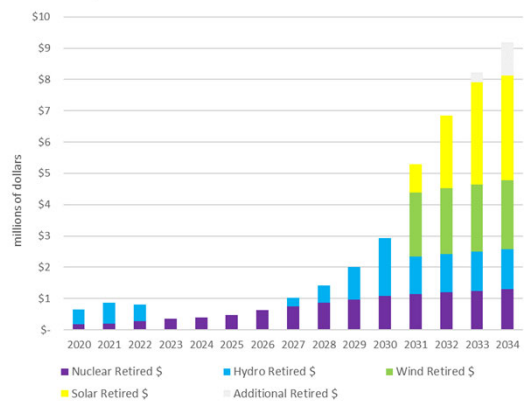
# Certificate Management



Number of Certificates Retired



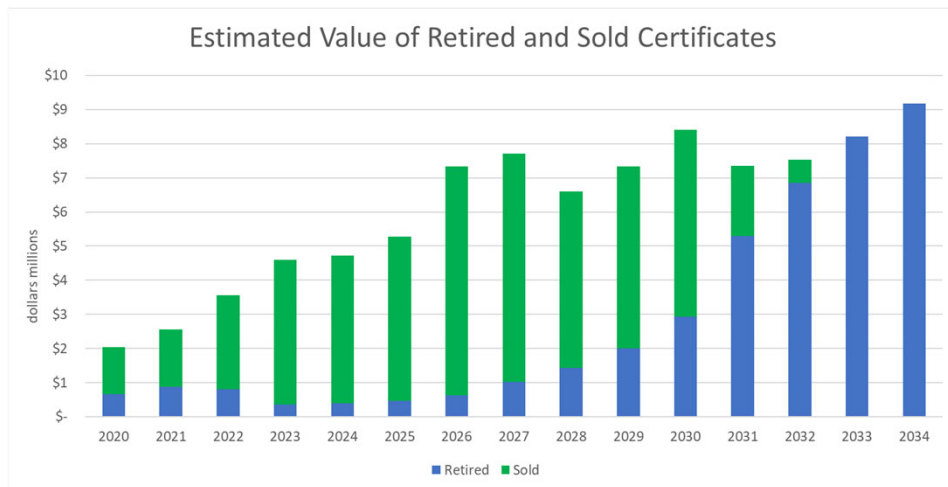
\$ Cost of Retired Certificates



7 Source: Cost\_KWh\_analysis 2023-12-6 JP



# Certificate Management (continued)



8 Source: Cost\_KWh\_analysis 2023-12-6 JP

## Residential Bill Impacts of Certificate Retirement

*Analysis of current power supply and the residential bill impacts of retiring certificates*

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
% Renewable - EXISTING Contracts	71%	74%	76%	74%	73%	72%
Current retirement ramp	32%	35%	38%	41%	44%	47%
Average Bill - current retirement ramp	\$158.85	\$172.87	\$188.35	\$205.26	\$223.76	\$244.01
add incremental 3%	\$159.08	\$173.10	\$188.49	\$205.41	\$223.92	\$244.19
Average Bill - all existing contract certs retired	\$165.13	\$179.93	\$197.90	\$215.09	\$232.01	\$252.74
% Renewable with Additional Future Contracts	71%	74%	76%	74%	73%	72%
% Increase in Bill	3.10%	3.24%	4.22%	3.94%	2.84%	2.74%

*Incremental monthly residential bill increase range: \$.20 / month (35% in 2024) to \$9 / month (76% in 2026)*

# Certificates – NEPOOL GIS

from 18 March 2021  
BoC presentation



Generators issue certificates – 1 certificate / 1 MWH energy produced

Certificates minted (available for transactions) ~6 months after energy produced (time shift)

2-month transaction window each quarter

Any remaining certificates forfeited on June 15<sup>th</sup> of following year (ex. June 15 2021, for 2020 certificates)

Manage certificate portfolio monthly with annual horizon (banking between quarters) – balancing compliance, value, shelf-life

