



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*

**BRA's Responsible Oversight of Development is Key to Boston Economic Recovery**

Boston's economic recovery has gained some traction over the past couple years, thanks in large part to the dynamic development projects that have helped transform our great city. That development would not have been possible without the support, vision, and leadership of the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) and Mayor Thomas Menino. The recovery, though, is fragile and dependent upon sound policies of city, state and federal government to both enable and encourage responsible development.



Glenn Kingsbury

There has been recent criticism of the BRA, however, claiming it is an agency with too much power. The BRA has also been critiqued for approving projects too quickly and placing the desires of real estate developers over the preservation of neighborhoods. We disagree.

As the municipal planning and development agency for Boston, it is the BRA's responsibility to provide direction and development in the city. And, from the vantage point of NECA Boston, that is what the agency is doing. We see a dramatically different perspective of the many projects that are redefining and rejuvenating our city—from the Seaport and Innovation District to North Station, from the Theater District to Downtown Crossing and from the Back Bay to the Fenway. The South End, Hyde Park, Dorchester, Roxbury, South Boston, and East Boston all have seen new residential and commercial developments that are making all neighborhoods in Boston both more vibrant and more livable. In the process, these developments have been responsible for a revitalized construction industry, which translates to more work and more opportunity for the skilled tradespeople who build these developments.

The list of recent and current projects is far too long for this column. Here are just a few: Atlantic Wharf, Vertex Pharmaceutical's campus, 100 Pier 4 Boston, Legal Seafood in the Seaport, Battery Wharf, Millennium Place, The Victor, New Balance World Headquarters/New Brighton Landing, Inkblook, The Merano, and Portside at Pier One. These and numerous other projects are helping rejuvenate the region's construction industry,

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**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**Mass FAC64 Security Contract to Spectrum IT**

Jamaica Plain, MA – Spectrum Integrated Technologies, the Security Division of NECA Boston contractor J. & M. Brown Co. of Jamaica Plain, has been awarded a three-year FAC64 Statewide Security Surveillance and Access Control Systems Contract. With the designation, Spectrum establishes preferred pricing for security system products and services for public organizations in Massachusetts, including municipalities, school districts, housing authorities, colleges, universities and certain non-profits. ■

**NECA 2013 Washington, October 13 – 15**

Washington, DC – NECA 2013 Washington will be held in Washington, DC at the new Walter E. Washington Convention Center, October 13 to 15. The expo is the industry's largest electrical trade show and convention, expected to draw more than 5,000 industry professionals with nearly 300 exhibitors showcasing the newest electrical product innovations in power supply, data centers, integrated building systems, lighting and controls, solar PV, fuel cells, and more. Learn more at [www.necaconvention.org](http://www.necaconvention.org) ■

**151 Electrical Apprentices Graduate at 67th Greater Boston JATC Graduation**

Boston, MA – On June 6, the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee of Greater Boston, in cooperation with IBEW Local 103 and NECA Boston, held its 67th Annual Apprentice Graduation at Local 103 headquarters in Dorchester for a graduating class comprised of 151 electricians. U. S. Navy SEAL Lieut. Commander Jon Fussell gave the Commencement Address. ■



**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](mailto:info@bostonneca.org)



## INSTALLATIONS

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

### Ostrow Electric Company Completes 29 Solar Installations at 13 College Campuses for throughout Massachusetts

Worcester, MA – Ostrow Electric Company, Inc., a Worcester-based NECA contractor, has completed design and installation of two major solar contracts for the Massachusetts Department of Capital Asset Management (DCAM).

The DCAM PV West project contract, valued at \$5.4 million, included 13 PV installations totaling 896kW of solar electric power at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield; Fitchburg State College; Framingham State College; Greenfield Community College; Westfield State University; and

the Department of Environmental Protection Mass Recycling Facility in Springfield (pictured).

