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Press Release

March 3, 2011

Metro-North

IMMEDIATE

Regular New Haven Line Train Service Resumes Monday, March 7th^Diesel Trains Return to Waterbury Branch as Bus Service Ends

MTA Metro-North Railroad announced today that the full schedule will be restored to the New Haven Line on Monday, since sufficient progress has been made on the backlog of repairs to New Haven Line rail cars and overcrowding has been reduced.

Diesel train service also will return to the Waterbury Branch, which has been served by substitute buses. The two sets of diesel trains used by the branch had been pressed into service on the much busier main line because of the extreme shortage of electric rail cars, most of which are more than 35 years old.

"We regret the inconvenience in the form of overcrowding and less-than-reliable service that was experienced by our customers during this extraordinary winter," said Metro-North President Howard Permut. "We took the unprecedented step of implementing a reduced schedule to give our mechanics time to repair rail cars that had been damaged by the severe weather. I am delighted to be able to return to full service in just four weeks.

"The mechanics at the New Haven, Bridgeport, and Stamford shops deserve our gratitude for their exceptional dedication and skill in returning the fleet to service so quickly," Permut added.

On February 7, service in the AM and PM peaks was reduced about 10% and on Saturdays, trains operated on a Sunday schedule, which has about 16% fewer trains than a Saturday schedule.

At the worst point, half of the New Haven Line fleet of 320 electric cars was out of service and on-time performance plummeted similarly. As of Thursday morning, the number of cars still not available for service had been reduced to about 35, meaning some crowding will continue, but the on-time performance was back to its usual high level of 95% or better.

The restored schedule will remain in effect until April 3, when the regular spring schedule change occurs.

"We've made good progress in reducing standees, but we still have work to do in returning weather-damaged equipment to service over the next several weeks. Even with the expected rollout of 80 new M-8 cars this year, we still will need to use a portion of our older fleet next winter," Permut noted.

New Haven Line timetables are available at outlying station, in Grand Central Terminal and on line at mta.info