10 source: NEPOOL GIS



## Certificate Management

### *acquisition*

- a) Generator registers generation asset to issue non-carbon certificates (1 certificate / 1 MWH)
- b) Generator deposits certificate into customer account at NEPOOL GIS for each MWH produced
- c) NEPOOL GIS minted certificates (~6 month process)
- d) RMLD purchases energy via long term contracts or open market
- e) RMLD contracts certificates with energy for most all long-term energy contracts (associated certificates)
- f) Certificates held in RMLD account at NEPOOL GIS

### *disposition*

- g) Each quarter, RMLD instructs ENE to retire or sell certificates that were minted during two quarters prior and banking ~20% as rolling buffer
- h) ENE retires RMLD certificates on NEPOOL GIS to meet current RMLD target and Renewable Choice
- i) ENE sells RMLD certificates to third parties (to IOUs) or other MLPs
- j) Sell price is based on third party public pricing reports (example Marex Spectrometer USGreenWeekly, published twice a week)
- k) Funds for sale of certificates posted to fuel account (the funding source of the original purchase)

*RMLD purchases certificates with non-carbon energy (associated) rather than purchase certificates on the open market and then retire to "paper over" non-carbon energy*

11

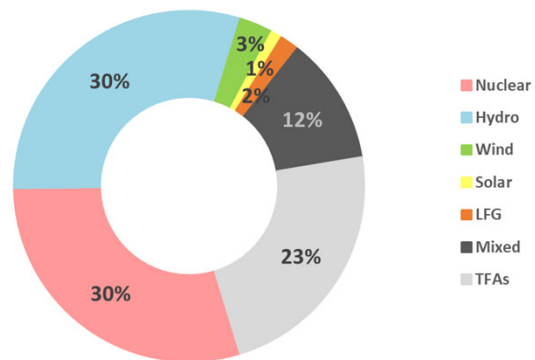
# YTD 2023 Power Supply Mix

Power Supply Purchased by Category, YTD October 2023

Wet summer 2023 kept Hydro's flowing, making Hydro's larger portion of RMLD portfolio (less Mixed from open market (unhedged))

Slightly lower load (YTD kwh usage, 3% lower) and higher hedged position also reduced Mixed, which is mostly natural gas generated

Solar and Wind contracts will gain portfolio presence as they are built and commissioned in the next several years



12 Source: Purchase Power Tracking 20231

Thank You  
from the RMLD Team



Department  
of CE

**ATTACHMENT 4**  
**POLICY REVIEW**  
**POLICY 30**  
**RENEWABLE AND GREENHOUSE**  
**GAS (GHG) REDUCTION**  
**REGARDING POWER SUPPLY**  
**PROCUREMENT**



In accordance with the Board’s periodic policy review, please find attached the review package for Policy 30: Non-Carbon Power Portfolio Mix (Revision 2).

Included are the following three components:

- Policy 30: Non-Carbon Power Portfolio Mix R2 summary & highlights (this page).
- Policy 30: Non-Carbon Power Portfolio Mix R2 clean with all changes accepted.
- Policy 30: Non-Carbon Power Portfolio Mix R2 redlined, tracked changes, showing specific edits.

Policy 30: Non-Carbon Power Portfolio Mix (Revision 2) was streamlined given that we now have two years of experience with the 2021 Climate Bill (s) and that the 2021 Climate Bill was passed at the time of Revision 0 and Revision 1.

Title changed to reflect the non-carbon metric from the actual test of the 2021 Climate Bill that was put in place in March 2021.

Background and redundant verbiage deleted to simplify this policy and also avoid potential conflicts between the long list of policies, and other documents.

2021 Climate Bill replaces Roadmap 2050.

Non-Carbon replaces renewable or greenhouse gas (GHG) as the metric specified in the 2021 Climate Bill.

Additional policy modifications are outlined below.

