

# GELD Board unanimously opposes Article 7 of the Fall Town Meeting Warrant.

One of the proposed pipelines that could alleviate some of the natural gas delivery restraints that are driving our winter electric rates up has changed its path so that it is no longer proposed to go through Groton. FERC (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) is the organization that will make the decision on whether or not this pipeline gets built and the path it would take. FERC has clearly stated that the scoping meetings currently going on in the region are ONLY for the proposed path through southern New Hampshire and the proposed laterals. If Groton were to be considered as an alternate path in the future for the main pipeline or a lateral, then FERC would give adequate notice and scoping meetings would begin all over again for that possibility.

Due to the fact that Groton is no longer considered for the path of a potential natural gas pipeline, the GELD Board has voted unanimously to oppose Article 7 of the Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Article 7 would use Groton property taxes to oppose a pipeline going through southern New Hampshire. In effect, Article 7 would spend local property taxes to raise electric rates.

Please Join Us for Our

### New Facilities Grand Opening!

23 Station Avenue • Saturday, October 3, 2015 1–5 p.m. • Rain or Shine

TOURS • BUCKET RIDES • SNACKS • GIVEAWAYS & MORE

GELD will be having an open house this weekend to showcase our new office and garage facilities. The open house will be held on Saturday, October 3 from 1 to 5 p.m. In addition to tours of our new facilities, we will be offering bucket truck rides, snacks and giveaways.



## GELD to hold surplus AUCTION this weekend

**What is being auctioned?** Heavily used general office and garage supplies—please view list of items at www.grotonelectric.org and click on the link on the home page.

When can items be viewed? Friday October 2, 2015 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 1-5 p.m. (during GELD's Open House) and Monday, October 5, 2015 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Where can items be viewed? GELD's former garages located at 23 Station Avenue, Groton, MA. (the garages along the rail trail) Please check in with the office before proceeding to the viewing area.

What is the bid process? Auction Forms will be available upon entering the auction area. Bids should include Item or Lot#, description and the bid price. Name, address and phone number must also be included on the form. Sealed bids will be accepted at GELD offices at 23 Station Ave., Groton, MA until 1 p.m. on Monday October 5, 2015.

**Bid Opening?** The opening will begin at 2 p.m. on Monday, October 5, 2015 in the GELD conference room at 23 Station Avenue. If the winner is not present, they will be notified by phone or mail. Once items have been awarded, they should be picked up within one week.

GELD specifically reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any irregularities or informalities or to accept any bid which they deem to be in the best interest of GELD.

#### See what you're saving

The following chart shows a typical 750 kilowatt-hour bill for Groton Electric compared to two local investor-owned utilities.



For the year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 a residential customer using 750 kWh per month would see that National Grid's rates were 62% higher than Groton Electric's rates and Unitil's rates are 90.4% higher.

Due to the restrictions on New England's supply of natural gas, it is likely GELD will institute the winter Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) again this year. For the above comparison of electric rates, the total cost of the bill is considered, so last year's PCA was factored into those numbers.



#### We trim trees for safety and reliability

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 residents 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 follow best recognized and accepted forestry standards; however, we do trim aggressively because 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. Our tree-trimming contractor is a certified arborist and 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.

#### **GO PAPERLESS!**

Enroll in online billing to view and pay your Groton Electric bill in three easy steps:

- 1) Go to https://Geld.billtrust.com
- 2) Click "Enroll Now"\*
- 3) Enter the enrollment information found on your bill
- Receive an email when your bill is ready to be viewed and paid
- View current and past bills
- Link multiple bills to one username
- Access your account from any computer, tablet, or smartphone

\*If you do not wish to set up an online user

account, you may make a one-time payment using your Groton Electric account number. Just click on the "One Time Pay" button





