



*August
2024*

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2023-2024

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Municipal Electric Utilities Association of NYS

News and Views



Newsletter Contents

Executive Director Report

Chris Wentlent - NYISO Update

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Executive Director's Report

Where has the Summer gone? Labor Day is around the corner, and we are bombarded with back-to-school sale ads. After a warmer than average July, August has been a bit cooler, but not without its share of storms. Although

not as violent as July's weather so far, some of these storms have produced significant damage and outages in localized areas. Electricity consumption and sales were up a bit in July. We will see what August brings when all is said and done.

For some time now, we have been discussing New York State's mandate that all new school bus purchases must be electric powered starting in 2027, and that all school bus fleets must be fully electric by 2035. Roughly 23 of our MEUA member



systems have school district bus facilities within your service areas. Many of you have already

been in discussions with local school officials to begin the planning process to accommodate the significant loads associated with electric bus charging facilities. Since in many cases significant capital improvements are needed to provide the additional electricity, if you haven't heard from your local school officials, I encourage you to reach out as soon as possible to begin those discussions. If you haven't already submitted an application to fund an engineering planning study under NYESERDA's PON 5737, this is an excellent opportunity to obtain funding for the development of a capital improvement plan that could benefit your system as well as your local school district.

You should have recently received a registration reminder email from Ashleigh regarding the 2024 MEUA Annual Conference. The deadlines for hotel and conference registration are approaching quickly, so if you haven't already, please register as soon as you are able. We have packed a lot of information and opportunities for relaxed interaction with colleagues and vendors into a short time as you can see in the agenda set out in this newsletter. I hope you can make it.

There is not much new to report on the New York Power Authority's planned increase in the cost of our Niagara hydro power. We are continuing to ask questions and review additional information from NYPA and will keep you advised.



From time to time, I speak with visitors from other parts of the country and regularly hear comments about the beauty of the rolling hills here in upstate New York. With this year's plentiful rainfall, things are certainly as green as ever, and I never tire of admiring our rural landscapes. Take time to enjoy these last days of Summer and have a great Labor Day holiday with family and friends.

Take care,
Jim



NYISO Update Chris Wentlent

New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) Releases Its Preliminary Reliability Needs (RNA) Presentation on July 25

On July 25, 2024, the NYISO presented its initial findings on a preliminary basis for its 10 Year (RNA).

Several important highlights of the presentation include:

- New York City transmission security margin baseline is identified beginning in 2031 driven by the assumed retirement of some natural gas facilities.
- A statewide deficiency resource deficiency is expected in the 2034 timeframe driven by increasing demand, large loads, and assumed natural gas availability.

The objective of the preliminary results is to offer an opportunity for market stakeholders to provide input before the final RNA is approved. Another stakeholder meeting is planned for the September timeframe, and the final report is expected to be voted on at the Operating Committee and Management Committee in October 2024. The NYISO Board of Directors must approve it and file it with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in November 2024.

Offshore Wind – NY

On July 17, 2024, Governor Hochul announced the state of construction of the Sunrise Offshore Wind Project. The project is a 924-megawatt project being developed by Orsted. It is to be completed in the calendar year 2026. The project cost is socialized across New York State based on a load ratio share formula.

Sunrise Wind has already completed all major federal and state permitting milestones and received approval of its Construction and Operations Plan

(COP) from the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on June 21, 2024.

Draft Fire Code Announced to Enhance Safety Standards for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

On July 26, New York State announced updates to the New York Fire Code that contains draft code language to address recommendations from the Interagency Fire Safety Working Group. The draft code language includes updates and additions to improve coordination, safety and emergency preparedness in the planning of energy storage projects. As the battery energy storage system (BESS) industry evolves, the proposed recommendations will advance the safe and reliable growth of BESS capacity that is critical to the clean energy transition.

Proposed recommendations include:

- Requiring industry-funded independent peer reviews for all BESS installations exceeding energy capacity thresholds established for lithium-ion batteries;
- Requiring that qualified personnel or representatives with knowledge of the BESS installation are available for dispatch within 15 minutes and able to arrive on scene within four hours to provide support to local emergency responders in the event of a BESS fire.
- Extending safety signage requirements beyond the BESS unit itself to include perimeter fences or security barriers and include a map of the site, BESS enclosures, and associated equipment.
- Removing the Fire Code exemption for BESS projects owned or operated by electrical utilities to ensure that all projects comply with the Fire Code.
- Including a requirement that every BESS facility is equipped with an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and requiring site-specific training to be offered for local fire departments to familiarize them with the project, hazards associated with BESS, and procedures outlined in the ERP.