<b>Section 1:</b> Preamble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deleted</li> <li>• Partially or fully redundant to numerous other RMLD documents, including other policies.</li> <li>• Some elements, such as the reminder that RMLD has franchise obligations via M.G.L. 164 are already included in Policy Elements.</li> </ul>
<b>Section 2:</b> Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replaced renewable with non-carbon to reflect the MLP metric of non-carbon in the 2021 Climate Bill.</li> <li>• Majority of remaining text remains as it captures some of the topics in the deleted Preamble.</li> </ul>
<b>Section 3:</b> Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement that this policy should be reviewed every three years or earlier moved to Policy Elements item E.</li> <li>• Remaining text deleted since much of it is covered in the 20 Year Agreement</li> </ul>
<b>Section 4:</b> Policy Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added retirement targets to text.</li> <li>• Additional word replacements as noted above.</li> </ul>



**RMLD Policy No. 30  
NON-CARBON AND GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) REDUCTION  
REGARDING POWER SUPPLY PROCUREMENT**

**Revision No. 2**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Vote Date

General Manager/Date

Next Review Date

**I. PURPOSE**

- A. To establish general policy guidelines to aggressively pursue practical and cost-effective non-carbon and GHG reduced power supply opportunities that balance RMLD’s customers’ priorities, its franchise obligations, reliability, power supply risk mitigation, and financial risk mitigation, while complying with applicable laws and regulations
- B. To provide an opportunity for customers who wish to go above and beyond RMLD’s non-carbon energy goals and requirements.

**II. POLICY ELEMENTS**

- A. The RMLD shall comply with all applicable laws pertaining to renewable, non-carbon, and GHG reduction power procurement requirements, including 2021 Climate Bill requirements, while balancing its customer priorities and franchise obligations. RMLD shall strive to make incremental changes on an annual basis, especially certificate retirement targets, where possible, to mitigate potential rate shocks. 2021 Climate Bill requirements that are applicable as of the date of this Policy are attached hereto as Attachment 1.
- B. The RMLD shall develop the Renewable Choice Program, as an option available to all ratepayers. The Renewable Choice Program will allow RMLD customers to purchase “blocks” of Class 1 energy certificates (“RECs”) for an additional monthly fee. Customer REC purchases (for subsequent retirement) through the Renewable Choice Program are above and beyond RMLD’s other GHG reduction power procurement goals and requirements and are intended to help customers who have stated that they would be willing to pay more.
- C. In order to balance RMLD’s customer priorities and franchise obligations with compliance with all applicable laws pertaining to non-carbon and GHG reduction power procurement requirements, the General Manager may retain or may market RECs as she/he deems to be in the best interest of the RMLD and in compliance with all applicable law.
- D. If applicable laws pertaining to non-carbon and GHG reduction power procurement change after the effective date of this Policy, the General Manager will review such

changes and report to the RMLD Board on such changes and shall present for review and comment by the Board a plan for compliance with such changes that is consistent with RMLD's customer priorities and franchise obligations.

- E. The RMLD Board may vote on changes to this Policy from time to time and at a frequency not to exceed three years, and any changes to Attachment 1 shall be set forth below as shown and updated on Attachment 2.

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## RMLD POLICY 30

### ATTACHMENT 1 – Update 2

ROADMAP to Net-Zero Carbon by 2050  
(a.k.a., S.9 or MLP GGES Legislation, amending chapter 25A)  
Legislation effective (March 2021)

