



The electrical and telecommunications industry news in Eastern MA, ME, and NH

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A quarterly publication of the Boston Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association

POWERPOINTS

A Message from the Executive Manager

NECA Supports Proposed Mass. Legislation – “An Act Relative to Penalties for Unlicensed Work” – House Bill No. 1279



Glenn Kingsbury

In an effort to deter and eliminate illegal work practices on construction sites, the National Electrical Contractors Association's (NECA) Boston Chapter strongly supports a bill recently filed by State Rep. Mark Cusack (D-Braintree), “An Act Relative to Penalties for Unlicensed Work” – House Bill No. 1279. The bill would increase fines the Commonwealth's Division of Professional Licensure can levy against contractors guilty of unlicensed practice.

The bill would revise MA General Law Chapter 112, Section 65, M.G.L. Ch. 141, Section 5, and, MA General Law Chapter 143, Section 3L, increasing the fines that can be levied against illegal work practices to \$10,000. Presently, the fines for such illegal work practices ranges from a maximum of \$1,000 for the first offence and up to \$2,500 for subsequent violations. These are not effective deterrents. The proposed legislation will also increase fines in other subsections of the MGL Ch. 112.

The electrical industry in Massachusetts has seen increased usage of temporary staffing agencies and workers providing electrical installations, oftentimes without having statutorily-mandated credentials to perform such electrical work. The illegal work practices are prevalent in the renewable energy sector of the construction industry, where temp firms routinely provide unlicensed laborers for the installation of conductive electrical components of solar photovoltaic arrays. (See the page 4 article concerning a recent fine levied against Patriot Solar Group, LLC for unlicensed work practices at a large solar farm in Southbridge, MA.)

NECA Boston joins with the Massachusetts Electrical Contractors Association, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, International Association of Electrical Inspectors, and Massachusetts Electrical Inspectors Association of MA and RI in urging the Massachusetts Department of Licensure to be vigilant in ensuring only licensed workers perform such electrical work, both from a public safety perspective, and also so that responsible union and non-union contractors are able to compete for projects that require skilled and licensed workers.

Continued next column

INDUSTRY NEWS

NECA Boston Chapter Announces 2013 Board of Directors

West Newton, MA – At the January Annual Meeting, the NECA Boston Chapter confirmed its 2013 Officers and Directors. Chapter President Paul Guarracino, of J. M. Electrical Company, Inc. is serving his second year of a two-year term.



- Seated (l to r):*
William Weber, Jr.,
Gaston Electrical Co., Inc.
Joseph Bodio,
LAN-TEL Communications
Paul Guarracino,
J.M. Electrical Company, Inc.
Lawrence Hurwitz,
Broadway Electrical Co., Inc.
Joseph McCluskey, Jr.,
E. G. Sawyer Co., Inc.
Standing (l to r):
Matt Lash,
NECA Boston Chapter
Kathy Guinee,
Aetna Fire Alarm Service, Co.
Michael McDonald,
McDonald Electrical Corp.

- David W. Noon,*
J. & M. Brown Company, Inc.
Thomas Driscoll
E.S. Boulos Company, Inc.
Gregory Sapochetti,
J. F. White Electrical
Ronald Koning, Jr.,
State Electric Corp.
Glenn Kingsbury,
NECA Boston Chapter
Board Members not pictured:
John Penney,
John A. Penney Company, Inc.
Stephen Scarponi,
Scarponi Electric
John Quinci,
Cruz Electric ■

Continued from previous column

“Safety First”

Safety is at the heart of the matter when it comes to performing any and all electrical work. In keeping with our mission of “Safety First,” and our unparalleled safety training initiatives, NECA Boston Chapter, IBEW Local 103 and the JATC of Greater Boston are proud to introduce the newly built-out Safety Room at the JATC Electrical Industry Training Center in Dorchester. Please see pages 5 and 6 of this issue of *Connections* for further detail. ■

