



Whole house surge protection

While we pride ourselves on the reliability of our system, sometimes fluctuations in power occur that are beyond our control. Such instances can be caused by accidents involving utility poles, weather or animal interference. To guard against equipment damage, we offer whole house surge protection in the form of Tesco's Watt Hour Meter Base Surge Arrester, which provides strong and dependable protection of electronic devices and appliances.

With this product, installed at the meter by LELD, you are protected even if an electrical surge gets through to your home. Tesco warranties equipment in the home against damage from lightning and power surges that enter the house through your electrical system. It will repair or replace equipment damaged by as a result of a failed arrester, up to \$50,000 per event, for a 10-year period.

LELD offers this arrester through a lease program at \$3 per month for a minimum period of three years.

For more information or to arrange for an installation, please call Energy Services at (978) 540-2222.



Fine-tune your irrigation system to save water & money

For a healthy, drought- and stress-tolerant lawn and landscape, use less water. Water-efficient habits will result in a healthier lawn and landscape, in addition to conserving water and saving money. With some simple practices and new technology, existing irrigation systems can be made more efficient—lowering your water bill, reducing run off, and eliminating waste.

Reduce demand. Use native plants in your landscape—they require less care and water than ornamental varieties—and apply mulch around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation.

Less is more. If you step on your lawn and the grass springs back, it does not need to be watered. Watering plants too much and too frequently results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease, and fungus. Seasons change, so should your system. Familiarize yourself with the settings on your irrigation controller and adjust the watering schedule regularly to conform with seasonal weather conditions and LWD's odd/even conservation schedule.

Play "zone" defense. Schedule each individual zone in your irrigation system to account for the type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure, and the soil type for the specific area. The same watering schedule rarely applies to all zones in the system.

Make it a date. Inspect your irrigation system monthly. Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads, and other problems, or engage an irrigation professional to regularly check your system. Clean micro-irrigation filters as needed.

Get your head adjusted. Correct obstructions in sprinkler heads that prevent sprinklers from distributing water evenly. Keep water off pavement and structures.

Check for WaterSense! A certified irrigation professional can design, install, maintain, or audit your system to ensure optimal efficiency using the proper amount of water to maintain a healthy landscape. Ask if your irrigation contractor is a WaterSense partner, which means he or she has been certified through a program that focuses on water efficiency.

Irrigation tips provided by the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense Program.

Giving back

As part of its commitment to the community, LELWD has established a Sports and Arts Grant Program, which this year donated cameras for the Littleton High School art department's photography curriculum and shared the costs of a new backstop at Whitcomb Field with Littleton Youth Baseball and Softball.



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One of the 40 Municipal Electric Utilities of Massachusetts... 

Watts & Drops

Newsletter of the Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments

Kevin Goddard, Editor

Spring 2011

LELD adopts distributed generation standards, rates

With rising interest in distributed generation – namely solar and wind – LELD has adopted interconnection standards and two new rates for customers considering producing energy.

Interconnection Standards

Any customer connecting generation to our distribution system must conform to our Interconnection Standards. Available on our website, these standards detail the application process, interconnection and metering requirements and all associated costs.

Net Metering Rate

This rate details the different classes of net metering customers, defined as customers generating more electricity than they use. The rate at which the customer is paid for this excess electricity is described, along with a distribution cost recovery method. In the interest of power quality, this rate is limited to a total of 1% of our peak load, which is 550 kW of distributed generation.

Qualifying Facility Power Purchase Rate

This rate is available to a solar, wind or cogeneration facility that does not elect to be net metered or is too large to be net metered. A facility of this type must first get approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Rates paid are either the market rate at the time of generation, the rate agreed upon through a power purchase agreement with LELD or the rate agreed upon through an agreement with another New England utility.



To learn more about distributed generation opportunities and LELD standards, please contact our Engineering Department.

Drive to 65!