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Key Elements</b>
Goals	This Legislation sets a minimum percentage of non-carbon emitting energy sold by MLPs (retail sales): 2030 - 50% non-carbon emitting energy sales 2040 - 75% non-carbon emitting energy sales 2050 - net-zero greenhouse gas emissions energy sales
Sources	In this Legislation, “non-carbon emitting” is defined as energy generated from: (1) solar photovoltaic; (2) solar thermal electric; (3) hydroelectric, including imports (4) nuclear; (5) marine or hydrokinetic energy; (6) geothermal energy; (7) landfill methane; (8) anaerobic digester gas; (9) wind energy; (10) biomass (The RMLD Board of Commissioners approves the exclusion of future wood burning biomass as an acceptable non-carbon or greenhouse gas reduction resource of generation under this Policy); and (11) any other generation qualifying as special cases per this Legislation.
Make / Buy	MLPs may either purchase or generate non-carbon emitting energy. Existing energy supply contracts that meet Legislation requirements count as compliance.
Certificates	Qualification requires the MLP retirement of certificates for these energy retail sales. These certificates consist of non-carbon energy credits, emission-free energy certificates, or other evidentiary non-carbon emitting documentation.
Reporting / Alternative Compliance Payment	MLPs shall file an annual report demonstrating compliance. If an MLP fails compliance, it shall make an alternative compliance payment (ACP). This ACP shall not exceed \$0.010 / kWh. This ACP shall be deposited into an MLP maintained and administered fund and shall be used by the MLP to fund greenhouse gas emissions reduction and related programs in its service territory. RMLD shall establish this fund effective the date of the Legislation.

**RMLD POLICY 30**

ATTACHMENT 2 – Update History of Attachment 1

<i>Update</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>	<i>Exclusion/ Change</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Recommended by General Manager and approved by BOC and CAB (vote and date)</i>
0	02/24/2021	New	Attachment 1 created to reflect MLP GGES pending Legislation that will apply to MLPs.	02/24/2021
1	02/24/2021	Exclusion	Insert under Sources Provision, Item 10, next to the word biomass (The RMLD Board of Commissioners approves the exclusion of future wood burning biomass as an acceptable non-carbon or greenhouse gas reduction resource of generation under this Policy)	02/24/2021

**RMLD Policy No. 30**  
**RENEWABLE NON-CARBON AND GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG)**  
**REDUCTION REGARDING POWER SUPPLY PROCUREMENT**

Revision No. ~~21~~

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Vote Date

~~I.~~ **General Manager/Date**      **Next Review Date**

~~II.~~ **PREAMBLE**

- ~~A.~~ Established in 1894, Reading Municipal Light Department is a public power, not for-profit electric utility that serves its four communities.
- ~~B.~~ Public power means local control and local decision making. Our customers help determine our electric rates and the policies and programs that meet local needs.
- ~~C.~~ RMLD's electric rates reflect our customers' priorities as expressed in RMLD's Customer Satisfaction Surveys and adopted Mission and Vision statements:
  - ~~a.~~ Reliability — Customers expect and value excellent electric reliability.
  - ~~b.~~ Low Cost of Electricity — Customers value low cost electricity.
  - ~~c.~~ Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals — Our environmentally-conscious community wants RMLD to set greenhouse gas reduction goals while having little to no impact on rates.
  - ~~d.~~ RMLD's electric rates also reflect RMLD's franchise obligations. As a municipal light plant, RMLD is a public service corporation, having a legal franchise obligation to provide low cost, reliable electric service to its ratepayers.
- ~~D.~~ Consistent with RMLD's customers' priorities and its franchise obligations, the RMLD adopts the following Policy addressing renewable and sustainable energy:

~~III.~~ **PURPOSE**

- A. To establish general policy guidelines to aggressively pursue practical and cost-effective ~~renewable~~non-carbon and GHG ~~reduction~~ power supply opportunities that balance RMLD's customers' priorities, its franchise obligations, reliability, power supply risk mitigation, and financial risk mitigation, while complying with applicable laws and regulations  
~~-pertaining to GHG power procurement requirements~~
- B. To provide an opportunity for customers who wish to go above and beyond RMLD's ~~other greenhouse gas reduction~~non-carbon energy goals and requirements.

