



CAMBRIDGE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY
CAMBRIDGE STEAM CORPORATION
CANAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
COMMONWEALTH GAS COMPANY
NEW BEDFORD GAS AND EDISON LIGHT COMPANY
NEGEA SERVICE CORPORATION
NEGEA REALTY TRUST

New England Gas and Electric System



NEWS RELEASE

POST OFFICE BOX 190 • CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • 617 864-3100

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: R. F. MACDONALD
996-8211 ext. 213

FOR RELEASE: MARCH 16, 1979

MAINE NUCLEAR PLANT SHUTDOWN TO AFFECT ELECTRIC BILLS

The recent and ongoing dramatic increases in international oil prices worsened by the Iranian situation, and the shutdown of the nuclear power plant in Maine in particular, will result in higher electric utility bills over the next three months for customers of the Cambridge Electric Light Company according to R. F. MacDonald, company Vice President of Customer Services.

On March 15, Cambridge Electric Light Company filed a new power cost charge decimal with the Department of Public Utilities and subject to approval by the DPU it will take effect April 1. The increase is substantial according to MacDonald who indicated that the company continually takes whatever steps it can to alleviate the rising cost of producing electricity. He cautioned, however, that "the shutting down and delaying of nuclear power plants, coupled with the continued dependence on foreign nations for our oil supplies, make it exceedingly difficult to control our costs."

MacDonald put much of the blame on the increase squarely on the shutdown of Maine Yankee by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission two days ago. Over fifty percent of the power to supply the City of Cambridge is generated by nuclear power from Maine Yankee and other nuclear power plants here in New England according to MacDonald. "The shutdown of Maine Yankee is a clear example of regulatory overkill in the extreme and the consumer will pay the price as we have to replace much of this low cost nuclear power with power generated by a higher priced oil," MacDonald stated strongly.



"This situation underscores our company's belief that the only way we can minimize increases in costs of power is the timely construction of nuclear power plants, especially here in oil-dependent New England," he stated emphatically. "Although I recognize that it may be of little consolation to our customers, their bills would be significantly higher if we hadn't been able to purchase some nuclear generated power," MacDonald stressed.

"We recognize and sympathize that any increases in utility bills add to the burden of an already battered consumer who is watching helplessly as the soaring cost of food, mortgages and just about every necessity is caught up in the inflationary spiral," MacDonald said.

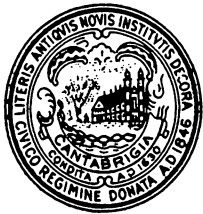
"It does show without question, however, that we can no longer remain hostage to other nations in the vital area of energy supply and we will continue to fight for construction of nuclear power plants as it is in the best interest of all our customers," he stated emphatically.

"Now is the time for the Federal Government and the numerous regulatory agencies to face up to the realities of the bleak energy situation by speeding up the licensing procedures and construction of nuclear power plants as well as recognizing their responsibility for the storage of spent fuel," MacDonald said. "All of us as consumers must use energy wisely, it obviously is getting too expensive to waste," he added.

MacDonald concluded that "the Cambridge Electric Light Company will do everything conceivable to keep the cost of electric power as low as humanly possible," adding that "after all high electric bills and angry consumers certainly aren't in the company's best interest."

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March 16, 1979



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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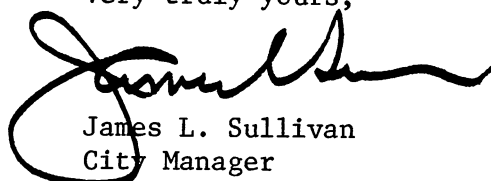
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

March 19, 1979

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a news release issued by the New England Gas and Electric System relative to a possible increase in the cost of electricity due to the closing of the Maine Nuclear Plant. If the Department of Public Utilities approves the request for an increase it will amount to a \$2.00 per month increase for residential property owners.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

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News Release issued by the New England Gas
and Electric System.

In City Council,

March 19, 1979

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