CONNECTIONS



CONNECTIONS is a quarterly publication of the Boston Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association / Electrical Contractors Association of Greater Boston, Inc., 106 River Street, West Newton, MA 02465. Phone 617-969-2521. Mission: CONNECTIONS is designed to provide information relating to current happenings in the electrical construction industry in Eastern Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire and to report activities of the Boston Chapter of NECA and its members. Your comments are welcome. We can be reached via e-mail at: info@bostonneca.org

INSTALLATIONS

An inside look at recent projects completed by NECA Greater Boston Chapter members

J.M. Electrical Completes 495kW Solar PV Installation at Hoosac Valley High School in Western Massachusetts

NECA contractor's crew of 14 IBEW electricians provides construction; Developer: 621 Energy, LLC of Acton, MA

Cheshire, MA – J.M. Electrical, based in Lynnfield, MA, recently provided installation of a privately financed, 495kW ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) system adjacent to Hoosac Valley Middle/High School in Cheshire, MA, in the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District. The NECA electrical contractor installed racking, panels, and metering for the PV system. The school serves more than 700 students from the Berkshire County communities of Cheshire, Adams, and Savoy.

The solar system is comprised of 1,980 PV panels integrated with two Solectria solar inverters, 14 Solectria combiner boxes, and an electrical meter. J.M. Electrical managed the project with an on-site field crew of 14 IBEW electricians during two months of peak construction, beginning in October. The project was completed, as scheduled, in early December. J.M. Electrical teamed with project developer, 621 Energy, LLC, of



Acton, MA. Solectria Renewables is a Massachusetts-based solar manufacturer, headquartered in Lawrence.

"We are delighted to have worked with J.M. Electrical Company on this important project because of their accomplished and comprehensive approach to solar and renewable energy projects, as well as their strong record for meeting project schedules and exceeding

customer requirements," said Bob Clarke, President of 621 Energy.

Along with reducing the school's carbon footprint and helping reinvest in the infrastructure with an energy cost-saving project, J.M. Electrical technicians also installed a security system for the photovoltaic array. This system also monitored the safety of construction and maintenance workers on the site, around the clock.

"We applaud the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District for taking the necessary steps to create a more sustainable environment for their students and staff. These improvements will lower the school district's utility expenditure and also will be used as an effective educational tool," said Adam Palmer, Project Manager at J.M. Electrical Company.

The Cheshire PV system was commissioned in December. ■

E. S. Boulos Crews Restore Electrical Service in Wake of Hurricane Sandy and December Storm

Long Island, NY – In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, which struck in late October 2012, E.S. Boulos Company (ESB) of Westbrook and Auburn, Maine, provided storm restoration services to Brewster, New York, and Long Island residents. The crews were deployed October 31 and finally released November 21. PM Pat Driscoll and Superintendent Tim Murphy headed ESB crews comprised of nine IBEW Local 104 linemen.



On December 22, ESB line crews were again called upon to provide storm restoration services and were deployed to the northeast portion of the NYSEG service territory. These power outages were caused by strong winds. Crews worked through the Christmas Holiday restoring power to NYSEG customers. ESB crews were released from storm restoration on December 26 and all returned home safely. ■

Devlin Electrical Shines Brightly in *Blink!* Installation at Faneuil Hall

Boston, MA – In what was the most illuminating project in 2012, Devlin Electrical Services, LLC of Norwell, MA, provided lighting installations at the *Blink!* holiday display at Faneuil Hall. Featuring 350,000 energy-efficient LED lights, *Blink!* ran 12 times nightly from mid-November through December 31, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m. each night to the tunes of the *Holiday Pops*.

Boston's newest Christmas tradition, the show is set to run for the next five holiday seasons, through 2017.

Additionally, Faneuil Hall's 85-foot tall Christmas tree, the largest in New England, was adorned with LED lights that require 30 percent less electricity than last year's Christmas tree. The entire six-week *Blink!* show used the same amount of electricity as the average American

household.