Ostrow's DCAM PV East project, valued at \$5.7M, consisted of PV systems at 16 additional facilities, including the Department of Conservation & Recreation Chickatawbut Hill, Massasoit Community College, North Shore Community College, Salem State University, UMass Boston,

UMass Dartmouth, and UMass Lowell.

The solar installations will save the Commonwealth an estimated \$310,000 in annual energy costs. The projects were partially funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Ostrow Electric has installed approximately 10MW of photovoltaic and wind energy projects since 2009. ■



**Mass. DEP Renewable Energy Focus Begins at Home** - The 130kW PV system at the Mass. DEP Materials Recycling Facility in Springfield supplies up to 35 percent of the facility's energy usage.

## SOLAR POWER NEWS

### Broadway Electrical Featured at Massachusetts Solar Celebration at Drydock Center

Boston, MA – On May 1, NECA contractor Broadway Electrical Company, Inc., of Boston, joined Gov. Deval Patrick, Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard K. Sullivan, Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Mark Sylvia and Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) CEO Alicia Barton in a solar celebration at which the Governor announced a new state goal of achieving 1.6 gigawatts (GW) of solar energy to be installed by 2020. Massachusetts reached its prior goal of 250 megawatts (MW) of solar installations four years early. The event was held on the roof of the Drydock Center at 21, 23 and 25 Drydock Avenue in Boston's Innovation District against the backdrop of the 568.7kW rooftop solar installation, completed by Broadway Electrical in 2012.

"When we set ambitious goals and invest in achieving them, Massachusetts wins," Gov. Patrick said. "The many businesses and home-

owners who have taken advantage of cost-efficient renewable energy installations are helping to create a safer and more prosperous Commonwealth for the next generation."

The Drydock PV system, among the largest rooftop solar systems in Boston, is owned and operated by Broadway Renewable Strategies, and the power generated from it is sold to the building's lessors, Jamestown Properties. During its first year of operation, the solar system produced 700,000 kWh of electricity, enough clean energy to power more than 700 homes. Generating the power from solar energy reduces carbon emissions by 468 tons annually.

"Broadway is proud to be part of helping Massachusetts reach this goal, and we thank the Governor and Massachusetts legislature for their

continued support of solar, which has spurred so much investment by Massachusetts businesses," said Broadway CEO Larry Hurwitz.

Broadway Electrical was recently selected by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council as its regional solar developer for 17 cities and towns in Greater Boston. ■



Gov. Deval Patrick (center) with Broadway Electrical's staff and Mass. DOER Commissioner Mark Sylvia and MassCEC CEO Alicia Barton on the solar roof of the Drydock Center in Boston.

## SAFETY NEWS

### J.F. White and Mass Bay Electrical Receive NECA Safety Awards

Bethesda, MD – J. F. White Electrical of Framingham and Mass Bay Electrical of East Boston received 2012 Zero-Injury Safety Awards from NECA for District 1, covering New England and New York. J. F. White also received the coveted NECA Safety Excellence Award. ■

### E.S. Boulos Earns MEMIC Safety Award

Westbrook, ME – On Friday, June 28, E.S. Boulos Company was presented a Safety Award from Maine Employers' Mutual Insurance Company (MEMIC) for having achieved one million hours worked without a lost time injury, dating from September 2011 to May 2013. ■

MEMIC CEO and President John Leonard (left) and Cross Insurance President Royce Cross (right) presented the award to ESB Executive Director Tom Driscoll and Safety Manager Michael McCarron.





## INSTALLATIONS

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

### **Bent Electrical Contractors Underway with Portside at Pier One – Cornerstone Project in Transformation of East Boston Waterfront**

**NECA Contractor Teams with GC: Cranshaw Construction, Newton Lower Falls, MA;  
Developer: Roseland Property Company, Mack-Cali Realty Trust, Short Hills, NJ**

**B**oston, MA – Bent Electrical Contractors, Inc., based in Somerville, MA, is underway with electrical construction of Portside at Pier One, a project that will lead the

transformation and revitalization of the East Boston waterfront. The luxury residential development is a five-story apartment building with sweeping views of the Boston skyline that

will feature 176 residential units and ground floor retail. The project is being developed by Roseland Property Company, a subsidiary of Mack-Cali Realty Trust, based in Short Hills, New Jersey.

