

the Messenger

A newsletter from Middleborough Gas & Electric Department Special Annual Edition June 2008

Community-owned since 1893

Special Edition: A Year in Review

A message from the General Manager

At six a.m. on most mornings ...

I arrive at our office on Main Street as so many customers are just heading out to their jobs, earning every penny. My job and the work of everyone at MG&E is to keep your electricity and natural gas flowing for as few of those pennies as reasonably possible. So this year has been both satisfying and frustrating.

No one is happy about energy costs today but we grudgingly bear them. I am, at least, satisfied that we now have a proven method of purchasing natural gas and electricity that uses the strengths of both to moderate the costs of each other. This keeps our typical electric costs (seen below) at a competitive or lower level than investor-owned utilities that routinely record ever-higher profits. Natural gas typical costs are moderating daily and we will provide a cost comparison in the winter months.

The good news is that we've kept our depreciation funds at levels that allow smart investment in reliable delivery of gas and electricity improvements without adding pressure to raise your bills. This year, a higher capacity transformer will be installed at our substation, much of its cost paid for in advance, fixed before a meteoric rise in the price of copper – its main ingredient. New natural gas mains are replacing old throughout Middleborough in a systematic approach to meet growth and modern regulation with a financially sound plan.

Most frustrating has been the cost of power through the New England regional authority known as the ISO. At present, we are involved in a complaint at the federal level against unfair "must-run" charges and supporting a bill in Congress requiring that least-cost dispatch of power be their priority. Your voice counts in this effort and, as we mention in this newsletter, you can contact your Congressmen involved in this fight to keep costs fair, honest and transparent.

I'll be retiring at the end of this year but the work of the Department will not change. The guiding principle of MG&E is to act in the best interest of the electric and natural gas ratepayer. That's the job of the 52 dedicated professionals who work for you. And that will be the job of the next General Manager who serves you in 2009. I wish you well. Continued warmth and light.



Jim Collins, General Manager, Middleborough Gas & Electric

2007 stats:

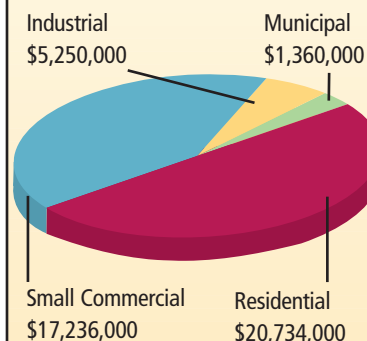
Electric

Peak demand
57.7 Megawatts
Total kilowatt-hours
259,260,000
Total customers **15,150**
Total revenue **\$34,222,000**

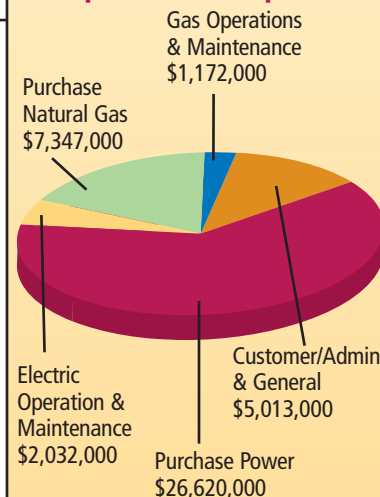
Natural Gas

Peak use
5,483 million cubic feet per hr.
Total MCF **686,800**
Total customers **4,800**
Total revenue **\$10,358,000**

Department Revenue



Department Expenses



If you would like MG&E's complete Annual Report audited by Nelson, Adam & Dickson, please call John Granahan at 508-947-1371.



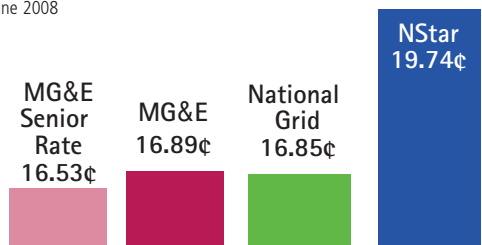
Your elected Board of Commissioners include, from left, Joseph Ranahan, Donald Triner, Thomas Murphy, Terrance Murphy and Roger Parent.