Blink! is a collaboration between Mayor Thomas M. Menino, the Mayor's Holiday Special, ArtsBoston and The Greater Boston Visitors and Convention Bureau. ■



INSTALLATIONS

An inside look at recent projects completed by NECA Greater Boston Chapter members

T&T Electrical Contractors In Progress with The Victor and 120 Kingston Street NECA Contractor Teams with GC: Suffolk Construction on Two Greenway Residential Projects; Also Underway with Assembly Square Residential Projects

The Victor, 95 Haverhill Street, Boston

At the northern end of the Rose Kennedy Greenway on Causeway Street at Bulfinch Triangle, T&T Electrical is in progress with electrical construction of The Victor, a 12-story residential tower. The 377,000 sq. ft. building will feature 286 new apartments and 17,000 sq. ft. of retail space at ground level, as well as a three-story above grade parking garage. Amenities include a 3,000 sq. ft. health club with a sports court and two rooftop lounges. The project is being constructed over an MBTA Tunnel and the I-93 Thomas O'Neill Tunnel and is creating approximately 400 construction jobs. At peak construction, T&T Electrical's crew will be



comprised of 35 Local 103 electricians. The project is targeted for an August 2013 completion. ■

Boston, MA – LAN-TEL Communications, of Norwood, MA, is providing the structured cabling system for The Victor's voice and data networks, and for the facility's cable TV. The NECA contractor's crew of Local 103 technicians is also installing cabling for A/V systems and providing the telephone system for the front lobby (above) and administrative offices. LAN-TEL is performing tel/data installations as a subcontractor to T&T Electrical.



120 Kingston Street, Boston

Boston, MA – NECA Boston member T&T Electrical Contractors, Inc., of Everett, MA, is providing comprehensive electrical construction of 120 Kingston Street, a \$130 million, 26-story residential tower under development at the edge of Chinatown. The project is at the site of the former Dainty Dot building. Developed by Hudson Group North America and Forest City Enterprises, the project will include 240 apartments, and will add about 2,200 sq. ft.



of outdoor space along the Chinatown section of the Rose F. Kennedy Greenway. The park will be widened and feature a large outdoor patio connected to a 5,000 sq. ft. restaurant.

Designed to become a gateway to the Financial District, 120 Kingston will bring visibility and vibrancy to Chinatown's section of the Greenway. T&T/G&S Electrical will manage a team of 35 IBEW Local 103 electricians at peak construction. The project is slated for completion in Spring 2014. ■

Assembly Row

T&T has also recently been awarded and is underway with electrical construction of two projects at Assembly Square in Somerville – Assembly Row, Parcel 1 and Parcel 4. AvalonBay Communities is the owner and developer.



REGIONAL SOLAR NEWS

Mass. DPL Levies Fine Against Patriot Solar Group, LLC for Unlicensed Work Practices at Large Southbridge Solar Farm

Boston, MA – The Board of State Examiners of Electricians recently found Patriot Solar Group LLC of Michigan, a subcontractor that completed installations at a large solar farm at 236 Blackmer Road in Southbridge, was not licensed for the work. The company paid a \$1,000 fine as part of a consent agreement that was issued by the Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure (DPL) for the unlawful activity.



The action was in response to a complaint filed by the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) of Greater Boston to the Massachusetts DPL. According to an article that appeared in the *Worcester Telegram* on January 26, 2013, "As part of the agreement Patriot Solar admitted that

during about September through November, its employees, who were not licensed by the Board (of State Examiners of Electricians), installed racks as part of the photovoltaic power system."

