



## **NSTAR, WMECo Prepare for Potential Blizzard**

**Monday, January 26, 2015 – 11:00 a.m.**

### **OVERVIEW AND SYSTEM STATUS**

- NSTAR and WMECo continue to monitor a major storm that is slated to affect the entire Northeast, and preparations are underway for a potential multi-day event.
- We are working closely with and communicating to all key stakeholders to successfully coordinate a safe response to this potential storm.
- An ERP will be declared at 12 p.m. today: Level 4 for WMECo, Level 2 for NSTAR.
- Weather: After midnight tonight activity will pick up, with the heaviest snow and wind occurring from midnight through Tuesday afternoon. Across Massachusetts, snow fall totals will range from one to two feet, with isolated areas of up to 30 inches. The snow will be dry in most areas, but heavier wet snow in the south and along the Cape. Winds will be strongest from 3 a.m. through about 3 or 4 p.m. tomorrow. Sustained winds generally will range from 25 to 35 miles per hour with gusts up to 55 possible. The Cape and Islands however will see much stronger winds, sustained 30 to 40 miles per hour with hurricane force gusts as high as 75 or 80.
- NSTAR and WMECo prepare for severe weather every day, and are poised to respond to any potential impacts from this storm with a safe and timely power restoration effort.
- The next Command and General Staff call is scheduled for 2 p.m. today.

### **OPERATIONS | PLANNING**

- EOCs are being activated at 10 p.m. tonight in Boston, Plymouth, Southborough, Yarmouth and Springfield. 10 RMTs associated with these EOCs also will be made operational.
- Line crews, damage assessors and other key personnel resources will be available throughout the event, with most in place at 1 a.m. Tuesday. Currently finalizing all staffing plans and the RODS system is now up and available for use.
- Preparing use of our “Wires Down Partnership” during the storm and “Community Task Force” teams after the storm in priority communities if needed.
- Mobile trailers will be at the ready in Yarmouth and Plymouth to be deployed as needed for restoration support once the storm has subsided. Also pre-staging generators in key areas.

### **LOGISTICS**

- Equipment, food and other key supplies will be in place. Vehicle preparation is occurring before the storm begins, including snowmobiles.
- Available storm accommodations and other lodging have been identified and secured in the vicinity of each active EOC.
- Staging centers are also being identified and prepared in case they are needed.
- Preparations are in place for snow removal at company locations, substations and other key areas.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION | COMMUNICATIONS**

- NU Today will include pre-storm article in today's edition with follow-up planned for later today.
- Safety Briefings sent out Sunday to discuss with field employees this morning on preparing safely for the storm today. Safety sign boards will be updated today at NSTAR locations.
- A storm preparedness press release will be issued today for NSTAR and WMECo. A media event is also occurring at Mass. Ave. this morning about company mobilization.
- Call centers are prepared to respond to increased calls if necessary and staffing for multi-day event.
- Life Support phone calls were made yesterday for NSTAR and WMECo Life Support customers and will occur this afternoon as well. Today, emails and outbound calls will be sent to customers about storm preparedness.
- NSTAR Gas customers are being reminded to keep natural gas meters, vents and piping clear of snow in order to maintain safe operation and access.
- Community Relations is now reaching out to communities about NSTAR and WMECo storm preparation. Community liaisons will be stationed at EOCs.
- DPU notifications are occurring.
- At 10 a.m. company representatives are holding a conference call with the Governor's Office and other state officials to provide an overview of our preparation, staffing and customer and community outreach.