

PMLD NEWSLETTER

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Recent power outages

Princeton experienced three town-wide outages on October 5, November 21, and November 23. All three of these outages were caused by a circuit breaker opening in National Grid's service territory in the vicinity of Narrows Rd, Westminster MA. The root cause of why the circuit breaker opened is being investigated but it is likely related to National Grid's project to improve the overhead electric lines along Narrows Road and East Rd in Westminster MA.

National Grid is upgrading the overhead electric lines along these roads from the vicinity of Route 2 and extending all the way to the point of connection with Princeton. Princeton is connected to National Grid at the bottom of Mountain Rd near the ski area.

PMLD Facts

- Average home consumes 800 kWh's/mth
- Average home spends \$150/mth on energy
- PMLD is one of 41 municipal , non-profit, light plants in MA
- Our rates are generally the same or lower than investor owned utility rates

Once the electric line is upgraded, the reliability of the electric distribution will improve significantly.

PMLD will meet with National Grid representatives to discuss these outages and ways to improve the reliability during the upgrade project. PMLD's number one priority is to maintain the lowest possible rates while providing the most reliable electric service possible.

Princeton's wind turbines are installed

Construction of the wind farm is complete and the turbines are finally installed. All that's left to do is test and commission the two 1.5MW turbines. PMLD expects the turbines to become fully operational by the end of November. The wind farm will help stabilize PMLD's electricity rates and in the long run, generate some cost savings in PMLD's energy budget.

The project cost approximately \$7.3M to complete and the turbines will produce enough energy to meet 40% of town's energy

requirements or enough energy for approximately 800 homes. The wind farm project demonstrates our commitment to renewable energy, reduces our town's dependency on the fossil fuels, and reduces our Town's energy costs.

PMLD will schedule a commissioning ceremony either this December or in early spring. Please feel free to hike by the wind farm anytime you like.

Be prepared during the winter season

Please keep these items in mind as we enter the winter season. Outages will occur, but you can help minimize the impact.

- Cut and/or trim trees and limbs on your private property so they are 10' clear of your electric service lines
- Please post a house number in front of your driveway on the street
- Upgrade inaccessible and older electric services that can't be repaired in their present location
- Install an emergency generator with a manual or automatic disconnect switch
- Install and run a generator outside
- Make sure your generator is not back-feeding the electric lines beyond your house
- The most common appliances to connect to a generator are the furnace, refrigerator, well-pump, raised septic system, lighting circuit, and a few conveyance outlets
- Know how to drain your water pipes to prevent freezing and burst pipes if you leave your house during an extended outage
- All houses in Princeton have water wells and septic systems. Some septic systems need power
- PMLD will communicate outage updates via WTAG 580 AM during extended power outages
- If you see burning wires or trees, down poles or wires, or hear or see an electric explosion, please call dispatch with the location. This helps identify the problem so we can fix faster.
- Keep a clear path open to your electric meter
- Check on your neighbors

Energy Saving Tips

- The cost of "energy" is greatest from 4:00pm to 8:00pm every weekday. Shift major appliance use, like dishwashers and clothes washers, to some other time.
- Adjust temperatures to run your air conditioning and heating units less
- Limit the use of dehumidifiers, humidifiers, room sized ac units
- Replace 10-15 year appliances like refrigerators, dishwashers, and clothes washers.
- Take advantage of PMLD's \$25.00 - \$50.00 "energy-star" appliance rebates to help lower the purchase cost
- Use compact fluorescent lamps instead of incandescent lamps
- Turn-off appliances, TV's, satellite receivers, and computers when not in use
- Install digital 7-day thermostats in your home to turn off or reduce the use of your HVAC systems. You can receive a \$25.00 rebate for qualified thermostats.