Water conservation program in effect

As the summer nears, we ask our customers to observe our odd-even water conservation program in order to stay in compliance with state requirements. The department's latest Water Management Act permit requires us to decrease residential consumption to less than 65 gallons per day (gpd) per person.



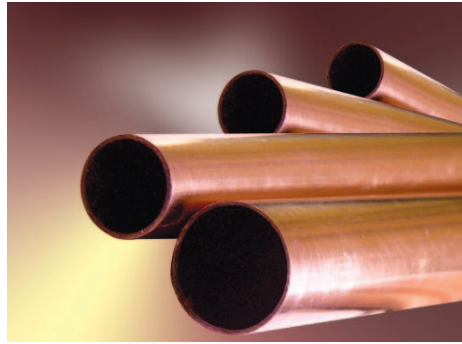
While we have always planned successfully to meet the consumptive requirements of the community and will continue to explore new well sites and other means of increasing capacity, we must redouble our efforts to conserve water on our own, lest the state mandate more severe restrictions on its use.

Outdoor watering accounts for the greatest water use and is the most serious threat to a community's ability to meet the per capita residential standard. Daytime watering is not only costly, but largely ineffective. While we understand that people are trying to maintain their landscapes, this objective can still be met with much less water during the early morning or evening hours. Only one inch of water per week is sufficient to maintain a healthy lawn, so we ask that our customers use common sense when watering outdoors.

Under our odd-even conservation program, odd numbered addresses are allowed to water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and even numbered addresses are allowed to water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. No watering is permitted on Mondays, or on any day between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Second round of lead and copper samples test well below limits

Of the 41 homes sampled recently for lead and copper levels in tap water, all have tested well below the limits set by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These agencies have set the Lead Action Level for lead in drinking water at 0.015 mg/l (or parts per million), and the Copper Action Level at 1.3 mg/l. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the agencies have also set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for lead of zero. The MCLG for copper is 1.3 mg/l.



monitoring program are encouraged to contact the Water Department at 978-540-2222.

Lead is a health concern and is commonly found in the environment, most typically in lead-based paint. It can also be found in water, though at much lower levels. Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body, damaging the brain and kidneys, and interfering with the

production of red blood cells that carry oxygen throughout the body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children and pregnant women.

Water provided by LWD is lead-free when it leaves our production wells. However, lead can get into tap water through home service piping, lead solder used in plumbing and some brass fixtures. Even though the use of lead solder was banned in 1986, it may be present in some older homes. The corrosion of these lead-based materials can add lead to tap water, particularly if it sits for a long time in the pipes before use. Water that has been sitting in household pipes for several hours, such as early in the morning or after returning from work or school, is more likely to contain lead. At first draw, it is always a good idea to run the water until it is consistently cold, about 15 to 20 seconds, before drinking or cooking with it. This process flushes water that may contain lead from the pipes.

These results, from samples taken late last year, replicate the results from the April through June sampling period, in that none exceed the action level. This latest round of sampling should fulfill the water department's accelerated sampling schedule and allow it to return to a more standard protocol.

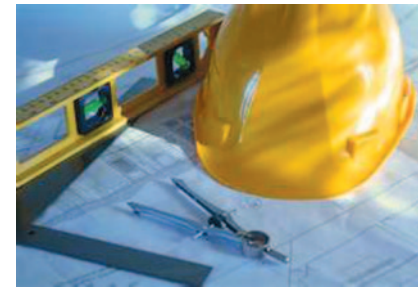
Nevertheless, LWD remains committed to rigorous sampling, monitoring and reporting, as well as its continuing public education campaign. A brochure on the topic, "Important Information About Lead in Drinking Water," was mailed last year to all water customers, was posted on our website, www.lclwd.com, and was made available at our offices, the Board of Health office, the Town Clerk's office, the school department's offices and the library. Those with any remaining questions or concerns about our lead and copper

Staff serves overflow crowd at 20th Annual Seniors' Luncheon

More than 200 seniors filled the Russell St. School cafeteria recently for the 20th Annual Senior Citizens' Luncheon, sponsored by LELWD. The longstanding department tradition – free and open to seniors in Littleton and Boxborough – is our way of thanking our seniors for their contributions to the communities over the years.

