



*May
2024*

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2023-2024

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*To foster and advance the
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distribution,
conservation and
prudent use of electric
power and energy for
public service for the
mutual benefit of all
members.*

Municipal Electric Utilities Association of NYS

News and Views



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Municipal Members

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Executive Director's Report

Greetings Everyone,

The last snowflakes of Winter have disappeared, and Spring is in full bloom. These “shoulder months” may not be great for electricity sales, but they surely are a boost to the human spirit. It also means it's time for MEUA's semi-annual meeting on May 21st and 22nd. As usual, the meeting is at the Embassy Suites Destiny in Syracuse. In keeping with recent practice, the conference will piggyback on the NYMPA annual meeting so as to minimize the overall number of meetings and your time away from your home systems. If you are a NYMPA member, please keep in mind that the NYMPA meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday the 21st ahead of the MEUA conference that begins that afternoon.

We are continually striving to make our conferences and meetings more convenient and productive for both our municipal and corporate members. There will be a survey form with a few questions at the conference, but please reach out to Ashleigh or me at any time with any suggestions or ideas you may have to improve the way we do things.

MEUA has a long history of partnership with the New York Power Authority. Most importantly, NYPA's Niagara Project supplies low-cost hydro power to our systems, but we also work closely with NYPA on many other initiatives. For instance, I would like to thank all of you who responded to the information requests that facilitated the preparation of NYPA's report to the Governor and the Legislature in which NYPA concluded that a REACH-like program is not feasible or advisable for NYS municipal electric utilities and co-ops. This conclusion supports MEUA's position that such a program would impose an additional administrative

burden on our systems that far outweighs any potential public benefit.

MEUA also meets regularly with NYPA and non-member municipal and rural co-op utilities to exchange information and ideas about energy efficiency technologies and programs to benefit our systems and customers. Two of those programs will be featured at this month's conference. Emily Alkiewicz, NYPA Director of Power Contracts & Tariffs, will be presenting an overview of NYPA's Industrial Economic Development Program, and Ryan Grieco, NYPA Key Account Executive, will be discussing the Municipal Alternative Vehicle Program. I hope you can be in attendance.

There will also be much conversation at the conference regarding a very promising program that may provide valuable financial assistance to our member systems. This program, the Technical Assistance Funding to Develop Grid Modernization Projects (PON 5737) is federally, and state funded and is being administered by NYSERDA to provide assistance to New York's municipal electric and rural co-op utilities. If you can't be at the conference, please reach out to us here at the MEUA office for further information.

If you haven't already, you should very soon be receiving the 2023 annual report of MEUA's Independent Energy Efficiency Program (IEEP). The report contains a wealth of information about how our systems are promoting energy efficiency in their communities, so please take the time to review it when you can. The excellent quality of this report also reflects the professionalism and dedication of the small but efficient team that administers the IEEP. Led by Mike Lyons, additional support comes from Chris Wentlent and our friends at Honeywell, along with the volunteer management committee that includes Chuck Rankin of Groton, Andrew Thomson of Westfield, Jennifer Obert of Mayville, Nancy Mitchell of Hamilton and Holly Evans of Fairport. Many thanks to all of you who make this program so successful.

Next month, Chris Wentlent and I will be attending the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) Joint Board of Directors and Management Committee meetings. This annual event provides a forum for the exchange of information about current challenges as well as the future of the New York power grid. Look for reports in future editions of the News and Views.

Take care,
Jim



NYISO Update Chris Wentlent

New York State Agency – Leadership Vacancies Update

New York State Public Service Commission

New Public Service Commissioners Denise Sheehan and Uchenna Bright were welcomed during the April 2024 New York State Public Service Commission (NYSPSC) session. They replaced Commissioners Burman and Howard. The general background for each new commissioner is listed below:

Ms. Sheehan, a former DEC Commissioner from 2005-2007, worked as an Executive Vice President of Capitol Hill Management Services (CHMS), which is a management consulting firm, and was a senior policy adviser for New York Battery and Energy Storage Technology Consortium (NY-BEST). She has more than thirty years of experience in the government and non-profit sectors.

Ms. Bright previously worked at NRDC for seven years in various roles. She also worked as an Eastern States Advocate for Environmental Entrepreneurs, a business group supporting environmental policies, and focused primarily on New York and Pennsylvania.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Sean Mahar will take over as the interim commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) replacing former Commissioner Basil Seggos. Mahar, a Siena graduate, will serve in an interim role as the state conducts a national search to identify a permanent replacement.

Mr. Mahar previously served as the chief of staff and assistant commissioner of public affairs with the agency. Before joining the DEC, Mahar served as director of government relations and communications for the Audubon New York conservation organization and served as an adjunct professor at his alma mater Siena, teaching a course on Environmental Policy and Management at the Loudonville college.

Long Island Power Authority

Tom Falcone, former LIPA CEO announced his resignation on Monday, March 18. John Rhodes, former PSC Chair at the New York State Public Service Commission was named to fill the vacancy on an interim basis while a permanent search is completed.

Mr. Rhodes was the Chair of the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) from June 2017 to February 2021. He also served as the CEO of the Department of Public Service (DPS) during that time. He has over 30 years of experience in the energy industry and financial sector. He has worked as a partner at Booz Allen Hamilton, the director of the Center for Market Innovation at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the president and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). In August 2022, Rhodes became a special assistant to the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy.

