

MWL FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS

Dear Customers,

As the leaves begin to change, the team at MWL is preparing for a new season, including welcoming several new members to our crew and saying goodbye to a long-time employee. More on staffing changes below.

As we have in previous issues of this newsletter, I want to fill you in on the most recent status of the Green River Reservoir. Water quality conditions imposed by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources make it financially impossible for MWL to operate the Green River Reservoir Dam as we have for decades.

We continue to weigh all available options for the future of the dam and the Green River Reservoir, including decommissioning the facility. As part of that process we will be holding a public information session on the future of the dam on November 10.

If you are interested in the future of the Green River Reservoir, please join us for a discussion from 5:30-7:30 on November 10. Follow our Facebook page for more information on the meeting and the Zoom link.

Thank you,

Penny Jones
General Manager



SALVAGE YARD GOES SOLAR

Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) and Encore Renewable Energy recently completed work on a 2.1 MW community solar array located at a former auto salvage yard. The project was developed as part of a partnership between Encore Renewable Energy and VPPSA to develop, finance and construct approximately 10 MW of solar capacity on behalf of VPPSA's municipal utility members. The project will generate enough energy to power approximately 375 homes annually.

RETIREMENT

After more than 33 years of dedicated service, John Tilton has retired from MWL. John started his career at MWL in October 1987 as a general laborer. He advanced to the water and hydroelectric maintenance position and then joined the operations department when it was formed in 1998. John has been MWL's Working Operations Foreman since that time. We wish John a heartfelt thank you and all the best in the next chapter of his life. He will be missed.



NEW EMPLOYEES



MWL is pleased to announce the hiring of Dinamerico (Dino) Fernandes and Michael LeRiche as apprentice linemen. Dino previously worked for Washington Electric Co-op. Michael graduated from Southeast Lineman Training Center in August.

Michael Buchanan has also joined MWL as a Utility Man in the operations department. He previously worked for the Town of Morristown.



TRUSTEE REELECTED

Bradley Limoge was reelected Village Trustee to a five-year term at the annual meeting of the Village of Morrisville on August 30, 2021. We thank Brad for his ongoing service and commitment to the Village.

EJECTOR STATION REPLACEMENT

Our wastewater department is currently replacing the Ejector Station on the corner of Bridge Street and South River Street. This was built and placed into service in 1974. It was designed to pump wastewater from seven residential homes up to the collection system, which would then run gravity to the newly constructed WasteWater Treatment Plant. The station has outlived its useful life and has been very troublesome in recent years. It is being replaced with a safer and more reliable system which will require much less maintenance. This project is expected to be completed by early January 2022.

SUBSTATION #3 UPGRADE

MWL has started the upgrade of Substation #3 on the Morristown Corners Road. The existing 2.5 MW transformer has been removed and the structure is being reconfigured to accommodate a new 7.5 MW transformer. The load that was previously served out of Substation #3 has been transferred during the construction period to the existing 7.5 MW transformer in Substation #5 off Trombley Hill Road. This upgrade will provide MWL the ability to shift partial or full load to either substation, increasing system reliability and minimizing large scale outages. This project is expected to be completed by early December.

COVID-19 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

There is financial assistance available for customers who experienced economic hardship due to COVID-19.

Vermont tenants can apply for utility bill assistance for help with up to 12 months of past due bills through Vermont Emergency Rental Assistance Program for Utilities (VERAP-U). Apply at <https://erap.vsha.org/utilities/> or by calling 833-488-3727 (833-4VT-ERAP).

Information on the Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program II (VCAAP II) can be found at <https://vcaaptwoapplicantportal.reframeassist.io/#/auth/login> or by calling 833-295-8988. Assistance is first come, first served.

You can also visit the Department of Public Service website at <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/> to check your eligibility.

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDS

The Village of Morrisville voters approved funding of \$17,500 for projects in the Village at the Annual meeting. The Village Trustees are currently accepting proposals for projects. General guidelines for special project requests are: beautification; recreation; safety; general environmental projects. Past disbursements include, but are not limited to: flowers; trees; VAST trail maintenance; cross walk signs and other pedestrian improvements; downtown and business informational signs; and recycling containers.

Request for funds shall be made to the Village Trustees in writing. Adequate project description and cost detail must be provided in order for the Trustees to ascertain the suitability of providing funding for the proposed project. Once approved, the project requestor will be responsible to coordinate all aspects of the project ensuring it is completed. Projects are expected to be completed by December 31 of the current calendar year.

Special project requests can be submitted by mail or email to Penny Jones. Requests can be mailed to 857 Elmore Street, Morrisville, VT 05661 or sent by email to pjones@mwlvt.com.