State law and electrical code require licensed electricians and licensed electrical contractors to install solar PV power systems, including such electrical components as racks, rails, and conduit that are integral to the systems. ■

INSTALLATIONS

An inside look at recent projects completed by NECA Greater Boston Chapter members

E.G. Sawyer Awarded New EF Headquarters at Northpoint, Cambridge, MA

GC & CM: Skanska USA; Architect: Gert Wingardh

Boston, MA – Construction has begun on the dramatic, new 10-story, 300,000 sq. ft. North American headquarters of EF Education First in the Northpoint area of Cambridge. NECA Boston contractor E.G. Sawyer Co., Inc., of Weymouth, has been awarded electrical construction on a project team headed by general contractor and construction manager Skanska USA.

The building, designed by acclaimed Swedish architect Gert Wingardh, features a unique cascading glass “waterfall” inspired by the nearby Charles River. The facility will be comprised of 230,000 sq. ft. of office and education space with an additional 31,000 sq. ft. of



open public space adjoining the ground level. A ground-floor 440-seat restaurant will have tiered outdoor seating that will wrap around the building. The project also includes a 65,000 sq. ft. above-grade structured parking garage.

The building, located at the foot of the Zakim Bridge, adjacent to North Point Park and the Charles River, will more than double EF's Cambridge campus. The \$125M construction project, targeted for completion in Spring 2014, will create an estimated 600 construction jobs. EF is expected to add 400 permanent workers over the next 18 months.

EF Education First's new facility will house more than 1,200 employees. A global leader in education, EF is headquartered in Sweden and has 34,000 employees in more than 400 offices and schools worldwide. ■

E.S. Boulos Utility Division Completes Central Maine Power's Brownfield Project – Surowiec Substation 345kV Expansion

Auburn, ME – E.S. Boulos Company's (ESB) Utility Division, based in Auburn, has reached substantial completion of Central Maine Power Company's Maine Power Reliability Program Work Package #1



Brownfield Substation project – the 345kW expansion of Surowiec Substation in Pownal.

In this project phase, ESB is providing electrical construction upgrades and/or expansions at 15 of CMP's existing electrical substations. Work entails all civil excavation and foundation work, ground grid enhancements, substation and control house expansions, circuit breaker and circuit switcher replacements, and relay upgrades for these substations: Branch Brook,

Bucksport, Buxton 345kV, Crowleys, Detroit, Elm Street, Heywood, Maine Yankee 345kV, Maxcy's, Moshers, Pratt & Whitney (CMP), Spring Street, Surowiec, Westbrook, Williams Hydro and Winslow.

It is expected that nearly all ESB work associated with CMP's Work Package #1 will reach completion by the end of 2013. Ninety-five percent of the Maine Yankee substation is now complete, as are the majority of the ancillary sites. Westbrook substation is slated to start in early April and be completed by the end of October 2013 and Buxton substation's completion is scheduled for June 2014. ■

Broadway Renewable Strategies Named to Solar Power World's Top 100 Solar Contractors in U.S.

Boston, MA – Broadway Renewable Strategies, a division of Broadway Electrical Company, Inc., of Boston, MA, has earned a Top 100 Solar Contractors in the U.S. ranking, as published in *Solar Power World's* December 2012 issue.



Broadway CEO Larry Hurwitz acknowledged the important role of state policy: “Thanks to the leadership of the Patrick-Murray Administration and the legislature in making solar a priority, we have been able to put a lot of electricians to work in building a clean energy future for Massachusetts.” The *Solar Power World* Top 100 Solar Contractor list may be seen at: <http://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2012.top.100.solar.contractors> ■

E.S. Boulos Recognized with AGC Safety Award

.66 EMR – OSHA Incident Rate 25%+ Below Industry Average

Augusta, ME – NECA Maine Division contractor E. S. Boulos Company (ESB), of Westbrook, received the Association of General Contractors (AGC) 2012 Safety Award for having an OSHA Incident Rate 25 percent or more below the industry average. The award was presented to Safety Manager Michael McCarron,

and Manager of Project Performance Thomas Nason during the AGC's annual awards ceremony in Augusta. William Coffin, Area Director of OSHA, was the guest speaker. The AGC award was the fourth safety award received by the



company in the past year for exemplary safety performance. ESB has performed over 600,000 man-hours of work without a lost time injury. ■