CLCPA and New York Economic Development

On April 17, 2024, Governor Hochul issued a press release further outlining the planned Micron Technology economic development project in Central New York. President Biden travelled to Syracuse to further highlight this enormous private

investment. The project is forecasted to promote up to 50,000 jobs, and \$100 billion in investment. The project will require substantial electric and water infrastructure.

On April 19, 2024, NYSERDA concluded the State's third offshore wind solicitation (ORECRFP22-1). On October 24, 2023, NYSERDA had provisionally awarded three offshore wind projects, subject to successful conclusion of contract negotiations. These provisionally awarded projects included: Attentive Energy One – 1,404 MW (developed by TotalEnergies, Rise Light & Power, and Corio Generation), Community Offshore Wind – 1,314 MW (developed by RWE Offshore Renewables and National Grid Ventures), and Excelsior Wind – 1,314 MW (developed by Vineyard Offshore).

After the provisional award announcement, material modifications to projects bid into New York's third offshore wind solicitation caused technical and commercial complexities between provisional awardees and their partners, resulting in the provisionally awarded parties' inability to come to terms. Given these developments, no final awards will be made, ORECRFP22-1 has been concluded, and NYSERDA will look to advance a future competitive solicitation. A major impact of this outcome is potentially impacting the state's ability to meet the 2030 – 70% renewable energy requirement. It was expected that these three projects combined would provide about 6-7% of the 70% requirement.

A major challenge going forward in New York State will be the state's ability to balance future energy needs, promote new economic development and job growth, while simultaneously meeting required 2030, 2040 and 2050 CLCPA mandates. As new energy demand is added to our New York electric grid – it will place even greater stress on the need to upgrade our Transmission & Distribution systems, build sufficient new renewable resources to realize the more immediate 70% by 2030 renewable energy mandate, and continue to grow New York State's economic future.

The most recent announcements on April 17 and April 19 provide an indicator of how difficult this balancing act will be.

2024 MEUA EVENT CALENDAR

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

May 21-22, 2024

Embassy Suites by Hilton Destiny USA, Syracuse

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

November 6-7, 2024

Embassy Suites by Hilton Destiny USA, Syracuse

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Thank You

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

- 8:00 am – 1:00 pm **Registration**
- 12:00 pm **Buffet Lunch**
- 12:00 – 2:00 pm **Vendor Expo**
- 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm *** Business Meeting**
- President Bryan White, Presiding**
Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
Proof of Notice of Meeting–Secretary Kimball Daby
Roll Call–Secretary Kimball Daby
President’s Report–Bryan White
Executive Director Report–Jim Stokes
Treasurer’s Report–Tom Posella
2023 Financial Review–**Mike Greene,**
Evans and Bennett CPAs
Presentation of Resolutions
- Proposed Amendment of MEUA Bylaws
- Committee Reports**
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Accounting & Finance | Holly Easling |
| Audit & Budget | Nancy Niswender |
| Engineering | Matt Hegarty |
| Safety & Training | Owen McIntee |
| Mutual Aid / Regional Liaisons | Owen McIntee |
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm *** IEEP Member Meeting and Update**
Mike Lyons, Chris Wentlent, Jim Stokes
- Proposed Amendment of IEEP Bylaws
- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm **Vendor Expo**
- 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm **Reception**
- 6:30 pm **Dinner – Speaker: The Hon. Brandon Williams**
Member of Congress – NY 22nd District

*** CLOSED SESSION**

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

- 8:30 am – 9:10 am * **Legal Update - Ken Podolny, Esq. and Jay Brew, Esq.**
- 9:10 am – 9:30 am * **John Jennings, Esq.**
- NYS Governmental Update
- 9:30 am – 9:40 pm * **Continued Business Meeting**
- Vote on Amendment of Bylaws
- Adoption of Resolutions
- 9:40 am – 9:50 am **Break**
- 9:50 am – 10:15 am **Industrial Economic Development Program: What it is and How it Works**
Emily Alkiewicz – NYPA Director of Power Contracts & Tariffs
- 10:15 am – 10:40 am **Funding Opportunities Update under IRA/IIJA** Lindsay Holle – NYPA Manager Key Accounts
- 10:40 am – 11:00 am **Municipal Alternative Vehicle Program: What it is and How it Works**
Ryan Grieco – NYPA Key Account Executive
- 11:00 am – 11:10 am **Break**
- 11:10 am – 12:15 pm **Panel Discussion: The CLCPA and New York’s Cap & Invest Program – Implications for Your System**
Jay Brew, Esq., Chris Wentlent, Ken Podolny, Esq.
- 12:15 pm – 12:30 pm **Closing Session**
- Questions from the floor
- Raffle drawings
- Announcements & Adjournment
- 12:30 pm **Lunch & Departure**

* **CLOSED SESSION**

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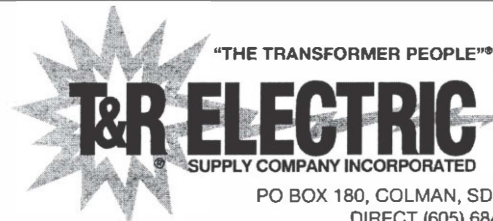
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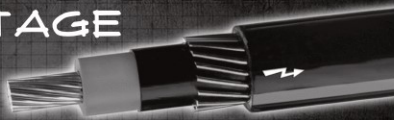
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