Portside at Pier One is the first of seven buildings in a dynamic, planned mixed-use project scheduled to be built over the next few years on the Massport-owned property along Marginal Street and on Pier One. At the groundbreaking in late January, Gov. Deval Patrick, Mayor Thomas

M. Menino, and Massport CEO and Executive Director Thomas P. Glynn celebrated the project with East Boston officials, members of the community, and representatives of Roseland.



“Today’s groundbreaking demonstrates how public-private partnerships can create economic opportunity and prosperity for a local community,” said Gov. Patrick. “I applaud the City of Boston and Massport working together with the East Boston community and the private sector to support this important waterfront investment. Ultimately, everyone who lives, works and does business in East Boston will benefit.”

Mayor Menino added, “Just one year ago I made a commitment to take East Boston’s

enormous waterfront potential and turn it into progress. Thanks to focus and collective action, today I can proudly share with the residents of East Boston this momentous housing start

and a promising neighborhood that is underway.”

The construction of Portside at Pier One is expected to create some 200 full-time union construction jobs, and is estimated to cost approximately

\$46 million to complete. “This development, like Piers Park, represents a significant contribution by Massport to revitalize East Boston’s waterfront neighborhood,” said Glynn.

The project is scheduled for completion in Spring 2014.

*In 1995, Massport constructed the 6.5-acre Piers Park, located adjacent to the Portside at Pier One site, and boasting the same spectacular views of downtown Boston. ■*

### **E.S. Boulos Company’s Utility Division Completes Fast-Track National Grid Substation Project in Charlestown, NH**

**C**harlestown, NH – E.S. Boulos Company’s (ESB) Utility Division, based in Auburn, ME, has completed construction of the new 115kV / 13.2kV NGRID Michaels Avenue Substation in Charlestown, NH. The NECA Boston/Maine Division contractor served as the project’s prime general contractor and electrical contractor on a project team that included electrical engineering firm, Parsons of Boston, and Program Manager, SAIC Energy Solutions.

The scope included providing above- and below-grade electrical and civil construction. The project involved two separate utility owners, National Grid USA Service Company (115kV) and Liberty Utilities (13.2kV), providing power service to Whelen Engineering Company’s facility in Charlestown.

ESB met the extremely aggressive project schedule despite significant site and weather challenges. The substation is built on a uniquely small footprint on a hillside location. Project construction began January 30, and due to winter conditions, the ESB construction crew encountered three feet of frost and endured three major snowstorms. PM Dave Kachinski, CM Alan



Manchini, Superintendent Alan Smith, and Site Safety Supervisor Steve Gannon managed the construction team, comprised of two IBEW Local 490 electricians and three Local 104 linemen. Despite the challenges, ESB energized the site in mid-May, three weeks ahead of schedule. ■



*The NGRID Charlestown, NH Substation is constructed on a tight, hillside footprint*

## INSTALLATIONS

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

### **State Electric Corp. Undertakes \$4M Electrical Construction of 100 Arlington**

**GC: John Moriarty & Associates, Winchester, MA; Architect: Elkus Manfredi Architects, Boston, MA**

**B**oston, MA – State Electric Corporation, headquartered in Woburn, MA, is underway with electrical construction of the 100 Arlington Street renovation project in Boston's South End. State Electric's comprehensive electrical project scope is valued at approximately \$4 million.

100 Arlington Street, a 14-story, 165,000 square foot former elementary school building, is being transformed into a 128-unit residential mixed-use building that will have approximately 10,250 square feet of retail space on the ground floor.