SAFETY EDUCATION

An inside look at the new JATC Safety Seminar Training Room at Greater Boston's Electrical & Telecom Industry Training Center **NECA, IBEW Local 103 and Boston JATC At Forefront of Electrical Safety Training** State-of-the-art Safety Seminar Room at Boston's Electrical and Telecom Industry Training Center Sets the Standard for Comprehensive, Hands-on Safety Training Program

Dorchester, MA — The Greater Boston JATC, sponsored by IBEW Local 103 and NECA Boston, has long been recognized nationally for its electrical and telecommunications training programs and their focus on safety training. That program has now taken its emphasis on safety to an even higher level. In that safety training is the cornerstone on

which all electrical training is based, the Greater Boston JATC is proud to introduce a Safety Room solely dedicated to all things safety-related within their state-of-the-art electrical training facility in Dorchester.

The special safety initiative is the vision of Greater Boston JATC Training Director James O'Connell and Assistant Training Director Chris Sherlock, supported by the dedicated JATC team of OSHA Certified Safety Outreach Trainers. They worked in partnership with key industry vendors that are vital contributors to the IBEW/NECA/JATC safety program.

"Safety is, first and foremost, the most critical issue at all times on every job site," said O'Connell. The Safety Training room organizes PPE, other safety gear, and safety tools, making it an ideal, hands-on learning environment for apprentice and journeyman technicians and electricians. The facility is also equipped with state-of-the-art



safety topics. It is comprehensively outfitted with the most advanced and reliable safety equipment from leading manufacturers and innovators in the industry, led by such companies as Honeywell, Salisbury, and Klein Tools. These companies are invaluable partners to the IBEW, NECA and JATC, in providing the most advanced OSHA compliant PPE, safety tools and training resources. "The JATC electrical and telecom training programs' focus on safety will have an even greater impact on electricians and technicians now," O'Connell added. H.D. Chasen Co. of Somerville, Greater Boston's leading "stocking" distributor of Arc Flash Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and other electrical safety equipment, was an instrumental partner in helping ensure the Boston JATC's vision for enhanced safety training is now a reality.

Allan Chasen, Vice President of Sales at H.D. Chasen, commented, "We are proud to have a close working relationship with IBEW Local 103, NECA and the JATC of Greater Boston. Our company's success is built on educating our clients, in this case electricians, on the personal protective equipment and tools that will help keep them safe in the most hazardous working environments. The Boston JATC Safety Training program is extremely thorough, and we're pleased to partner with them in their safety initiatives."

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Safety Room Fully Equipped with Electrical PPE and Safety Equipment

The JATC Safety Seminar training room features virtually every type of safety equipment required on job sites, including:

- Air Testing and Air Ventilation Equipment
- Arc Flash Fall Protection
- Arc Flash Gloves
- Arc Flash Hard Hat & Face Shield
- Confined Space Training – Confined Space Retrieval System with Harness
- Environment Safety-Testing Suits
- Confined Space Respiratory Equipment
- Fall Protection Equipment
- First Aid Training Equipment
- Flame Resistant Clothing – for all types of electrical environments from low to high voltage
- Flame Resistant Rain Gear
- Insulating Glove Kits
- Insulated Voltage-rated Tools
- Lockout/Tagout Equipment & Signage – Safety Padlocks, Tags & Labels, Circuit Breaker Lockouts
- Respirators for Dangerous Environments "Proximity Detectors"
- Safety Glasses with Ear Protection
- Honeywell Elevation Customized Safety Glasses – available with prescription
- Safety Harnesses
- Safety Helmets
- Safety Tools
- Switchboard Matting
- Volt Meters & Gas Detection Meters for Monitoring in Confined Spaces (Manholes)
- Ventilation to purge air in unsafe environments

See story on next page



JATC Greater Boston Director of Training Jim O'Connell coordinates a program

A/V capabilities, providing students with video and Powerpoint presentations relating to Arc Flash, PPE, Fall Protection and many other

“The JATC is fortunate to have highly qualified Safety Instructors teach all aspects of job site safety in our new, well equipped safety training facility. Safety is the most critical issue on every job site.”

