

Docket DPU 21-50

Submitted by Rosalind Nadeau, Board Member, Sustainable Marblehead; Treasurer, HealthLink, Inc.;

Pursuant to request of DPU for procedural enhancements to public notice requirements to increase public awareness of and participation in Department proceedings.

I am Rosalind (Lynn) Nadeau, a citizen of Marblehead and ratepayer of the MLP for more than 50 years. I started a non-profit entity, HealthLink, in 1999, created to force our neighboring gas-powered Salem Power Plant end its grandfathered status and meet clean air standards. I am presently on the Board of Sustainable Marblehead.

I have been an environmentally-concerned relatively alert citizen and ratepayer in Town since 1968 and yet I was completely unaware of our Light Plant's purchase into project 2015A. There was no information available at meetings or in the papers about Project 2015A, no public meetings or notification about the investment in this proposed gas- and oil-fueled power plant.

I learned about two weeks ago from MCAN that the DPU would be holding a hearing on the financing of this Project and immediately signed up to testify. I made sure that I would be online by 10am on Monday, April 26. There was a small slip in the hearing officer's awareness of my intention to testify for which she apologized when I wrote her an email and called it to her attention. I was then able to testify along with a number of concerned citizens who were able to gather with little advanced notice - none in the local papers, none from my Light Board.

It seems to me that all of the following: the DPU, MMWEC, and the Light Boards, should inform ratepayers citizens of important hearings such as this. Local newspapers have featured articles about the hearing AFTER the hearing - notice should have been placed newspapers serving Municipal Light Plant residents. Whether on line or in the bill, our Municipal Light Plants have a responsibility to inform its customers and Town Citizens.

In addition, the DPU should inform itself of the relevant environmental citizens' groups concerned with regulations affecting projects under consideration. Citizens band together to affect public policy under the rubric of these various groups. The DPU should solicit from all nonprofit environmental groups in Massachusetts a list of their concerns and regularly inform these groups so citizen representation can be robust.

The DPU has afforded a decent amount of time for citizens to comment in this meta-procedural item on the Docket - as compared to the very short and inopportune time made available for citizens to weigh in on an \$180m plant - Project 2015A for which my Municipal Light PLant has already sunk \$380,000 into without citizens knowing.