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2024 Tentative MEUA Annual Conference Agenda

Tuesday October 1st

- 9:00 am to 1:30 pm Registration Desk Open
- 10:00 am **Joint MEUA Executive Committee / NYMPA Board Meeting**
- 11:00 am to 1:30 pm Corporate Expo
- NOON to 1:00 pm Buffet Lunch / Welcome Remarks
John Goodwin, Canandaigua City Manager
- * 1:30 to 2:00 pm Opening Business Session w/ Reports
President Bryan White Presiding
1. Call to Order
 2. Call of the Roll
 3. Proof of Notice of the Meeting
 4. Executive Secretary's Report and Minutes
 5. Association Treasurer's Report
 6. Executive Director's Report
 7. Committee Reports
 - a. Safety and Training / Mutual Aid - Owen McIntee
 - b. Audit and Budget
 - c. Accounting and Finance
 - d. Engineering
 8. President's Report
 9. Unfinished Business
 10. New Business
 - Introduction of Resolutions
 - Proposed 2025 Budget Review
 11. Report of Nominating Committee - Election of new EC Member
- 2:00 to 2:30 pm IEEP Quarterly Meeting and Update– Mike Lyons and Chris Wentlent
- 2:30 to 2:40 pm BREAK
- 2:40 to 4:00 pm Life Skills for Managers: *Motivating Employees through compassionate leadership and Health Coping Strategies for Stress and Anxiety*. Diane Lang – Therapist, Educator and Life Coach
- * *Closed Session*
- 4:00 to 5:30 pm Free time – emails, phone calls, walks, etc.
- 5:30 to 7:00 pm Welcome Cocktail Reception
- 7:00 pm Dinner @ Hotel – (Business Casual)

Wednesday October 2nd

- 7:00 to 8:30 am Breakfast buffet
- 8:30 am Registration Desk Opens

- * 8:30 to 8:50 am Albany Update - John Jennings, Esq.
- * 8:50 to 9:20 am CLCPA & NYSRC Updates – Chris Wentlent / Jay Brew, Esq.
- * 9:20 to 10:00 am NYPA Rate Increase Process Update
Ken Podolny, Esq. and Kevin Brocks, Esq.
- 10:00 to 10:10 am BREAK
- 10:10 to 10:30 am NYCOM’s 2024 Initiative and Member Resources – Hon. RuthAnn Loveless, Mayor of the Village of Hamilton
- 10:30 to 11:10 am Advice for Municipal Officials Using Social Media
Megan Dorritie, Esq.
- 11:10 to 11:30 am Alfred University internship program presentation
- 11:45 to 12:30 pm **Golfers: Box Lunch @ *Centerpointe Golf Club***
- 12:30 to 5:00 pm **Annual Read & Laniado Golf Tournament
@ *Centerpointe Golf Club***
- 12:00 to 2:30 pm **Non-Golfers Lake Cruise and Lunch – leaves from dock
behind the hotel at 12:30 pm.**
- 2:30 to 5:00 pm **Non-Golfers Activities on your own**
- 5:30 to 7:00 pm Cocktail Hour Reception
- 7:00 pm Annual Banquet Dinner (Business Dress)
 - Invocation
 - Executive Director, Jim Stokes, Introductions
 - Association Awards Presentation
 - Golf Awards – Rob Schneider
 - Charity Auction Winners

Thursday October 3rd

- 7:00 to 8:30 am Breakfast buffet
- * 8:30 to 9:00 am Legal and Regulatory Update - Ken Podolny, Esq.
- * 9:00 to 9:15 am Closing Business Meeting
 - A. Adoption of Budget
 - B. Report and Adoption of Resolutions
 - C. Remarks by Bryan White, President and
Presentation of Gavel to New President
 - D. Announcements and Adjournment

* *Closed Session*

NYMPA SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWS at 9:30 am

- 12:30 pm Lunch and Departure

NYISO Update

Chris Wentlent

(Continued from Page 2)

- Including a Fire Code requirement in all BESS installations for monitoring of fire detection systems by a central station service alarm system to ensure timely, proper notification to the local fire department in the event of a fire alarm.
- Introducing a new provision in the Fire Code mandating regular industry-funded special inspections for BESS installations to ensure thorough safety and compliance.

Interested parties are invited to submit comments relating to the draft code language through the Notice of Rule in Development process with the New York Department of State by September 24, 2024. View [The Rule in Development](#).

2024 MEUA EVENT CALENDAR

MEUA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 1-3, 2024

Hotel Canandaigua, Canandaigua

FALL ACCOUNTING & FINANCE WORKSHOP

November 6-7, 2024

Embassy Suites by Hilton Destiny USA, Syracuse

FALL ENGINEERING WORKSHOP

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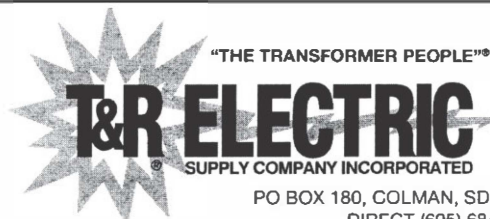
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