State Electric is serving on a project team



headed by general contractor, John Moriarty & Associates, of Winchester. Elkus Manfredi Architects of Boston is providing architectural services and Cosentini Associates, Inc., of Cambridge, MA, is the project's MEP engineering firm.

The project commenced in June 2012 and is scheduled for completion in Spring 2014. At peak construction, State Electric will supervise an electrical crew of 12 IBEW Local 103 electricians. 100 Arlington Street is located in Bay Village between Boston's Theatre District and Back Bay neighborhoods. ■

### **Yates Electric Completes Fast-Track UNH IT Data Center Emergency Power Upgrade Project**

**D**urham, NH – Yates Electric Service, Inc., based in Durham, NH, recently completed the standby power upgrade project at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) IT Data Center. The project scope was comprised of the installation of a new 600A/480V Automatic Transfer Switch and Distribution Switchboard, as well as a temporary outdoor docking station. The emergency power project serves to supplement the UNH Data Center's requirements in the event of a power outage.

Yates handled the integration of the emergency power/standby system so as to allow for minimal downtime during the cutover to the new temporary power system. It was critical not to push the limits of the facility's existing UPS System. The NECA contractor isolated the temporary generator feed from the permanent power supply to the UNH Data Center. Importantly, the data facility was kept online without interruption throughout the project.

Yates Electric Project Manager Bob Scholefield and Foreman Brian James supervised an electrical crew based out of IBEW Local 490 in Concord in the fast-track installation project, which commenced in December 2012 and was completed by mid-January 2013.

According to UNH IT Data Center Manager Michael Welch, prior to the power upgrade, the

facility had infrastructure vulnerability, in that the ATS was not serviceable online and was in the direct pathway of the electrical distribution system. Headed by Welch and Project Manager Don Houde, UNH planned to replace the existing emergency power system with one that was more serviceable, provided power quality monitoring and allowed for future expansion. Harriman Engineering, of Auburn, ME, provided the electrical profile and design recommendation for the power upgrade. UNH initiated the design process in Spring 2012 and the planning phase ended in September.

Commenting on the project, Welch said, "The system was custom-built and configured to precise specs that the University required. We scheduled the installation of the project in a low-risk timeframe, during semester break, and it was handled on a tight four to five week schedule. Yates Electric did an excellent job, meeting both demanding project and scheduling requirements."

He discussed the critical nature of the project, saying, "The key to the project was that primary power could not be compromised. Contingency dates were in place for the cutover in event of weather-related issues and Yates was able to accommodate the contingency schedule (which ultimately was not necessary)."

Yates' on-site problem-solving skills and value-engineering proved invaluable. During the cutover, for instance, a UPS wasn't accepting power from the temporary generator. Yates, UNH's Don Houde and the UPS vendor worked together to identify and address a phase alignment issue and successfully resolved the problem

midstream in the project.

The UNH Data Center houses mission critical services for the University and the University System of New Hampshire. "We are pleased to have been able to call on a local New Hampshire contractor to adeptly handle the project's requirements," said Welch. ■



*UNH Data Center ATS and Distribution Switchboard*



### Industry Associations Join NECA in Support of HB1279 – An Act Relative to Penalties for Unlicensed Work

Legislation aims to increase fines as deterrent for unlicensed electrical work

**B**oston, MA – HB1279, “An act relative to penalties for unlicensed work,” recently filed by State Rep. Mark Cusack (D-Brain-tree) on behalf of the National Electrical Contractors Association of Greater Boston (NECA), has garnered support of key industry associations, including:

- Massachusetts Electrical Contractors Association (non-union contractors association)
- IBEW Locals 103, 96, 7, and 223
- International Association of Electrical Inspectors, Paul Revere Chapter
- Municipal Electrical Inspectors Association of MA and RI
- Massachusetts Systems Contractors Association
- Associated Subcontractors of Massachusetts (ASM)
- Massachusetts AFL-CIO
- Massachusetts Building Trades Council
- Plumbing Heating and Cooling Contractors of Greater Boston
- Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts

The legislation was initiated following numerous complaints filed by NECA and MECA with the Division of Professional Licensure (DPL) and Board of State Examiners of Electricians (BSEE) against

unlicensed work of contractors and laborers, primarily in solar PV power system installations. The Board has subsequently imposed fines against certain violators. The fines under current law are outdated and do not act as a deterrent for continued unlicensed work practices.