~~IV. RESPONSIBILITIES~~

~~A. RMLD Citizens' Advisory Board~~

- ~~1. Review and comment expeditiously on power purchase contracts recommended by the General Manager under this Policy.~~

DRAFT

- ~~B. RMLD Board of Commissioners~~
- ~~1. Responsible for approving this Policy every three years by December 31 of the third year.~~
  - ~~2. Review and comment expeditiously on power purchase contracts recommended by the General Manager under this Policy.~~
  - ~~3. Review, deliberate and vote on deviations and changes to this Policy.~~
- ~~C. General Manager~~
- ~~1. Responsible for implementing this Policy.~~
  - ~~2. Present power purchase contracts covered by this Policy to the RMLD Citizens' Advisory Board and the RMLD Board of Commissioners for review and comment.~~
  - ~~3. Present monthly updates to the RMLD Board concerning the RMLD's compliance and ability to comply with this Policy and any deviations or changes established by the RMLD Board, which will include impacts on cost and reliability.~~

## V. II. POLICY ELEMENTS

- A. The RMLD shall comply with all applicable laws pertaining to renewable, non-carbon, and GHG reduction power procurement requirements, including ~~, but not limited to, so-called Roadmap 2050~~ 2021 Climate Bill requirements, while balancing its customer priorities and franchise obligations. ~~The~~ RMLD shall strive to make incremental changes on an annual basis, especially certificate retirement targets, where possible, to mitigate potential rate shocks. ~~Roadmap 2050~~ 2021 Climate Bill requirements that are applicable as of the date of this Policy are attached hereto as Attachment 1.
- B. The RMLD shall develop the Renewable Choice Program, as an option available to all ratepayers. The Renewable Choice Program will allow RMLD customers to purchase "blocks" of Class 1-renewable energy certificates ("RECs") for an additional monthly fee. Customer REC purchases (for subsequent retirement) through the Renewable Choice Program are above and beyond RMLD's other GHG reduction power procurement goals and requirements and are intended to help customers who have stated that they would be willing to pay more. ~~to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The program will be developed as a tariffed rate.~~
- C. In order to balance RMLD's customer priorities and franchise obligations with compliance with all applicable laws pertaining to ~~renewable~~ non-carbon and GHG reduction power procurement requirements, the General Manager may retain or may market RECs as she/he deems to be in the best interest of the RMLD and in compliance with all applicable law.
- D. If applicable laws pertaining to ~~renewable~~ non-carbon and GHG reduction power procurement change after the effective date of this Policy, the General Manager will review such changes and report to the RMLD Board on such changes and shall present

for review and comment by the Board a plan for compliance with such changes that is consistent with RMLD's customer priorities and franchise obligations.

- E. The RMLD Board may vote on changes to this Policy from time to time and at a frequency not to exceed ~~of no more than every~~ three years, and any changes to Attachment 1 shall be set forth below as shown and updated on Attachment 2.

DRAFT



## RMLD POLICY 30

### ATTACHMENT 1 – Update

~~21~~

ROADMAP to Net-Zero Carbon by 2050  
 (a.k.a., S.9 or MLP GGES Legislation, amending chapter 25A)  
 Legislation effective (~~March 2021~~)

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Key Elements</b>
Goals	This Legislation sets a minimum percentage of non-carbon emitting energy sold by MLPs (retail sales): 2030 - 50% non-carbon emitting energy sales 2040 - 75% non-carbon emitting energy sales 2050 - net-zero greenhouse gas emissions energy sales
Sources	In this Legislation, “non-carbon emitting” is defined as energy generated from: (1) solar photovoltaic; (2) solar thermal electric; (3) hydroelectric, including imports (4) nuclear; (5) marine or hydrokinetic energy; (6) geothermal energy; (7) landfill methane; (8) anaerobic digester gas; (9) wind energy; (10) biomass (The RMLD Board of Commissioners approves the exclusion of future wood burning biomass as an acceptable <del>renewable</del> <u>non-carbon</u> or greenhouse gas reduction resource of generation under this Policy); and (11) any other generation qualifying as special cases per this Legislation.
Make / Buy	MLPs may either purchase or generate non-carbon emitting energy. Existing energy supply contracts that meet Legislation requirements count as compliance.
Certificates	Qualification requires the MLP retirement of certificates for these energy retail sales. These certificates consist of <del>renewable</del> <u>non-carbon</u> energy credits, emission-free energy certificates, or other evidentiary non-carbon emitting documentation.
Reporting / Alternative Compliance Payment	MLPs shall file an annual report demonstrating compliance. If an MLP fails compliance, it shall make an alternative compliance payment (ACP). This ACP shall not exceed \$0.010 / kWh. This ACP shall be deposited into an MLP maintained and administered fund and shall be used by the MLP to fund greenhouse gas emissions reduction and related programs in its service territory. RMLD shall establish this fund effective the date of the Legislation.

