

Princeton Municipal Light Department

2009 Annual Report

PMLD is a non-profit public service corporation, whose primary goal is to provide reliable and low cost electric service to the residents and businesses of the Town of Princeton. PMLD is a Town asset, working as a separate governmental unit, with its own Board of Light Commissioners, policies, and budget serving the needs and providing value to our ratepayers. PMLD thanks all of its customers for their continuing support of public power.

2008 Dec. 11th Ice Storm

PMLD's overhead electric distribution system was severely damaged during the December 11, 2008 ice storm. The cost to repair PMLD's electrical distribution system continued in 2009 and totaled approximately \$2.2M. PMLD borrowed this amount, through a town issued short-term note, to pay for the repair expenses. FEMA reimbursed PMLD 75% of the repair costs and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts reimbursed PMLD 12.5% to date. PMLD continues to charge \$10.00 per month to every electricity account to collect the additional revenue to repay the loan and non-reimbursed ice storm expenses. PMLD expects this charge to continue through part of 2010 depending on additional state reimbursement.

FEMA approved storm expenses	\$2,105,374.63
FEMA/MA reimbursements to date	\$1,794,906.44
Reimbursable storm costs remaining	\$310,468.19
Total non-reimbursable costs remaining	\$89,569.00

Electric Customer and Rates

By the end of 2009, PMLD provided service to 1,421 residential, 5 Farm, 86 commercial, and 16 municipal customers. Residential customers consume approximately 86% of the town's total energy use. All of PMLD's customers consumed approximately 14.8 million kWh of energy in 2009, and the average home consumed approximately 750 kWh per month.

PMLD continues to provide cost effective electric service as compared to Investor Owned Utilities (IOU). The average home in Princeton spends approximately \$145.00 per month on electricity. If you lived outside our electric service territory, you could have paid more for the same amount of electricity. As part of PMLD's five year budget plan, approved by the Board of Light Commissioners, PMLD increased its rates 5% effective July 1, 2009. The next rate increase, effective July 1, 2010, is expected to be only 3%.

PMLD has had only eleven rate increases over the past 25 years. This represents an average rate increase of only 3% per year since 1984, which is pretty close to the average annual rate of inflation. PMLD's number one priority is to maintain the lowest possible rates, while providing the most reliable electric service possible.

Wind Farm Project

PMLD completed the Wind Farm Upgrade Project at the end of October 2009. PMLD installed two Fuhrlaender 1.5MW wind turbines on 65 meter towers. The project cost \$7.3M and will produce approximately 40% of the town's energy requirements in a cost effective manner. The wind farm project demonstrates our commitment to renewable energy, reduces our dependency

on the fossil fuels that cause pollution, reduces our Town's energy costs, and most importantly, balances the environmental and community impacts.

Service to Town

In addition to providing low cost and reliable energy, PMLD performed many other services for the Town and our customers in 2009.

- Reduced the cost of Town owned streetlights
- Installed holiday decorations, Town Common lights, and other banners and signs
- Included Town related mailings in monthly bills to save postage and handling costs
- Sponsored electrical safety classes for our children at the Thomas Prince School
- Provided storage and meeting space for the Princeton baseball league, Friends of the Library, Princeton girl scouts cookies, and Town Selectmen
- Offered cost effective and energy efficient electric hot water heaters
- Offered rebates for energy efficient refrigerators and dishwashers

Reliability

Delivering reliable energy to every customer in Princeton is one of our main goals. PMLD continues to trim and remove trees that could damage our electric distribution system and cause outages. PMLD completed various upgrade projects to the electric distribution system such as new utility poles, wires, and hardware. The total number of town wide outages has decreased significantly as compared to previous years. PMLD continues to improve the reliability of our electric system.

Renewable Energy

PMLD's commitment to protecting the environment and purchasing renewable energy continued through FY2009. Generating and purchasing renewable energy makes a difference. In FY2009 PMLD purchased approximately 15% of its energy from various hydroelectric power plants throughout the region. This renewable energy is purchased at very favorable rates. PMLD expects the new wind farm to produce approximately 40% of the town's energy requirements in a renewable manner, once it becomes operational at the end of 2009.