The bill amends M.G.L. chapter 112, section 65, which authorizes the DPL to impose fines for the practice of a trade or profession under DPL’s authority without being properly licensed. It would increase fines they may levy up to \$5,000 for the first violation and \$10,000 for subsequent violations. Similarly, the bill increases fines the BSEE may levy against violators. For further information on HB1279, visit [www.bostonneca.org](http://www.bostonneca.org).

#### Recent BSEE Fines Levied Against Companies for Unlicensed Solar PV Power Installations

Recent solar projects and companies that have been found in violation of Massachusetts State Law for providing PV electrical installations without proper and mandated licenses include:

#### Fitchburg, MA (943 kW)

Douglas LeRiche,  
LeRiche Electric - \$500

#### Dartmouth, MA (3.5 MW)

Douglas Lynch, D&D Electrical Contractors, Inc. - \$3,100  
Bruce Chesshire, Skilled Trades Services - \$1,000  
Trillium Staffing Solutions - \$1,000

#### Southbridge, MA (3.4 MW)

Patriot Solar Group LLC - \$1,000

#### Canton, MA (5.6 MW)

CND Temp Agency, Inc. - \$1,000

Unlicensed work threatens public safety and is unfair to licensed electrical contractors and electricians who are trained in solar electric installations. There are still several “open” complaints; more than 40 have been filed with the DPL by NECA and MECA. NECA will be proactive to ensure PV electrical work is handled by licensed electricians, as the law requires. ■



*Patriot Solar Group, LLC was recently fined \$1,000 by the Mass. DPL for unlicensed workers providing PV installations at this 3.5MW Solar farm in Southbridge, MA.*

### NECA Boston Attends NECA 2013 National Legislative Conference

**W**ashington – At NECA’s National Legislative Conference in Washington, DC in mid-May, NECA Boston Chapter was represented by Assistant Manager Matt Lash, Joe Bodio, LAN-TEL Communications, Michael McDonald – McDonald Electric, Ron Koning – State Electric, Kathy Guinee – Aetna Fire Alarm, Joe McCluskey, Jr. – E.G. Sawyer, and Jim Smith of Smith, Ruddock and Hayes.



The group met with key lawmakers from Massachusetts, including Rep. William Keating, Rep. Stephen Lynch, Rep. Joseph Kennedy III (pictured), Rep. John Tierney, Sen. Elizabeth

Warren, Rep. Michael Capuano, Rep. Edward Markey, Rep. Niki Tsongas, Rep. Richard Neal, and Maine Sen. Angus King. Key issues impacting the electrical industry were discussed, including infrastructure investment, tax reform, Project Labor Agreements, Davis-Bacon, pension relief and national energy policy that encourages energy efficiency.

Kathy Guinee also introduced Sen. King as a Conference Keynote Speaker. ■

### NECA Boston Chapter Contributes \$10,000 to Boston’s One Fund

**W**ashington, DC – While in Washington for the National Legislative Conference, the NECA Boston legislative contingent also attended a “Boston Strong in Washington Reception” at Legal Sea Foods on May 15. The event, attended by Mayor Thomas Menino, Gov. Deval Patrick, and the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, was hosted by Legal Sea Foods CEO Roger Berkowitz. There, NECA Boston presented a \$10,000 donation to the One Fund. Over \$300,000 was raised that evening, bringing the One Fund’s contributions at that time to \$37 million. House Minority Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi was the special guest. ■

