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Lynnwell Associates Completes Electrical Installations at National Grid's 1MW Solar Generation Facility in Whitinsville, MA for GC: Nexamp

Boston based NECA Contractor Provides Services for Largest Solar Facility and First Utility-Owned Solar Site in MA; Design & Engineering: Zapotec Energy, Cambridge, MA

Photo: Business Wire



The 1MW solar generation facility at the National Grid New England Distribution Center warehouse in Whitinsville is the state's largest solar site.

WALTHAM, MA – Lynnwell Associates of Boston has completed solar installations of the 1MW solar generation facility at National Grid's New England Distribution Center (NEDC) in Whitinsville, Massachusetts. The NECA member electrical contractor provided services under sub-contract to general contractor Nexamp of North Andover, Massachusetts. The National Grid photovoltaic system is the Commonwealth's first utility-owned solar site in service under the 2008 Green Communities Act, which allows utilities to own up to 50MW of solar generation. National Grid went "live" with the system in the Blackstone Valley in May.

Massachusetts' Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles, DOER Commissioner Phil Giudice, community representatives, and National Grid's solar contractors attended a special celebratory event and ribbon-cutting at the National Grid site on May 27th.

National Grid received approval from the Mass. Department of Public Utilities to design, build and operate five utility-owned solar generation facilities that would yield approximately 5 megawatts of power in October 2009. The Whitinsville facility is the company's first in

service, with other solar sites in development in Dorchester, Everett, Haverhill and Revere.

"Completion of this facility is yet another major milestone in helping to advance policy objectives across the Commonwealth, develop a greener local economy and use more clean energy in our day-to-day lives. The project supports the solar industry, both in materials and in construction jobs within the state," said Ed White, vice president, Energy Products for National Grid. He added, "We applaud the Patrick-Murray administration and the legislature for supporting programs such as this. We are proud to be the first utility to add more renewables to the New England energy mix and take tangible action to help mitigate climate change."

Lieutenant Governor Murray commented on the project, saying, "As Governor Patrick and our administration continue to make strategic investments to support innovation, job creation, and the state's long-term economic growth, we are also investing in a clean, green, and healthy future for our Commonwealth. The Green Communities Act supports our efforts to encourage the use of clean technologies, and our administration applauds National Grid's leadership by installing the first utility-owned solar generation facility in the state."

Secretary of Energy and

Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles said, "I congratulate National Grid on this impressive solar installation – the largest in the state, and the first to be owned by an electric utility under the Green Communities Act. This solar array consists of Massachusetts-made solar panels, installed by Massachusetts firms and workers, generating clean, renewable energy for Massachusetts consumers for years to come. This is what our clean energy future looks like."

Lynnwell's project scope included installation of the system's solar panels, conduit, wire and solar inverters. The contractor installed 4,683 - 210W solar panels manufactured by Evergreen Solar of Marlborough, MA. The massive rooftop solar array covers approximately two acres. The system's inverters were manufactured by SMA America of Rockland, CA. Lidco Electrical Contractors of Holden, MA provided electrical modifications to the NEDC building to facilitate installation.

The system is capable of generating 983,430 kilowatts of electricity. It is estimated that it will produce approximately 1,148,560 kilowatt-hours per year, enough to serve nearly 200 homes annually. The solar generation system will reduce approximately 1.3 million pounds of carbon each year, the equivalent of removing more than 400 passenger cars from the road; eliminating CO2

emissions from burning 11.4 railcars of coal; and reducing CO2 emissions from burning nearly 5,000 barrels of oil.

National Grid estimates that more than 50 green jobs were provided in the Commonwealth in the renewable energy project. "Projects such as this take skilled and talented hands that have working knowledge of cutting-edge technologies. Without our many and varied local solar experts, this accomplishment would have been much more challenging," White said. "Kudos to the solar marketplace who helped us bring in the sunshine and deliver its clean power to our customers."

Lynnwell Associates' project manager Larry Mahoney and foreman John Lievi managed a field crew of 17 electricians from IBEW Local 103 in Boston and Local 96 in Worcester at peak construction to meet the fast-track 2 1/2 month project schedule.

Dennis Mahoney, Lynnwell president, commented on the project saying, "Lynnwell was well supported with an outstanding construction crew from IBEW Locals 103 and 96. The system designer and engineer, Zapotec Energy, deserves much credit for outstanding workmanship and we are also pleased to have had the opportunity to work with general contractor Nexamp in handling electrical installations at the State's largest solar generation facility."

Editor's note: Excerpts within this article have been reproduced from the National Grid News page on the National Grid website.

Lynnwell Associates is a full-service electrical construction company founded in 1981 by its president Dennis Mahoney and Frederick Richardson. The firm provides electrical, telecommunications, fire alarm and security system installations for municipal, industrial and institutional facilities throughout eastern Massachusetts. Lynnwell received special recognition as a 25-year NECA member in 2009.

ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY NEWS

Governor Patrick Joins Broadway Electrical as Medway High School "Switches" to Solar Power



In April, Governor Deval Patrick headed a ceremony that marked the completion of Broadway Electrical's 132 kW solar PV installation that will help save Medway Public Schools over \$15,000 a year in energy.

108 Electricians and Telecom Technicians Graduate at 64th JATC Training Ceremony

DORCHESTER – On June 3 at the 64th annual Boston JATC Graduation ceremony at Local 103 in Dorchester, 90 electricians and 18 telecom apprentices graduated from one of the strongest electrical industry training programs in the U.S. NECA Boston Executive Manager Glenn Kingsbury and Local 103 Business Manager Michael Monahan were among the speakers. Kingsbury encouraged the electricians, professional builders, to continue to build both their "skills as craftsmen" and as individuals. And, to be guided by the NECA and IBEW "Code of Excellence" both on the job and in the way they live. At the ceremony, James Fahey, a longtime instructor at the JATC, received the 1st annual Russell F. Sheehan Distinguished Service Award. Russell Sheehan, a former Local 103 Business Manager and Trust Fund Administrator, passed away earlier this year.

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