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November 13, 2007

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**ON PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS**

The Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works convened on November 13, 2007, with Chairman Walter Pero presiding and Committee Member Alderman Rebekah Gewirtz also present and voting. Also present were Alderman Sean O'Donovan and William Zamparelli from NSTAR.

Mr. Zamparelli told the members that the recent power outages in parts of Ward 5 and 6 were caused by a circuit breaker taking out equipment at the Willow Ave. sub-station. Mr. Zamparelli said that this was the first outage in the Willow Ave. area in 2 years. Alderman O'Donovan stated that his constituents have informed him that the outages have been occurring more frequently and that there have been approximately 3 outages in the past year. Residents have also told Alderman O'Donovan that their electric bills keep going up. Alderman O'Donovan suggested that NSTAR track the outages citywide and provide the data to the Commissioner of Public Works for the committee to address, as needed. Chairman Pero requested that NSTAR provide the committee with an update of how many outages have occurred over the last 5 years in the area of the Ward 5 / Ward 6 bike path to Magoun Square. Alderman Gewirtz asked if NSTAR could provide her with information of outages and an approximate length of time that power might be out.

Chairman Pero's motion **that NSTAR notify the city's Communications Department anytime its arborist is trimming trees in a neighborhood**, was approved. Mr. Zamparelli informed the members that NSTAR would work with the Police and Fire Departments on outages, but noted that as a general rule, when power is shut off for public safety, NSTAR won't send out a public notification due to Homeland Security and Public Safety issues.

Alderman Gewirtz spoke about trees being killed as a result of gas leaks and Mr. Zamparelli stated that NSTAR would replace any tree killed in such a manner and he explained that there are varying degrees of leaks. Mr. Zamparelli stated that he would forward information on these degrees to the Clerk of Committees.

No papers were acted on.

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Alderman Walter Pero, Chairman  
Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Report of the Committee on Public Utilities and  
Public Works, November 13, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

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Clerk