## EDUCATION & TRAINING NEWS

### Massachusetts Students Earn IBEW Electrical Apprenticeship Scholarships at Greater Boston JATC

NECA contractors Bent Electrical Contractors and McDonald Electrical Corp. providing field training for apprentice scholars

**B**oston, MA – Sean Donahue of Canton and Kevin O’Callaghan of Holbrook, recent graduates of the Electrical program at Blue Hills Regional Technical School in Canton, have been awarded five-year JATC Electrical Training Scholarships through the IBEW Local 103 Apprentice Partnership program. The students will enter the program working as apprentice electricians for McDonald Electrical Contractors of Hingham, MA.

Daniel Roderick (pictured with Somerville educators and city leaders), a four-year electrical student in the Somerville High School’s Center for Career and Technical Education (CTE), was also recently selected for the IBEW Local 103 Apprentice Partnership program. He will start his



field training with Bent Electrical in Somerville.

The three students will be among the first apprentices taking classes in the soon-to-be expanded JATC Electrical Training facility at 170 Freeport Street in Dorchester, adjacent to the existing JATC facility. The new facility will feature

simulated worksite environments, as apprentices will be trained in wide-ranging electrical installations, associated switchgear vaults, transformers, solar PV systems, security, and fire alarm systems.

IBEW Local 103 Business Agent Mike Calder commented, “It is vitally important for Local 103, in partnership with NECA, to reach out to our vocational schools for the next generation of our membership.”

Michael McDonald, president of McDonald Electrical said, “We’re pleased to be able give back to the future of the industry with a dynamic, hands-on learning experience they’ll need to become successful journeymen.” ■

### NECA Boston and JATC at Massachusetts Construction Career Days

**H**opkinton, MA – In early May, NECA Assistant Chapter Manager Matt Lash and Greater Boston JATC Instructor Mark Connors were on hand to present dynamic career opportunities in electrical construction at the 11th Annual Massachu-



setts Construction Career Days at the New England Laborers Union Training Academy in Hopkinton. More than 1,200 high school and vocational school students attended the event. ■

### NECA Boston Conducts “Lean Construction in Electrical Contracting”

**W**est Newton, MA – Project efficiency and quality are focal points of every construction project. On May 29 and 30, NECA Boston held “Lean Construction in Electrical Contracting” workshops at the JATC Electrical



Training Center in Boston and also in Portsmouth, NH. The NECA Management Education Institute workshop, led by Mark Federle, Chair of Construction Engineering and Management at Marquette University, focused on improving productivity through lean

construction principles.

The program was attended by 33 project managers and superintendents from **E.S.oulos, J. & M. Brown, Ayer Electric, Yates Electric Service, Coghlin Electrical, Scarponi Electric, J.M. Electrical, Ostrow Electric, Tansey Electric, and State Electric.** ■



### POWERPOINTS BRA’s Responsible Oversight of Development is Key to Boston Economic Recovery *Continued from page 1*

as many of our NECA contractors and their construction industry partners can and will attest – architects, engineers, general contractors, and subcontractors included. Vibrant companies are moving to the Seaport and Innovation District because of these developments. The projects most often feature well designed, energy-efficient buildings by the region’s leading firms, and they are making Boston even more livable and a highly desirable destination for the convention market

and tourists alike. Couple this with the influx of area residents moving into Boston from the suburbs, and beyond, to experience all the city has to offer. You see it in both affordable and luxury residential units throughout the city - that list is also too long to mention all, but for starters, here are a few: 100 Arlington Street, 120 Kingston Street, the Macallen Building, The Clarendon, the Residences at the Colonnade, the Mandarin Oriental, and the list goes on. It all adds to the city’s appeal

and its revenue base.

In short, the BRA has been responsible for approving these developments, and hence, instrumental in and vital to the current recovery. It is NECA Boston’s hope that Mayor Menino’s successor will continue to work closely with the BRA in promoting responsible development. We look forward to helping them build a brighter future for all. ■