**RMLD POLICY 30**

ATTACHMENT 2 – Update History of Attachment 1

<i>Update</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>	<i>Exclusion/ Change</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Recommended by General Manager and approved by BOC and CAB (vote and date)</i>
0	02/24/2021	New	Attachment 1 created to reflect MLP GGES pending Legislation that will apply to MLPs.	02/24/2021
1	02/24/2021	Exclusion	Insert under Sources Provision, Item 10, next to the word biomass (The RMLD Board of Commissioners approves the exclusion of future wood burning biomass as an acceptable <del>renewable</del> <u>non-carbon</u> or greenhouse gas reduction resource of generation under this Policy)	02/24/2021

**ATTACHMENT 5**  
**PROCUREMENT REQUESTS**



December 7, 2023

Town of Reading Municipal Light Board

Subject: IFP 2023-36 Single Phase Pole Mounted Transformers

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164 § 56D, on August 2, 2023, an invitation for proposals was placed as a legal notice in the Middlesex East Section of the Daily Times Chronicle requesting sealed proposals for the Single Phase Pole Mounted Transformers.

An invitation for proposals was sent to eleven (11) companies.

Sealed proposals were received from five (5) companies: MVA Power Inc., ULS Corporate Inc., IRBY/Power Partners, SwitchgearUS LLC, and WESCO Distribution, Inc.

The sealed proposals were publicly opened and read aloud at 11:00 a.m. on September 13, 2023, in the Town of Reading Municipal Light Department's GM Conference Room, 230 Ash Street, Reading, Massachusetts.

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

Move that IFP 2023-36 for Single Phase Pole Mounted Transformers be awarded to: **MVA Power, Inc., for \$381,752.00<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 2023 Capital Budget amount for these items is \$1,033,021.

  
Vaughan Bryan (Dec 8, 2023 11:20 EST)

