

## Fall 2011 SNEC Tour

On October 30, 2011, about a dozen Southern New England Chapter members gathered at the Chestnut Hill Reservoir in Boston for a tour of the recently opened Metropolitan Waterworks Museum. The Museum is located in the former High Service Pumping Station of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). It was a sunny but blustery Sunday afternoon - the day after the "freak" October snow-storm that buried much of the region and unfortunately left so many without power for several days. The tour was organized by SNEC Treasurer Sara Wermiel and led by MWRA engineer Marcis Kempe and museum board member Dennis De Witt.

The tour began with a presentation by Mr. Kempe in the museum's second floor meeting room, overlooking the Great Engine Hall. The presentation included a short history of Boston's water system through the years and details of the various reservoirs and features of the pumping systems, including the three remaining pumping engines, which now form the focal point of the museum.

After the presentation, the tour proceeded across

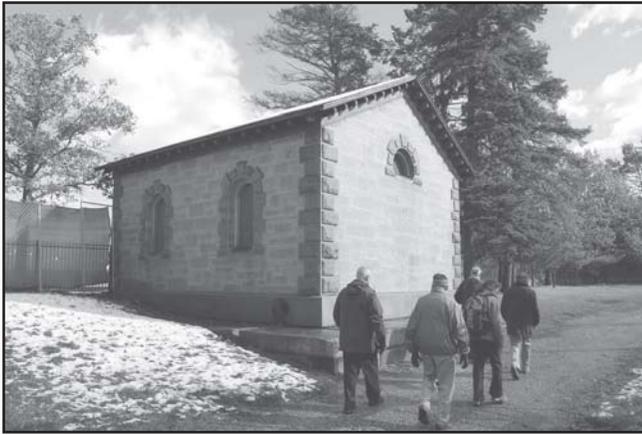


*SNEC-SIA members outside the historic High Service Pumping Station, which now contains the Waterworks Museum, Boston, Massachusetts, October 30, 2011.*

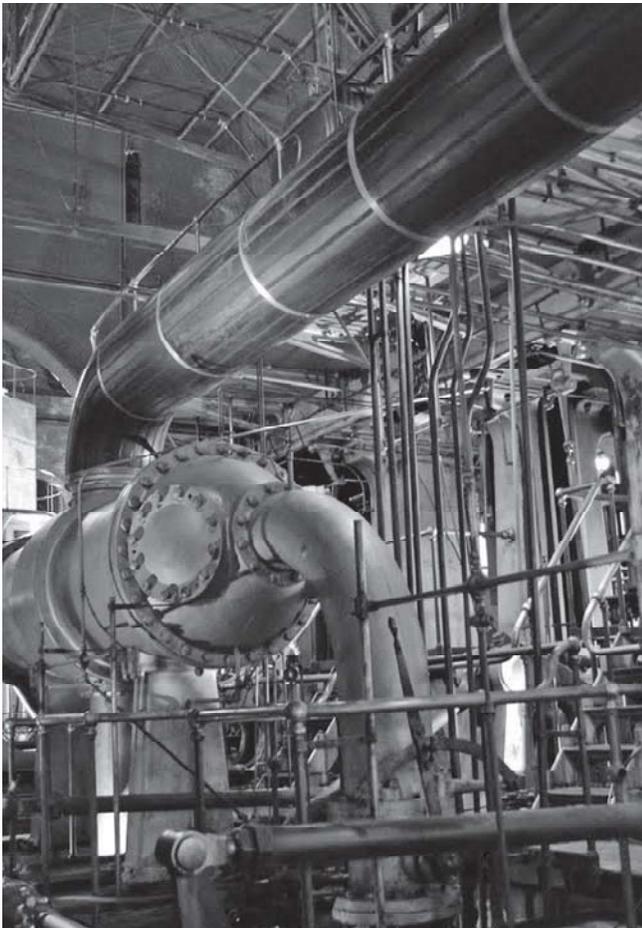
Beacon Street to Gate House #2, completed in 1901 to control the flow of water between Chestnut Hill Reservoir's Bradlee Basin and the High and Low Service Pumping Stations.

Next, the group walked along the shore of the reservoir to the 1868 Intermediate Gate House, originally built to control the flow of water between the Lawrence and Bradlee Basins of the Chestnut Hill Reservoir. Boston College filled in the Lawrence Basin during the 1950s for their athletic fields. Although it is no longer in active service, the Intermediate Gate House still contains the original gearing that allowed an operator to control the flow of water in vari-

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*SNEC-SIA members tour the Intermediate Gate House (built 1868), Chestnut Hill Reservoir, Boston, Massachusetts, October 30, 2011. This structure once controlled the flow of water between Lawrence Basin and Bradlee Basin. The gate house is accessed via the Boston College athletic fields, located on the filled-in Lawrence Basin.*



*Inside the Waterworks Museum, Boston, Massachusetts. Part of a tour with the SNEC-SIA, October 30, 2011. View of the Leavitt-Reidler Engine.*

ous directions. It is a very well-preserved building, and even has its original wooden roof frame.

The group next stopped at the 1878 Sudbury Terminal Chamber. Located at the end of the Sudbury Aqueduct, this handsome stone structure contains five control gates at the west end of the Bradlee Basin. The building's windows contain iron bars and are open to the air outside for ventilation since it is always dark and damp on the inside.

The tour concluded with a close-up view of the museum's displays including the ASME Landmark 1894 Leavitt-Riedler pumping engine, the 1916 Worthington-Snow and the three-story-tall Allis Engine located under the 1897 addition to the High Service Pumping Station.

SNEC members held a short meeting after the tour to discuss ways of improving communication amongst the group and encourage more participation, for example, in planning future elections and tour events. During the meeting, it was agreed that the chapter website should be updated more frequently with upcoming events and information, and that the bylaws be posted on it for the benefit of all members. Ideas for increasing membership were also discussed, including creating a new informational flyer and networking with local colleges, museums, and similar groups to increase awareness about the SNEC and SIA in general. Carol Auer and Michael Green volunteered to take on the task of collecting information on upcoming SNEC events and other events that might interest members, and sending this out in emails periodically to members. Michael Green also volunteered to work on planning tours. Anyone who would like to work with Mike on planning tours or programs, or has an event announcement to send to members, please contact Mike at slash2bmw@gmail.com.

Marc N. Belanger  
SNEC Member



*Inside the Waterworks Museum, Boston, Massachusetts. Part of a tour with the SNEC-SIA, October 30, 2011. Closeup of the Allis Engine.*