



Light Subjects

Community Owned. Not for Profit. It's Ours.

1st Quarter, 2023

EMERGENCIES 24/7

978-531-5975

OFFICE INFO:

201 Warren St. Ext.
Peabody, MA 01960
978-531-5975

HOURS:

Weekdays 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Online: Download mobile app for Android or Apple, or visit PMLP.COM

Over the Phone by Card:

Call our cashier at 978-531-5975.

Through your bank:

Arrange automatic payments by calling customer service.

Check By Mail:

PO Box 3199, Peabody, MA 01961

Drop Box Locations:

- ~ PMLP (7 a.m. - 11 p.m.)
- ~ City Hall (24/7)
Chestnut Street side
- ~ Torigian Senior Center *
75R Central St
- ~ Peabody Institute Library *
32 Main Street
- ~ South Branch Library (24/7)
78 Lynn Street
- ~ West Branch Library (24/7)
603 Lowell Street

* - During their regular hours.
Do not leave cash.

WEBSITE:

www.pmlp.com

MANAGER:

Joseph M. Anastasi

COMMISSIONERS:

Thomas J. Paras, *Chairman*
Thomas M. D'Amato, *Vice Chair*
Raymond J. Melvin, *Secretary*
William C. Aylward
Tracy M. Valletti

Commissioners meet monthly during the school year in the PMLP McCarthy Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th Thursday, except in November and December when meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday.



Power Chat

By Joseph Anastasi

Why is my electric Bill so high?

My mother called me yesterday to ask me this question (in a stern tone), as if I was responsible, or more hopefully, that I was in a position to fix it! I had to, somewhat feebly, explain that neither I, nor Public Power are either responsible or able to single-handedly solve this issue. But on the good side of that coin, Public Power, like PMLP, is still able to shine when compared to investor-owned utilities. Admittedly, that normally brilliant “shine” is somewhat dulled when looking at higher bills. And even though PMLP remains near the very lowest in Massachusetts for energy costs, sadly we’re not immune to the volatility in the energy market today.

Although PMLP does have two generation units and are a member of a third unit coming online later this year, called Special Project 2015A (colloquially termed: The Peaker Plant), we don’t directly make most of the energy you use as a customer. The value provided by peaker plants is largely in the “capacity” market, which means they are on standby most of the time, waiting to be used in cases of extremely high demand and system stress (like when it’s really hot or really cold). Having these units in that market provides PMLP with added revenue that allows us to keep your rates low.

But the reason for today’s elevated rates goes far beyond our service area. The conflict in the Ukraine has caused a severe shortage of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). As we all know, shortages of any commodity will cause price increases. And as the largest single source of electricity generation nationally (just under 40%), it affects every utility in the US. (For more detailed info, visit the US Energy Information Administration website at www.eia.gov). Compounding the gas supply issue in New England in particular is a lack of natural gas pipeline capacity into the area, forcing us to be reliant on imported LNG.

As we all try to sprint toward embracing electrification, renewable energy sources, and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, we are

faced with hurdles such as grid improvements, high up-front costs of renewable projects, and finding ways to reduce existing fossil fuel emissions. In addition to these hurdles being very costly, they also take time. As an example, off-shore wind farms (proven to be the most reliable and cost-effective renewable energy solution) often take 5-10 years to implement. And although these are difficult hurdles to overcome, PMLP and Public Power are among the best “hurdlers” in the race. Even so, we can’t skip the hurdles altogether. We still have to jump over them as we run!

All of this has electric utilities around the globe and here in MA working hard to find ways to provide power affordably. And although PMLP’s rates are up, perhaps higher than ever before, the grass is most definitely NOT greener anywhere else. Investor-owned utilities’ rates are about 3 times higher than PMLP’s. And while nobody likes high bills, our pledge at PMLP is to continue working hard all year round to review our power supply portfolio and continuously investigate new and better ways to acquire energy more cheaply so we can pass those savings on to you, our customers!

