FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2026

Howard "Bud" Bemis Honored with NEPPA's Distinguished Person of the Year Award

Jacksonville, VT — October 13, 2026 — The Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA) has named Howard "Bud" Bemis as its **Distinguished Person of the Year**, recognizing his extraordinary 55 years of service, leadership, and commitment to public power in the Village of Jacksonville, the Town of Whitingham, and the broader Vermont community.

At age 95, Bemis recently stepped down from the Jacksonville Electric Board of Trustees, concluding more than five decades of steadfast leadership. During his tenure, Bemis played an essential role in guiding Jacksonville Electric through organizational transformations, system upgrades, and countless challenges. His work helped shape one of the most reliable electric systems in Vermont.

In the 1970s, Bemis was instrumental in negotiating service boundaries with Green Mountain Power and led the reconductoring of Jacksonville's main feeder line, significantly strengthening the utility's infrastructure and ensuring long-term service stability. Over the years, he mentored numerous village presidents and offered guidance to emerging leaders within the utility, including Jacksonville Electric's first General Manager.

"Bud's service embodies everything NEPPA's Distinguished Person of the Year Award stands for," said James Weber, General Manager. "His long-term commitment to advancing public power and to supporting his community has had a profound and lasting impact. His dedication will continue to inspire the public power community for generations."

Bemis's legacy is defined not only by his technical and operational contributions but by his unwavering commitment to the people he served. His leadership strengthened Jacksonville Electric's foundation and fostered a culture of reliability, collaboration, and community-driven public power.

NEPPA, VPPSA, and The Village of Jacksonville Electric Company congratulates Howard "Bud" Bemis on this well-deserved honor.

###

About the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA)
NEPPA represents public power utilities across New England, providing training, advocacy, and support to strengthen public power systems and the communities they serve.

About the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA)
The Vermont Public Power Supply Authority is a joint action agency serving Vermont's locally owned municipal electric utilities. VPPSA provides shared expertise and services in areas including power supply, regulatory and legislative affairs, rate design, finance, information technology, project management, and planning. Through collaboration, VPPSA's member utilities gain economies of scale and access to resources while maintaining local ownership, governance, and community focus.

About the Village of Jacksonville Electric Company

The Village of Jacksonville Electric Company is a community-owned utility serving Jacksonville and parts of Whitingham. For more than a century, it has delivered reliable electric service and invested in local infrastructure and customer-focused operations.

Media Contact:

James Weber
General Manager
Village of Jacksonville Electric Company
802-368-7010
james@jec.energy

Beth Parent
Manager of External Affairs & Communications
Vermont Public Power Supply Authority
802-578-2776
bparent@vppsa.com

Wendy Esche
Director of Marketing, Communications & Events
Northeast Public Power Association
978-540-2207
wesche@neppa.org

