Block Island Power Company – Planning for Uncertainty

Presented by: Tracy Fredericks
Block Island Power Company-

Block Island
• 2x10 miles, 14 miles off CT and RI coasts
• Population year round 871, summer 20,000 +
• Ferry and plane service year round

Staff
• Eight Staff Members

Statistics
• Winter Peak Load 1.5 MW
• Summer Peak Load 5 MW
• Annual kWh Sales 11,000,000
• 1926 customers
• 49 miles of lines
• 1996 poles
Update

- November 2016 – The Town of New Shoreham purchased a majority share (2/3) of the Block Island Power Company.
- May 1, 2017 – BIPCO connected to the Sea2Shore Cable and shut down its diesel generators.
- June 30, 2017 – The Block Island Utility District was created by an Act of the Rhode Island General Assembly.
- December 8, 2017 – Five Utility District Commissioners were elected from a pool of eight candidates.
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**Power Plant**

BIPCO has rebuilt its power plant consisting of four diesel generators capable of providing full back up power to the Island for cable contingencies and planned maintenance outages.

Currently planning interconnection studies to allow for interconnecting to the Nation Grid system for seamless transfers during planned cable outages and to allow for load sharing with wind turbines during cable outages – goal to minimize fuel usage and leverage wind power.

Modernizing facility with new above ground fuel tanks, removal of all underground tanks, soil remediation and all new controls for the generator and distribution substation.
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Distribution System

- Mapping
- **Engineering studies** are being done to keep the lights on in the short term and modernize the system for the long term.
- Long range capital plan
- Utilizing pole setting crews and **contract line crews** to augment our limited staff.
- Upgrading distribution standards; pole height, class, construction type.

The photo shows new 35 foot Class II Poles compared to the retired poles, some dating back to pre-1950.
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Screen shot of our newly mapped system.
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Storm Readiness

March 2018 brought four back to back Nor’easters.
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Tree Maintenance (AKA Integrated Vegetation Management)

- 5 year plan
  Undesirable Vs. Desirable
- Off Road Maintenance
- Hazardous Tree
- Minimum Tree-to-Conductor Clearances
- Disposal
- Customer Notification
- Staff Qualifications
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Communications and Backing it Up with Action...

BIPCO took customer service to an unprecedented level by simply communicating weather forecasts, outage status and estimated restoration times.

BIPCO realizes that electricity is a life-line of sorts, that storms are stressful and no communication leads to anxiety. We used every form of communication available to us and updated customers routinely.

Our communications included a mix of technology (from smart-meters) and some fairly non-technical, manual updates that were received very well.
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Thank you!

I wondered, earlier, at the absence of your emails, and now I am reassured.

I saw somewhere on the news that the four-easter has been named Toby. Is it classified as a hurricane, or a winter storm?

Looking forward to your further postings.

Fran

OMG!
Power co: you have your work cut out for you this winter!
Thank you for all you do for us!
Ila Schulman
High Street

Block Island Power
P.O. BOX 518 - BLOCK ISLAND,
(401) 466-5851

Thanks for doing such outstanding work during the storms.
From: Mrs. Naomi Kereset
To: Block Island RI 02807

FROM: Block Island Power
TO: Mrs. Naomi Kereset
SERVICE REQUESTED