12/7/2023

Vaughan Bryan, Systems Engineer



12/7/2023

Gregory J. Phipps, General Manager

**Analysis - Single Phase Pole Mounted Transformers  
IFP 2023-36**

<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Delivery Date</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Total Cost Awarded</u>	<u>Meet Specification Requirement</u>
<b>MVA Power Inc.</b>							
Item 1 - 25 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	MVA Power	28-30 weeks	\$2,974.00	6	\$17,844.00	\$17,844.00	YES
Item 2 - 37.5 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	MVA Power	28-30 weeks	\$2,887.00	44	\$127,028.00	\$127,028.00	YES
Item 3 - 50 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	MVA Power	28-30 weeks	\$3,498.00	25	\$87,450.00	\$87,450.00	YES
Item 4 - 75 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	MVA Power	28-30 weeks	\$4,395.00	34	\$149,430.00	\$149,430.00	YES
					<b>\$381,752.00</b>	<b>\$381,752.00</b>	
<b>ULS Corporate Inc.</b>							
Item 1 - 25 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	ULS Transformer	25-26 weeks	\$4,284.90	6	\$25,709.40		
Item 2 - 37.5 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	ULS Transformer	25-26 weeks	\$4,938.53	44	\$217,295.32		
Item 3 - 50 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	ULS Transformer	25-26 weeks	\$5,722.88	25	\$143,072.00		
Item 4 - 75 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	ULS Transformer	25-26 weeks	\$7,589.36	34	\$258,038.24		
					<b>\$644,114.96</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Irby/ Power Partners</b>							
Item 1 - 25 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	Power Partners	144 weeks	\$2,588.00	6	\$15,528.00		
Item 2 - 37.5 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	Power Partners	144 weeks	\$3,192.00	44	\$140,448.00		
Item 3 - 50 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	N/A		\$0.00	0	\$0.00		
Item 4 - 75 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	N/A		\$0.00	0	\$0.00		
					<b>\$155,976.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>SwitchgearUS LLC</b>							
Item 1 - 25 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	Jiezou Power	26-28 weeks	\$3,663.00	6	\$21,978.00		
Item 2 - 37.5 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	Jiezou Power	26-28 weeks	\$3,975.00	44	\$174,900.00		
Item 3 - 50 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	Jiezou Power	26-28 weeks	\$4,425.00	25	\$110,625.00		
Item 4 - 75 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	Jiezou Power	26-28 weeks	\$5,025.00	34	\$170,850.00		
					<b>\$478,353.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Wesco Distribution</b>							
Item 1 - 25 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	Eaton	208 week	\$4,079.00	6	\$24,474.00		
Item 2 - 37.5 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	Eaton	208 week	\$4,988.00	44	\$219,472.00		
Item 3 - 50 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	Eaton	208 week	\$5,980.00	25	\$149,500.00		
Item 4 - 75 kVa 1Ø WYE 240/120	Eaton	208 week	\$8,408.00	34	\$285,872.00		
					<b>\$679,318.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

**Note: Exceptions were taken in three of the five (5) proposals as follows:**

*Irby/ Power Partners: Price is only firm for 30 days and then subject to change at time of order. In addition, quoted pricing is only firm through the end of manufacturer's current quarter, then subject to review and adjustments based on changes in published materials indices.*

*Switchgear US LLC: Payment Terms 60% at time of order, 30% when shipped, 10% upon delivery. Warranty covers defective equipment to be accessible at the delivery location No in and out costs are included. Indemnity Switchgear.US "Limits of Liability" are included as part of the bid. Seller wants copy of tax exemption info. SUS agrees to quoted lead time on a "best efforts" basis, Switchgear.US does not accept liquidated damages. Switchgear.US takes exception to the paragraph (11.6 Buyer's Right to Complete). Switchgear.US will not be liable for State and Local laws, rules, and regulations. The equipment furnished will comply all applicable ANSI/IEEE standards.*

*Wesco Distribution: All prices here represent those in effect at time of quotation and are subject to change at a minimum of 30 days prior to shipment. Proposal Specific Notes: Construction: Coating and surface preparation system shall be Eaton's Cooper Power System's standard, which is in compliance with IEEE C57.12.31-2002 performance requirements. Please reference Eaton's Cooper Power Systems' document 90058 for more information on the coating process. Total dry film paint thickness shall be a minimum of 3 mils.*

**ATTACHMENT 6**  
**2024 NEXTERA PUBLIC POWER**  
**SUMMIT ATTENDANCE**

# You're Invited



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**FEBRUARY 11-14, 2024**  
**THE BOCA RATON, BOCA RATON, FL**

This unique event offers several opportunities for networking with public power professionals from across the country.

**This invitation for you and a guest includes:**

- Interactive and insightful discussions addressing the challenges, opportunities and energy market trends facing the public power industry
- Opportunities to engage in peer networking
- Up to three nights of hotel accommodations
- Round-trip ground transportation from Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) or Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL)
- All meals and group networking activities

# **2024 PUBLIC POWER SUMMIT AGENDA**

Sun Feb 11

12:00 PM

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM EST (5 Hours)

## **Registration**

Poolside Cabanas #114 & 115

5:30 PM

5:30 PM - 11:00 PM EST (5 Hours, 30 Min)

## **Super Bowl reception and dinner**

Spanish Terrace And Estate Ballroom

Mon Feb 12

8:00 AM

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM EST (5 Hours)

