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# Press Release

## **All-Time High Electric Use by MG&E Customers**

Department records a new peak of 65.97 Megawatts.

**Middleborough, MA, August 3, 2006:** When the mercury jumped past 100 degrees yesterday afternoon, electric consumers in Middleborough and Lakeville shattered a record for peak electric use, raising the bar to nearly 66 megawatts at 3:00 PM. This peak use beat the previous high of 63 megawatts, recorded during the last heat-wave on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Before this record-breaking summer, a peak of 58 megawatts was set in the summer of 2004.

In 2002, the Department substantially upgraded its electric substation, adding a third transformer and increasing its capacity to 80 megawatts ensuring the Department's ability to serve a growing area well into the future. MG&E has also continually upgraded wiring throughout its service territory to safely deliver higher electric loads and is currently adding a tenth circuit to handle growth in the area.

However, Department officials are joining with all regional power providers in urging prudent conservation during this demanding weather to ensure the integrity of the transmission grid, especially during peak hours between 1:00pm and 8:00pm. All non-essential electric use should be delayed including the use of clothes and dish washers, dehumidifiers, ovens and any large electric motors. Use microwave ovens rather than conventional ovens and turn air-conditioning thermostats up just a few degrees to keep electric bills down and help keep the power flowing.

The Middleborough Gas & Electric Department is owned by the town of Middleborough, serving over 14,000 electric customers in Middleborough and neighboring Lakeville.