Mass Bay Electrical On Track with MBTA Government Center Station Project

NECA Contractor teams with Architect: HDR Engineering, Boston, MA; GC: Barletta Engineering Heavy Division, Canton, MA; EE: Fitzemeyer & Tocci, Stoneham, MA


BOSTON, MA – Amidst increasing solar industry support to raise the Massachusetts solar net metering caps, the State Senate and Gov. Charlie Baker’s administration have filed separate pieces of legislation that would raise the state’s current solar net metering cap. The proposed legislation follows solar lobbying efforts of NECA Boston Chapter, IBEW Local 103, and other key solar industry stakeholders, including Next Step Living and Southern Light Solar.

The State Senate’s Solar Cap Amendment

On July 23, the State Senate voted to lift the cap, which would allow planned solar projects across Massachusetts to move forward. The Senate attached a solar cap amendment, proposed by Sen. Benjamin Downing (D-Pittsfield), to a climate preparedness bill that would immediately lift the current net metering cap. Downing is Chairman of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The provision would lift the cap to 1,600 megawatts of solar power, consistent with the goal set by former Gov. Deval Patrick. The Downing amendment would also direct the Baker administration to develop a sustainable incentive strategy to further develop the solar industry in Massachusetts beyond the cap into the future. The Senate’s amendment must be passed by the House and then signed into law by Governor Baker.

The Baker Administration Solar Cap Bill – An Act relative to a long-term, sustainable solar industry

On August 7, Gov. Charlie Baker introduced a bill to raise the net metering cap in Massachusetts.

Spectrum Integrated Technologies Provides State-of-the-Art AV Installations at TripAdvisor Headquarters in Needham, MA

NECA Contractor teams with Architect: HDR Engineering, Boston, MA; GC: Barletta Engineering Heavy Division, Canton, MA; EE: Fitzemeyer & Tocci, Stoneham, MA

NECA Boston Chapter & IBEW Local 103 position: It is necessary to lift the net metering cap for the Massachusetts solar industry to remain vibrant. With the current caps in place, Massachusetts is losing an estimated $1 million in Federal Solar Investment Tax Credits (ITC) each day, $30 million in investment money per day, and 20 jobs each day. Boston Scientific, installations in life and Aggressive Industries all have plans to install solar projects that are held up by the net metering caps.

The increase will provide immediate support for projects being developed in service territories where the caps have already been reached, and provides the Department of Public Utilities the authority to raise the caps further, as needed in the future. Additionally, this framework will work to bolster the ability of the Commonwealth to meet the 2020 target of 1,600 megawatts of solar development, well ahead of schedule. “Massachusetts continues to boast a nation-leading solar industry, and this legislation will build upon that continued success while ensuring that our state’s solar market remains viable and sustainable for years to come,” Gov. Baker said in a written statement.

NECA Boston Chapter & IBEW

NEEDHAM, MA – Spectrum Integrated Technologies, the low-voltage division of J&M Brown Company, based in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts has completed the state-of-the-art audio-visual (AV) installation project at the new, six-story TripAdvisor World Headquarters facility on First Avenue in Needham, Massachusetts.

Spectrum teamed with AV Integration Contractor Verrex Corporation, headquartered in New York.

Unique within its scope, the NECA/IBEW contractor installed a 40-foot motorized projection screen, the second largest in the U.S., in the facility’s four-story entrance auditorium. Spectrum’s project included installations in conference and work areas throughout all six floors of the facility, with the massive AV package comprising cameras, cabling, video screens and automated touch pad controls, and room schedulers, that provides the most advanced video-conferencing capabilities for 1,600 TripAdvisor employees and with capacity for an additional 500.

500. Spectrum Project Manager Mike Anderson and Foreman Brian Larsen supervised a crew of 8 IBEW Local 103 technicians and electricians that worked nights and weekends to meet the owner’s requirements. The project began in late April 2015 and was complete by the second week of August.

For a complete directory of NECA Greater Boston Chapter member firms, call 1-877-NECA-IBEW or visit us at www.bostonneca.org.
NECA Boston/ Wentworth Student Chapter’s Site Visit to New Balance World Headquarters

BOSTON, MA – On July 17, NECA Boston Chapter’s Assistant Manager Kristen Gowin and State Electric President Ronnie Koning arranged a site visit of the 477,000 s/f New Balance World Headquarters facility at Boston Landing for members of the NECA Boston / Wentworth Institute of Technology Student Chapter. Brendan Dickie, VP of State Electric’s Commercial Electrical division led the informational walkthrough. WIT construction management students Chris McHugh, Mark Souder, The V, Alex Yu, and Kyle Lagarto were shown and explained many aspects of the building’s installed electrical systems, from the rooftop electrical penthouse and emergency generator to fire alarm, lighting, and lightning protection systems. State Electric, the primary electrical contractor on the project is in the final phase of construction with a crew of more than 90 IBEW electricians on site. The building is scheduled to be completed for New Balance occupancy by early September.

NECA Boston Contractors Attend Advanced Training in Construction Management Workshop

BOSTON, MA – On July 29 and 30, NECA Boston Chapter members attended a continuing education workshop focused on advanced training in construction management at the JATC Greater Boston Electrical Industry Training Center in Dorchester. The course was attended by project management personnel, estimators and foremen from Averill Electric, Bent Electrical, Gaston Electrical, John A. Penney Co., Spectrum Integrated Technologies/D&M Brown Co., Sullivan & McLaughlin and T&T Electrical.

Conducted by Wentworth Institute of Technology (WIT) professor Wayne J. DelPico, The Advanced Training in Construction Management workshop covered intricacies of construction documents, plans and specifications, project scheduling, and practical methodologies for managing tight project schedules. The program was developed and customized by WIT in collaboration with NECA to meet the specific needs of NECA contractors.

EDUCATION NEWS

NECA Boston Contractors Attend Advanced Training in Construction Management Workshop