## **Tour of NextEra Energy's Fleet Control Center, Renewable Operations Control Center and new, state of the art Jim L. Robo Campus**

5:00 PM

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM EST (4 Hours)

## **Cocktail reception and dinner aboard the Grand Floridian**

The Marina At Harborside

Tue Feb 13

7:30 AM

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM EST (1 Hour, 30 Min)

## **Breakfast**

Royal 6-10

8:45 AM

8:45 AM - 11:30 AM EST (2 Hours, 45 Min)

## **Morning Sessions: Forum on leading utility management practices and cutting-edge grid technologies**

Royal 1-5



11:30 AM

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM EST (1 Hour)

## **Lunch**

Alhambra Lawn

1:00 PM

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM EST (4 Hours)

## **Networking activities**

6:30 PM

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM EST (2 Hours, 30 Min)

## **Dinner under the stars**

Harborside Pools And Lawn

9:00 PM

9:00 PM - 11:00 PM EST (2 Hours)

## **Night cap**

Supper Club

Wed **Feb 14**

8:00 AM

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM EST (1 Hour)

## **Breakfast**

Royal 6-10

9:00 AM

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM EST (2 Hours, 30 Min)

## **Morning Sessions: Power market update, gas market update, cybersecurity**

Royal 1-5

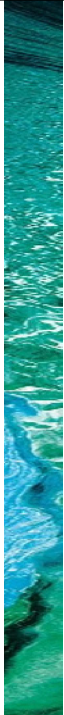
11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM EST (2 Hours)

## **Lunch**

Alhambra Lawn

**ATTACHMENT 7**  
**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**



# General Manager Update

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

13 December 2023

## RMLD Team

New Director of Operations starting January 8<sup>th</sup>

Actively recruiting Director of Engineering

Director of Enterprise Data recruitment - mid 2024

Refining 4x10 work schedule for line and substation crews

- Current pilot ends 24 Dec 2023
- 6-month extension – though 19 May 2024
- Solidifying coverage on Friday

Extending limited flex time for balance of employees

- started July 2022
- Extended customer window hours Mon – Thu, closed Friday



## More Highlights

Annual 2023 load forecasted to be just under 3% less than 2022 (2020 level)

- Mild past year; temperature drives load and load is core element of monthly bills
- Mild upcoming winter forecast; downward pressure on wholesale power vs 2022 and 2023

Carbon capture fuel cell update in January (steady progress)

RFP for broad new electric utility concepts in process

Ash Street campus

- updated concepts in 2024 in coordination with Town of Reading

Rt 125

- Owner prefers LOI to proceed P&S (both will include due diligence items)

Maple Meadows energy park

- MA DEP meeting in January; ongoing discussions with current owner trust to resolve speed bumps

Reading Select Board Nov 21<sup>st</sup> (general update presentation)

- 3 Commissioners attended; positive reception and ongoing support

Lynnfield Board Water Dept Nov 27<sup>th</sup> (solar and battery on Glenn Road)

- Commissioner and CAB Board member attended; well received; follow-up meeting mid-Dec

Thank You



**MATERIALS AVAILABLE**

**From:** [Erica Morse](#)  
**To:** [Erica Morse](#)  
**Subject:** AP and Payroll Questions for the 2023-12-13 BoC Board Book  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 9:33:51 AM

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**AP**

From November 10, 2023, through December 1, 2023, there were no Commissioner questions.

**Payroll:**

From November 13, 2023, through December 4, 2023, there were no Commissioner questions.

Erica Morse  
Executive Assistant  
Reading Municipal Light Department  
O: 781-942-6489  
C: 617-791-3304  
[www.rmld.com](http://www.rmld.com)





**From:** [Maureen Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Erica Morse](#)  
**Cc:** [Paula O'Leary](#)  
**Subject:** Surplus Update - November 2023  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:05:03 AM

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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 November 2023.

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)