James O'Connell, Training Director, JATC Greater Boston



SAFETY EDUCATION

An inside look at the JATC Safety Seminar Training Room

At the Forefront of Electrical Safety Training

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Dorchester, MA – The Greater Boston JATC, sponsored by IBEW Local 103 and NECA Boston, has long been recognized nationally for its electrical and telecommunications training programs and their focus on safety training. That program has now taken its emphasis on safety to an even higher level. In that safety training is the cornerstone on which all electrical training is based, the Greater Boston JATC is proud to introduce a Safety Room solely dedicated to all things safety-related within their state-of-the-art electrical training facility in Dorchester.

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JATC Safety Trainer Tom Spellman conducting apprentice seminar on Arc Flash

Spring 2013 JATC Journeyman and Technician Continuing Education Safety Courses

Confined Spaces

CPR/AED First Aid, Sessions 1, 2 and 3

OSHA 10-Hour

OSHA 30-Hour, Sessions 1, 2 and 3

Spring 2013 Apprentice Safety Courses

OSHA 10-Hour

OSHA 30-Hour

CPR/AED First Aid



NFPA 70E is at the heart of the JATC Safety Program

Safety from the Perspective of the JATC's OSHA Certified Instructors

“For those of us who teach JATC Safety Training, the well-being of our fellow members and their families is our top priority. That is, making sure every member goes home with the tools they need to remain safe and unscathed. We know first-hand just how dangerous this business can be, because we live it every day.

The new Safety Training Room allows us to provide the education and hands-on training in a first class setting. When apprentices walk into our safety room for the first time, they realize the importance of safety in our business. Everyone, apprentices and journeymen alike, has a piece of themselves vested in this room. A *Safety First* focus is the best way to build on our success together as skilled union workers and contractors.”

Keith Prendergast, OSHA Certified Outreach Trainer JATC Greater Boston
Spoken on behalf of his fellow JATC Safety Training Team

INDUSTRY NEWS

Tansey Electric, Inc., Wilmington Wiring Corp., and iSYS Join NECA Boston Chapter

West Newton, MA – NECA Boston Chapter proudly welcomes Tansey Electric, Inc. of Manchester, NH, Wilmington Wiring Corp. of Wilmington, MA, and iSYS – Intelligent Systems and Controls of Canton, MA, as new Chapter members.

Maine Automation, Inc. Installing I/C Loop at 280MW Solana Power Plant Project in Arizona

Facility to be among world's largest solar power plants

Gila Bend, AZ – NECA Boston Chapter, Maine Division contractor, Maine Automation, Inc., of Westbrook, Maine, is underway with I/C Loop Shooting of approximately 20,000 loops at the 280MW Solana solar power plant, which encompasses about 3 square miles in Gila Bend, Arizona. PM Dan Winslow and PM Scott Richards are heading a project team of eight instrumentation technicians and one project foreman. The project scope will also include startup and commissioning of instrumentation that supports the plant. Maine Automation is a subcontractor to Payne Crest Electric of St. Louis, MO.

Glenn Kingsbury Elected 2014 Chairman of NECA's AEI

Washington, D.C. – Boston Chapter Executive Manager Glenn Kingsbury

was elected 2014 Chairman of NECA's Association Executives Institute (AEI) at the Annual AEI Meeting, March 6 - 8. Comprised of executive and administrative staff members from all NECA Chapters and the National Association, AEI is an educational organization dedicated to key issues impacting the industry. The 2014 Annual Meeting will take place in Chicago, the NECA convention city.



Glenn Kingsbury with 2013 AEI Chairman Chester Leonard of NECA's Arkansas Chapter.