Financial Benefits of Municipal Service & Ownership

- \$366,000** Direct cash payment in-lieu-of-taxes to Middleborough
- \$250,000** Reduced electric expenses for municipal buildings in Middleborough and Lakeville
- \$400,000** Interest income from MG&E operating cash in town accounts
- \$100,000** Toward legal expenses in Middleborough to secure an agreement with casino interests that benefits all MG&E ratepayers, should the casino plans move forward
- \$25,000** Reduced street lighting rates to towns we serve

Average electric costs per kilowatt-hour

June 2008



Emergency:

Gas 508-947-1535

Electric 508-947-3023

Service:

Customer Service & Billing
508-947-1371

Gas Service Questions
508-947-1535

Electric Service Questions
508-947-3023

Payment locations:

Main office:

32 S. Main St.,
Middleborough
8:45 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Pay Boxes:

Main office parking lot
32 S. Main St.,
Middleborough

Oak Point
Middleborough

Savas Plaza
Route 18, Lakeville

Stop 'N Shop Plaza
Route 28,
Middleborough

Holiday Closing:

Friday, July 4
Independence Day

Commission Meetings:

Meetings are typically held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Administrative Offices at 32 S. Main St., Middleborough. Please call 508-947-1371 to confirm dates and times.

**Great Deal:
Clean early & save!**

The Energy Miser cleaning service for gas furnaces is offered for \$40 for our customers between June 1 to September 1. After that, the price rises to \$55. Save \$15 now and even more with a cleaner furnace this fall.

What you can do to make a difference

Our recent involvement in a complaint against the regional transmission authority for the costs associated with the Canal generating station is being considered by federal regulators and might result in saving each residential customer as much as \$50 per year.

We also support the Consumer Protection & Cost Accountability Act, a federal bill filed by New England legislators to keep generating costs down, and so can you.

Simply write or call your Senator or Congressman voicing your support for fair practices in electric generation. Check out our website MGandEonline.com and click on News and Weather/News Brief to see the latest information about this action.



The Canal generating station in Sandwich is the subject of an important complaint about unfair power costs.

What's in your world?

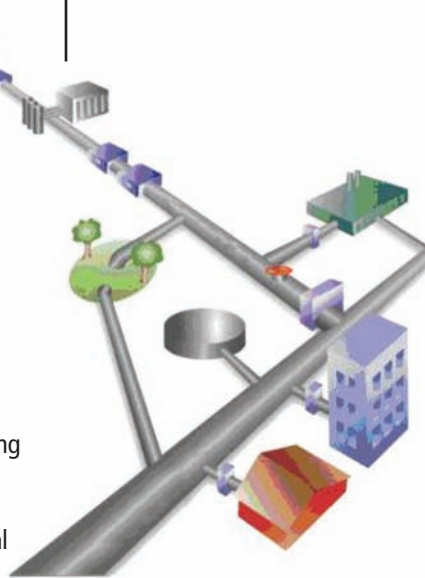
MG&E is sending all our customers – both gas and non-gas – an important pamphlet about recognizing natural gas locations, preventing damage, and calling for help if ever needed.

Even if you don't have natural gas service, this information can help you to prevent damage to underground pipes when digging, detect a leak while at a neighbor's home or business, and get help if you witness damage. Please take a few minutes to read this important pamphlet when it arrives in your mailbox.

Hold on to those balloons!

Those innocent-looking metallic and oversized balloons can wreak havoc with electric service. Just one balloon in the wrong place can cause a short circuit, damage electrical equipment, and even injure utility employees working on the system. Remember:

- Always attach a weight to metallic balloons.
- Never release a metallic balloon outdoors.
- Keep metallic balloons away from power lines.
- Never use metallic ribbon with metallic balloons.
- Never release large bunches of latex balloons.



Natural gas distribution system

Connections

Try this website to learn about buying right when buying energy efficiency. The Federal Trade Commission hosts an Energy Savings site designed to help you choose the cost-effective way to conserve at ftc.gov/energysavings.



Wildflowers at the Campanelli Industrial Park

How much do we spend each month?

Groceries	Food consumed at home (no alcohol)	\$296.17
Eating Out	Restaurants	\$233.58
Telephone	Including cell phones	\$86.92
Entertainment	Movies, rentals, sports, games, hobbies	\$192.08
Clothing	Including dry-cleaning	\$170.50
Electricity	MG&E residential average	\$126.64

Source: Monthly average spending figures from the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economics division, for an average Northeast family of 2.4 in 2007. Visit MGandEonline.com, Home Appliance Calculator, to break down energy costs in your home.

