



MMWEC STATEMENT ON PROJECT 2015A

Ludlow, MA -- At a special meeting held yesterday, the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company's (MMWEC's) board of directors voted to authorize a pause of MMWEC's plans for the siting of a new capacity resource in Peabody, called Project 2015A. The board authorized a 30-day minimum pause to address the concerns brought to the MMWEC Board, while also considering available options to fulfill its participants' required capacity obligations under ISO New England rules. The project has been under development and public review for more than three years and has secured state permits, making this is an unusual step.

"MMWEC is a proven leader in carbon-free technology, and we are proud that our members' power portfolios have some of the highest percentages of renewable energy and the lowest carbon emissions in the Commonwealth," said Ron DeCurzio, CEO of MMWEC. "In fact, most of the Project 2015A participating municipal light plants have already exceeded the Baker Administration's 2030 carbon reduction targets. We plan to continue that leadership in the next phase of energy development. Can we find a way to develop a needed capacity resource that isn't fossil fuel-fired but still reliable in times of need? It is worth taking another look at whether advancements in technology make a different approach possible today."

DeCurzio noted that much has changed in technology since the project was first proposed more than five years ago making the need for reassessment even more necessary.

"We are thankful for the significant input we have received from interested stakeholders, including the elected and appointed leaders of the Commonwealth and from municipal officials," DeCurzio continued. "We share the zeal expressed by many members of the public for embracing new technologies. Driving toward the best carbon-free technology, while making sure it meets reliability and affordability standards for our communities – that is in our DNA."

Over the course of the next 30 days, MMWEC will meet with and seek input from stakeholders, including regulators, other Commonwealth officials, the participating communities and the larger community to consider alternatives and assess their feasibility. The board will regroup to discuss findings at the end of the review period.

Project 2015A Background

As proposed, Project 2015A is a 55-megawatt capacity plant to provide necessary capacity for 14 nearby cities and towns during periods of peak electricity demand. Because it will be among the newest and most efficient resources, it will produce fewer emissions than 94 percent of the fossil fuel plants in New England. Without this resource, local utilities that are required to have capacity will continue to rely on older, less efficient energy power plants through the ISO-New England markets. Thus, this resource will displace carbon that would otherwise be produced by higher-polluting plants, resulting in a net reduction in carbon emissions.

Although MMWEC has fulfilled all the required public notices and applications for the project and followed the same procedure it did for advancing other developments, including Project 2020A - a proposed seven-megawatt solar farm to be built on MMWEC's site in Ludlow - the board determined it would be prudent to evaluate all of the concerns recently expressed about the project.

Information about Project 2015A can be found at www.project2015A.org.

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