



For information contact:
Priscilla Gottwald
Community Relations Manager
781-942-6419 (Phone)
781-942-2409 (Fax)
pgottwald@rml.com (Email)

Press Release

RMLD plans to bring customer concerns to Washington

Reading, MA, February 6, 2009 - Lower electric bills. More efficient, less costly operations. More accountability to consumers. Protecting our regional economy. Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) is asking customers to join its effort to convince Congress and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to exercise more oversight of ISO-New England, the regional transmission organization responsible for electricity markets in the Northeast.

“We want the U.S. Congress and FERC to focus on the impact that ISO-New England costs have on residential, commercial and industrial consumers in our region. To date, no one at the ISO is paying attention to the average bill-paying consumer or to the impact of electricity costs on our economy. They say it’s not their job to do so. Congress and FERC have oversight responsibility for ISO-New England, so we are going to ask both of them to make the ISO more cost-conscious and accountable,” says RMLD General Manager Vinnie Cameron. “We have seen the results of lax oversight in the U.S. financial markets and in other industries. It’s happening in electricity markets too. It’s time for the federal government to be proactive and step in.”

For the past three years, RMLD and the other consumer-owned utility members in New England have raised concerns about the ISO’s lack of transparency, cost-consciousness and customer accountability. Now they are asking their customers to join that effort. RMLD customers and the more than 80 other public power systems in New England will be asked to take a few minutes to describe the toll that high electric bills are taking on their family, their business or their community. They will be offered an

opportunity to write to their members of Congress asking for more oversight of ISO-New England. “Nothing is as powerful as reading our customers’ own words, telling us what it feels like to be unable to pay a bill,” says Cameron. “We want our legislators to hear these concerns too. We think they will want to help.”

Letters and petitions will be available to sign at the public libraries, senior centers, town halls and RMLD pay stations in Reading, North Reading, Wilmington and Lynnfield, as well as the RMLD lobby at 230 Ash Street in Reading, where they can be left and RMLD personnel will pick up by February 19. You may also download the letter from our website, www.rmld.com, sign and send it to the attention of Community Relations Manager Priscilla Gottwald, RMLD, 230 Ash Street, Reading, MA 01867. Cameron will take them to Washington at the end of February.

For further information, please call a customer specialist at 781-944-1340 or 781-942-6598.

For immediate release February 6, 2009