Wireless High-speed Internet Access

PMLD provides cost effective high-speed wireless Internet access to the town's residents and businesses. Approximately 24 antennas provide wireless Internet coverage throughout the majority of town. 100% of the network is up and running. The network does have some design flaws and equipment limitations that PMLD is trying to correct through the original network engineer and manufacturer. PMLD has approximately 290 active customers and another 50-100 potential new customers waiting for Internet service. PMLD will continue to troubleshoot and improve the delivery of high-speed wireless Internet access to our community.

Please come by the Light Department and let us know how we are doing. Thank you again for continuing to support PMLD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board of Light Commissioners; Bradford Hubbard, Scott Bigelow, and Don Steadman

Princeton Road Advisory Committee (RAC)

2009 Road Reconstruction Report

The road reconstruction program in Princeton unfortunately had to take a year off, but not because of a lack of effort. In April, the town applied for a Small Town Road Assistance Program (STRAP) grant from the State in the amount of \$500,000. This had been approved at the Special Town Meeting held in March.

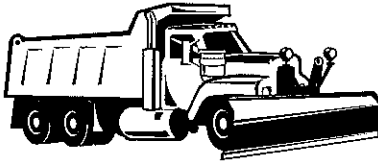
Our hope was to reconstruct approximately 8,000 feet of Gates Road at an estimated cost of \$700,000. Without the grant money this would not be possible. Unfortunately due to economic circumstances, the State did not make any STRAP grant decisions until this past January 2010 when we were notified that Princeton was not selected for a grant this time around. This precluded us from taking any other action on Gates Road while we awaited the decision. A construction season was lost.

Moving forward we will use Chapter 90 (2009 & 2010 combined) and available Town funds to reconstruct all or a portion of Gates Road this year. If we can't complete the entire section this year it will be completed the following year. Engineering is under way for Calamint Hill South which is the next priority after Gates road is completed.

Once again we thank Glenn Lyons and the Highway Department for their efforts in maintaining our investments in the Town's road system. They continue to provide us with an incredible value for our tax dollars. The quality of their work and conscientious approach to their jobs is to be commended. The improving ease of winter maintenance is a testament to having roads that are in good condition.

As always we remain grateful for the support of the Advisory Board, CIP, Select Board, and you our citizens. We continue to do the best we can with the funds made available to us.

Respectfully submitted: Larry Greene (Chairman), Joe Bellucci, Mickey Splaine, Terry Thompson, Kevin Toohey, & Glenn Lyons (Highway Superintendent).



REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

It is with great sadness that the town bid farewell to Town Administrator Dennis Rindone, who passed away unexpectedly at the beginning of this year. He was a good friend and determined advocate for the Highway department and its employees.

The Highway department during the past year undertook the following road projects:

- Completed the engineering design of Gate Road and anticipate beginning construction in the spring of 2010.
- Began work on the engineering plans for Calamint Hill Road South.
- Assisted the state with the newly opened Ball Hill Road Bridge.

The Highway department's routine maintenance consisted of shoulder, ditch and catch basin cleaning, street sweeping, line painting, pot hole patching, culvert replacement, brush chipping, road side mowing and maintenance of all parks, athletic fields, playgrounds and the town common. Due to budget constraints no major road reconstructions were undertaken this year.