But what we do at PMLP is only half the equation. The other half is you. Only you are in charge of your own usage. At PMLP, we strive to provide you with the right tools to help you make decisions. Our advanced metering system gives you access to real-time 15-minute electric usage for your dwelling. Knowing what, how much, and when you use power can help determine how to cut down on unnecessary usage. For a few examples of how anyone can save on costs, we recommend setting your thermostat to the lowest comfortable temperature (68 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter, according to the Department of Energy), using energy efficient appliances (Rebates may be available too!), and even participating in our “Connected Homes” program. Visit us at www.pmlp.com to learn more about how you can save today!

Power Chat is the editorial column by the manager of PMLP.

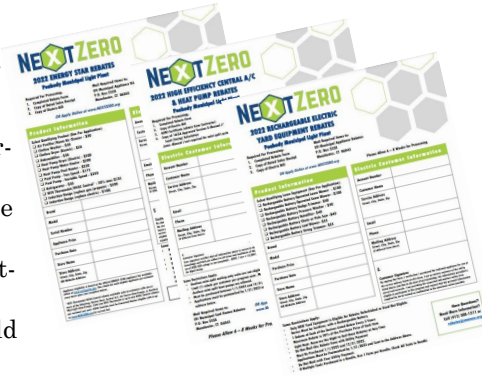
Save with PMLP Conservation Programs

Saving electricity saves money and helps to preserve our valuable natural resources.

When you purchase certain energy-efficient products, be sure to apply for a rebate. (Rebates come in the form of a bill credit.) Our programs cover rechargeable battery-powered yard equipment and many Energy Star household appliances.

For bigger projects around your home, incentives for eligible heat pumps are also offered.

A new program launched last year is called Connected Homes. It offers bill credits when controllable devices (like wi-fi thermostats and EV chargers) are enrolled into a peak-reducing program. (You get to choose when you participate.)



Check out all of our programs and requirements on our website under Incentives & Rebates. Apply online or download the forms. (Hard copies are also available in the PMLP lobby.)

Are you a business owner?

Commercial rebate programs are available for upgrading lighting to LED and HVAC improvement projects to efficient units. Check our website for details.

Heat Pump Hot Line

You have probably heard about heat pumps as an option for heating your home, but did you know it will also cool your home?

Heat pumps work similarly to air-conditioners but essentially are able to operate in reverse. Heat pumps can be helpful in reducing your monthly heating bills while also reducing carbon emissions associated with home heating.



If you are thinking of upgrading your heating system to a heat pump, you probably have many questions. To help guide you through the upgrade process, PMLP now offers a free Heat Pump Assessment Program.

Call 888-333-7525 to schedule your free assessment.

What is GIS?

PMLP has deployed and configured a Geographic Information System platform (GIS) internally for the past three years. GIS has become a standard in the utility industry, and can offer great benefits to ratepayers. Here are some examples:

Outage Management: GIS helps us quickly identify outage locations, allowing crews to be dispatched faster, thus reducing outage times.

Asset Management: GIS helps us track and manage assets, like power lines and transformers, identifying areas for maintenance or upgrades and reducing the risk of failures.

Planning and Analysis: GIS helps us analyze data on usage patterns, trends, and other factors to plan for future growth, and identify areas for service improvement.

Customer Communication: Sharing GIS maps and visualizations can inform customers about outages, maintenance, and other service-related issues, while building trust and improving transparency.

Safety: GIS helps identify safety hazards, like trees near power lines or equipment at risk of damage. This allows for proactive measures to be taken and improves safety.



At an industry conference, PMLP was recognized for its innovative work in GIS.

PMLP chose the system called ESRI Utility Network for its GIS implementation. This next-generation GIS technology provides a powerful framework to help PMLP manage its network.

Overall, GIS can be a valuable tool for electric utilities to improve customer service and provide customers with greater information about their service.



CONCERT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

On Friday, April 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., PMLP will sponsor a concert for our Senior Citizens. The one-hour concert will feature the young adults of Peabody Veterans Memorial High School and will be in the high school auditorium.

Refreshments will be served

BULB DAY

PMLP's Bulb Day, a part of Public Power Week, will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

PMLP ratepayers will receive up to ten LED replacement bulbs for free, while supplies last. (A free-will donation to NSCAP is suggested but not required.)