This year we treated our guests to a lunch of baked ham and macaroni and cheese, with fruit cobbler for dessert, as they socialized with friends. We also gifted the seniors with an umbrella emblazoned with the LELWD logo as a party favor. Volunteers from the departments take great pride in putting together this annual event for seniors. Tickets are distributed at the Council on Aging offices in both communities and at the LELWD office.

"We are pleased to sponsor programs that support the community in ways that go beyond providing safe, reliable power and water to our customers," said Savas Danos, General Manager of the Light and Water Departments. "We appreciate the chance to host an enjoyable event for our seniors in return for all they have done for us."



Busy construction season ahead

The spring has been a busy season for the Electric Light and Water Departments, as several capital projects have been put out to bid and/or awarded to contractors.

Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

This project entails modifications to the backwash recovery system, including the installation of tank interior and exterior ductile iron pipework, a decant assembly, two existing submersible pumps, two new variable frequency drives, and various instrumentation, valves, and electrical work. This work is scheduled for the summer.

Security System

This project aims to secure all LELWD properties, from the main buildings at 39 Ayer Rd. to the substation and well facilities throughout our system. As part of the project, the town's fiber loop is being extended to link all major municipal buildings and provide for redundancies in the system. This work will start once the contract is awarded sometime in the next few months.

Beaver Brook Well replacement

This project calls for the installation of three new replacement gravel packed wells and performance pump tests at the department's existing Beaver Brook Well #2.

LELD/NEPPA Training Facility

This joint project will be rebid in June, as the original bids all exceeded the project budget. Specifications are being prepared for a smaller footprint that should bring costs in line. Site work and construction should be underway this summer and into the fall.

King St./Rte. 495 Bridge

Reconstruction is already underway on this bridge, which will be demolished and rebuilt in three sections, so as to allow traffic passage during the project. A new water main will be installed as part of the project, which is a welcome addition since this bridge has been a trouble spot for water main breaks in recent years as the main has outlived its practical use.

Electric Engineering and Operations update

Engineering and Operations staff have a full agenda over the next several months as they complete projects that will greatly increase the reliability of our distribution system.

Massachusetts Ave., Hill Rd. and Liberty Square Rd.

In Boxborough, LELD operations staff will upgrade the open wire construction on Hill Rd. (Middle Rd. to Massachusetts Ave.) to spacer cable, while contract crews do the same on Massachusetts Ave. (Middle Rd. to Liberty Square Rd). LELD will also upgrade the open wire construction on Liberty Square Rd. (Depot Rd. to Taylor St.).

New Estate Rd.

In Littleton, LELD will upgrade the open wire construction on New Estate Rd. (King St. to Ayer Rd.) to spacer cable.

Tree Wire Projects

LELD will be replacing several open wire single phase laterals throughout the distribution system to tree wire. Tree wire will reduce the amount of system faults that LELD experiences because tree wire has a protective outer layer. These upgrades will improve system reliability to residences throughout our service territory.

Fiber Optic Loop

LELD operations staff will be installing approximately 5 miles of fiber optic cable in order to create a fiber optic loop for LELD facilities.

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)

LELD will be installing SCADA controls on 6 already installed air breaks, which will allow engineering staff to get information back to SCADA from these switches, and also allow for remote operation of these switches.

LELD tests LED streetlights

In keeping with our tradition as a progressive utility committed to using the latest technologies to advance our mission, LELD is testing LED streetlights at half a dozen locations in our system. Our research shows that the lamps save 60% in energy costs. While still cost prohibitive, these LED lights are designed for a 20-year life and provide a uniform, focused coverage.

