



# **BELD *Business*** **POWER**

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Braintree Electric Light Department

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## ***BELD restores power within one hour following massive electrical outage on November 18***

**A**t 8:26 a.m. on Tuesday, November 18, a civil contractor working for National Grid was excavating near BELD's 115kV underground line on Storrs Avenue when he inadvertently dug into the electric cable. For safety reasons, several circuit breakers on BELD's system tripped open—**causing an immediate loss of power to approximately two-thirds of Braintree's businesses and residences**, including most of our manufacturing and industrial customers and the South Shore Plaza.

Substation #10 Middle Street and substation #8 Churchill (behind the South Shore Plaza) were without power, but once the cause was determined **we were able to reroute electricity through our distribution system and restore power to all customers within an hour**—a testament to the reliability and redundancy built into the BELD transmission and distribution system.

To make the situation even more challenging, the oil that surrounded and cooled the damaged 115kV cable began leaking into the trench. But environmental response arrived on site quickly, and all the oil was contained in the trench. The contaminated soil has since been removed.

### ***Repairs will take 4 to 6 weeks***

BELD has hired a contractor to splice and repair the damaged section of cable by creating freeze pits on both sides of the damage and freezing any remaining oil in the cable with liquid nitrogen, then cutting the damaged section away. Once the cable is spliced together and the conduit repaired, oil will once again flow freely throughout the cable.

It's estimated that it will take 4 to 6 weeks to make the repairs. During this time, the transformer at substation #8

*(continued on reverse)*

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## ***BELD is replacing more than 2,000 porcelain cutouts***

*To improve the safety and reliability of our distribution system—a top priority here at BELD—we have taken on the enormous task of replacing more than 2,000 porcelain cutouts throughout town with polymer cutouts.*

*What are cutouts? Cutouts hold the fuses that break during a fault and are situated between a transformer and a distribution line, protecting stepdown transformers from surges and overloads.*

*We have used porcelain cutouts in the past, but they have been known to shatter and are not as reliable as polymer cutouts. We began the replacement project in the summer of 2007 and will complete work during the summer of 2009—a two-year effort to continue to provide safe and reliable electric service to the Town of Braintree!*



**Mike Ford**  
Key Accounts Representative

***Questions about your electric or Broadband service? Call Mike at 781.348.2370 or e-mail him at [mford@beld.com](mailto:mford@beld.com)***

# **BELD**

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Business Power  
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*(continued from front)*

will remain de-energized, and power will be rerouted from other substations in town. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the service interruption and the subsequent repairs.

The expertise of BELD's engineering department and their ability to move and balance the electrical load over our entire system cannot be overemphasized. The quick response and professionalism of many BELD employees kept this outage from adversely affecting our customers for a considerably longer time.

## ***Get a free energy audit AND a rebate—a deal that's hard to beat in today's economy***

**W**orking in partnership with Energy New England (ENE), Braintree Electric Light Department offers an energy conservation program called Lighten Up, designed to help our commercial and industrial customers lower their electric costs—primarily through lighting upgrades, but also through approved conservation measures.

To encourage customers to complete identified energy-savings opportunities, **the program includes both a free on-site technical survey (audit) and financial assistance in the form of a rebate.** On-site audits are conducted by ENE's Richard Ball and are available to any commercial customer in BELD's service territory.

Working with Mike Ford, BELD's Key Accounts Representative, Richard will conduct an inspection of existing interior and exterior lighting and complete a report that identifies specific energy-saving opportunities and recommends retrofits. Upon completion of the work and a subsequent inspection, BELD will determine the amount of the rebate.

Richard has an impressive background which includes more than 25 years of experience in the energy services field—as a systems technician, an energy advisor, and a project manager. His areas of specialty include controls and energy management systems.

**We encourage our commercial customers to start saving on their electric costs by requesting a free energy audit today! Contact Mike Ford at 781.348.2370.**

# *Season's Greetings*