The December ice storm of 2008 provided the department with many challenges that we have worked to correct. A majority of our efforts were spent on roadside brush and debris clearing.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Town Administrator, John Lebeaux; and give special thanks to the Board of Selectmen, the Road Advisory Committee members; all town employees and residents for their input and assistance in making this year a pleasurable and productive one.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Lyons
Highway Superintendent

FY 2010 ANNUAL REPORT
SUBMITTED BY: ARTHUR ALLEN
WACHUSETT EARTHDAY COMMITTEE MEMBER
HAZARDOUS WASTE COORDINATOR

Over the last two years a partnership of Wachusett Towns, the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and Wachusett Earthday, Incorporated (WEI) have established the new Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center at 131 Raymond Huntington Highway, West Boylston. This center has been designed for year round collections of household hazardous products (e.g., oil-based paints, aerosols, pesticides) and bulk recyclables (e.g., appliances, electronics, tires, batteries, fluorescent tubes.) which are not weekly curbside pickups. The participating Watershed Towns are Boylston, Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling and West Boylston.

Planners have included designated town representatives (AKA: Site Team members), the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and the volunteer board of Wachusett Earthday, Incorporated. In 2008 and 2009 efforts were focused on fund-raising, grant-writing, environmental site evaluation (e.g., wetland and watershed features), permitting and regulatory compliance and design for the new Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center. Gravel for the Center's roadways and parking areas was processed at a DCR site in Holden. The Town of West Boylston and the Department of Conservation and Recreation held discussions and entered into an agreement to help ensure that the Town's interests were addressed.

In 2008 an engineered design was developed by contractors. During the summer of 2008 trees were cleared from the site and the stumps were ground into mulch. In June of 2009 Capa Corporation was hired to perform earth work on the site including excavation, grading, installation of drainage and creation of a gravel-surfaced roadway and parking network. A used house trailer was donated in 2008, for use at the Center, and another trailer was donated, by the DCR in 2010.

The site was finish-graded in the fall of 2009, just in time for the first collection day on December 5, 2009. The December 5th collection included Household Hazardous Products ("HHP"). A hired environmental contractor collected HHP from residents of the seven participating Wachusett towns, while WEI volunteers and Site Team members directed traffic and recorded vital statistics pertaining to the collection.

The first bulk collection of appliances, batteries, electronics, metals, and propane tanks is planned for February 6, 2010 and several collections of HHP will also be held in 2010. The Center will develop an expanded schedule for collections during 2010 and notice will be posted on Town websites and in local newspapers. During 2010 WEI, the Site Team and the DCR will work in partnership to continue to develop the Center to serve the Wachusett watershed town residents for disposal of hazardous products and recycling.

The Wachusett Recycled Resource Center offering free recycled materials remained open at 52 Boyden Road in Holden. The Resource Center is open three times each week and is operated by volunteers. The Wachusett Towns contribute the utilities, and Oriol Health Care provides the space. During 2009 more than 10,000 visitors received free items for use in classrooms, theater programs, community programs and homes.

2009 Members of the Site Team:

Boylston—Nancy Colbert	Rutland—Don D'Auteuil
Holden—Jack Chandler	Sterling—Bill Tuttle
Paxton—Charles Blanchard and Diane Dillman	West Boylston—Leon Gaumond
Princeton—Arthur Allen	Wachusett Earthday—Colleen Abrams
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation—John Scannell	

2009 Directors of Wachusett Earthday:

Colleen Abrams, Susan Abramson, Arthur Allen, Karl Barry, Kelly Calamari, Patricia Charbonneau, Andre Gaudet, Eric Johansen, Michael Kacprzicki, Douglas Kimball, Stanley Miller, Caroline Perry, Kerry Raber, William Rand, Diane Spindler, Robert Spindler

**PRINCETON CEMETERY COMMISSION
2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

Opening day for the Princeton Cemeteries was April 15. There were 3 full burials and 5 cremation burials and 10 lots were sold. Bruce Rollins remains in the role of Superintendent.

Cleanup of the 2008 ice storm damage was completed. The Historical Commission sponsored the installation of a new gate at Meetinghouse Cemetery as well as continuing gravestone repair.

Maintenance conducted at all cemeteries included straightening of gravestones, repairs to stone walls as well as placing loam and seed to smooth uneven ground to ease lawn mowing activities.

Bruce Rollins and Dick Wheeler shall continue to provide cemetery maintenance in 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. McNary
Chairman
Princeton Cemetery Commission