

The volatile winter power costs have wreaked havoc on GELD's bottom line.

Beginning in September 2014, a fuel adjustment charge will be added to your electric bill.

Greatly increased power costs in the late fall of 2013 and the long winter of 2014 left GELD with a \$500,000.00 deficit for FY2014. The winter of 2015 looks as bad (if not worse) in terms of increased power costs. To avoid operating with another deficit, GELD will gradually implement an adjustment in our rates. Beginning with the September 30, 2014 bill you will see a new line item on your bill. It is a "fuel adjustment" charge, also known as a power purchase fuel adjustment (PPFA).

At the August 21, 2014 Board meeting, the Commissioners unanimously voted to add a 1 cent per kilowatt hour PPFA charge on the September 2014 bill with an increase to 1.5 cents per kilowatt hour on the October, 2014 bill and lasting through the winter. We will monitor the power markets regularly and make additional adjustments as needed. The PPFA will reflect the cost of power that GELD buys. GELD regrets having to pass on these increases to our ratepayers, but cannot continue to operate at a loss.

The future looks uncertain

Unfortunately there does not appear to be any relief in sight.

Several electric generation plants that use fuel sources other than natural gas have closed and these closings have caused issues and constraints to the electric supply.

Over the next several years, all Massachusetts residents will see continued increases in their energy bills. One of the main reasons is because home heating suppliers and electric generators will be vying for the same *limited* natural gas supplies. GELD will continue to closely monitor the energy markets and analyze options that may become available to our ratepayers.

Our mission remains strong: ***to provide our customers reliable power and excellent service at affordable prices.***

Two New Rates Available—the "Green" Rate Options



GELD is pleased to announce two new voluntary rates

For those customers that have requested a "green" rate option over the years, we have completed the behind the scenes work necessary to support this option.

Customers can *voluntarily* choose from two options and these new rates will be offered at an additional 4 cents per kilowatt hour above our standard residential rate. These new rates were approved by our Board at the September 15, 2014 meeting.

Green Rate Option 1—the additional funds collected from this rate will be pooled and used to assist in the funding of solar panels to be placed within the Town of Groton.

Green Rate Option 2—the additional funds collected from this rate will be pooled and used to assist in the funding of electric conservation within the Town of Groton.

If you are interested in signing up for one of these environmentally friendly rates, please contact Barbara or Tammi at 978-448-1150.

Reminder: our address has temporarily changed to 11 Station Avenue

If you are mailing directly to our office in Groton or using a bill payer service through online banking, ***please update our address.*** Continue to use the address provided on our bill for payments mailed to our lockbox (PO Box in Reading). If the mail is forwarded because you are using our old address, this could delay your payment from reaching us in time to receive the early pay discount.

Remember—to qualify for the early pay discount, payment must be received in our office or at our lockbox by 4 PM on the 12th. If the 12th falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday the payment is still expected by the 12th. Payments may be made even when the office is closed by using the mail slot in our door. *Note: payments may also be made before the 12th!*

GELD trims trees for the safety and reliability of your electric service

The natural beauty in Groton includes the large number of lush trees that line the country roads and cover the landscape. Unfortunately, trees and power lines don't mix.



tor) follow best recognized and accepted forestry standards; however, we do trim aggressively since we may not return to each area of town for several years.

Our main priority is to eliminate trees or branches that are potential safety hazards. We employ a tree-trimming contractor who is also a certified arborist—he only removes trees that are or will become a direct threat to our distribution system.

Also important to note: the trees we remove are within the public utility easement—this

easement was specifically designed to allow utilities to mow, trim, or remove branches and trees that may affect the reliability of the electric system.

We set our standards high and we believe it is in the best interest of all customers when we can avoid unnecessary power outages due to downed trees and overgrowth in the electric lines.

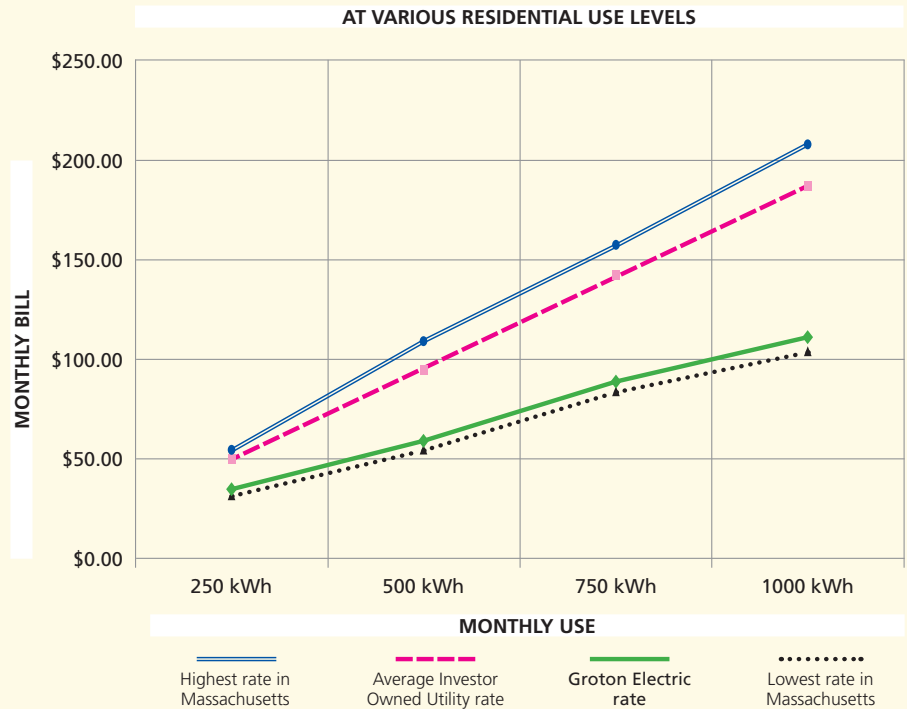
Thank you for your understanding as we work to balance responsible vegetation management and reliable electric service.

Trees are an important part of our environment. That's why Groton Electric is committed to balancing the importance of trees with the equally important need to provide safe and reliable electricity to the ratepayers of Groton.

To do this, we must control the growth of vegetation around power lines and other energized equipment. Tree limbs that come into contact with power lines are one of the most common causes of both brief and prolonged power outages, especially during storms. When trimming and cutting, we (GELD and GELD's tree-trimming contrac-

See How Groton Electric Rates Compare!

The chart below shows Groton Electric's rate compared to the average and highest residential rate for Massachusetts investor-owned utilities as well as the lowest rate in Massachusetts. Until has the highest investor-owned rate in Massachusetts and is currently 75% higher than Groton Electric.



Our Holiday Schedule

- October 13**
Columbus Day
- November 27**
Thanksgiving
- December 24 (½ day)**
Christmas Eve
- December 25**
Christmas Day
- December 31 (½ day)**
New Year's Eve