

the power UTLET

The Newsletter for the Groton Electric Light Community

February, 2018

Congratulations to the winners of the "Let There Be Light challenge II"

Groton Electric would like to thank all of the participants in the holiday lighting contest. The winners will receive a credit applied to their January 31, 2018 electric bill. It was a great experience and we received positive feedback from everyone involved.

A very special thank you to our Board members who braved the elements to judge the contest:

Commissioners Bruce Easom, Rodney Hersh and Kevin Lindemer. Also thank you to Manager Kevin Kelly who acted as chauffeur for judging night.

If you were unable to participate this year, we hope you will join in the fun next year. If you have any suggestions, please send them our way!



BEST OVERALL—46 Painted Post Road—**\$100 prize**



MOST CREATIVE

—16 Lawrence Drive (Eloise's First Christmas by Bill Gavazzi)—**\$50 prize**



See more winners on next page



MOST ORIGINAL—258 Riverbend Drive—\$50 prize



MOST TRADITIONAL—480 Pepperell Road—\$50 prize

The Power Cost Adjustment has been reinstated

Beginning with the January 2018 bill, there will be a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) of \$0.005 added as a separate line item on your GELD electric bill.

The PCA is a way for Groton Electric to recoup the increased generation costs associated with higher fuel prices and power costs. For the winter of 2018 the PCA will be ½ cent/kilowatt-hour on the January, February and March bills. Please read the 'New England Power System Update' article to help explain the need for the PCA.

New England Power System Update

Power prices have been on a wild roller coaster ride

The power that GELD purchased yesterday (January 11) at noon in the Day-Ahead Market, was purchased at 3.1 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Currently (January 12) the real time market is trading at 2.3 cents per kWh. Since you won't receive this newsletter until February 1st, these were the "warm" 50 degree days that we experienced after a prolonged cold spell. During the cold spell mixed with the 12 inch snow storm that battered southeast MA, the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station tripped off line. Pilgrim provides 780 megawatts (MW) of generation per hour—that is 780,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) which is equivalent to 3 days of electric use for the entire town of Groton with that one hour of production. Before Pilgrim tripped off line, the weather was very cold (low of 14°) and the day-ahead market for power was trading at 18 cents/kWh for peak power. As soon as we lost that 780MW of generation, the real time market surged to **37 cents/kWh**. To keep this in perspective, these numbers are for the generation portion of your bill which represents about 6 cents of the 12.5 cents/kWh that you pay for

electricity as a Groton Electric Customer.

Below are excerpts from an update from the New England electric grid operator—ISO New England:

"During this extreme cold, some power plants have either tripped offline or had to reduce their output, while other oil-fired and dual-fuel generators are quickly depleting their fuel supply... While the ISO is continually assessing the reliability of the system, other conditions continue to make grid operations difficult. Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station remains out of service, some oil-fired generation is nearing emissions limitations, and other power plants are awaiting fuel deliveries that were postponed because of Thursday's storm."

Behind the scenes, many conditions affect your electric bill that you may not be aware of. Luckily for GELD ratepayers, the management team constantly monitors these power markets and purchases power in advance—months and years before it is needed to help with these unforeseen energy crises.