

September 2024



MEUA News and Views

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

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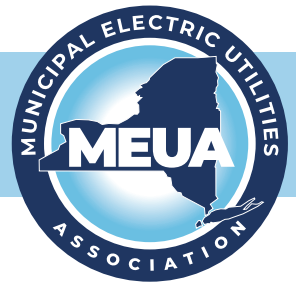
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Executive Director Jim Stokes

Executive Director's Report Jim Stokes

Greetings Everyone,

September—where we begin the slide into Fall (and Winter). Summer storms are pretty much behind us, leaves are starting to change, and farmers are vigorously harvesting crops. August was fairly normal—a bit on the rainy side, but cooler than July. September is typically a non-event in the energy world—too warm for heating load, and not hot enough for significant air conditioning demand. So far that has been the case this year. We have had some warm days, but for the most part the weather has been tracking pretty close to normal, as has been the case for most of 2024.

MEUA Executive Committee 2023-2024

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MEUA Mission

To foster and advance the efficient operation of publicly owned and operated electric systems, including the production, distribution, conservation and prudent use of electric power and energy for public service for the mutual benefit of all members.

The MEUA Executive Committee generally meets once a month. Typically, those meetings are held at the MEUA office in East Syracuse. This year, we have made an effort to hold some of our meetings in the communities represented by our board members. In August, we held a joint meeting with the NYMPA Board of Directors at the Village of Groton's new municipal building, followed by a luncheon at the local Benn Conger Inn. Many thanks to Chuck Rankin, Nancy Niswender, Angela Conger and everyone at the Village of Groton for your wonderful hospitality—and congratulations on a job well done on your beautiful new facility!



Governor Hochul held an energy summit in Syracuse earlier this month. Chris Wentlent attended on behalf of MEUA and gives a good summary of the meeting in his article that is part of this newsletter. Could New York State energy policy be taking a turn toward nuclear power? Stay tuned.



Even with all the issues that confront and concern us as a society and country, we should always be grateful for the bounty we continue to enjoy. Agriculture has changed significantly over the last few decades, but it remains an important part of the upstate New York economy, and, along with related processing businesses, a significant consumer of electricity in many of our member systems. From time to time, remember to give thanks for things we normally take for granted—readily available clean water to drink and plentiful food to eat.

Hoping to see many of you in Canandaigua. Take care,

NYISO Update

Chris Wentlet

Governor Hochul Announces Upcoming Global Summit to Discuss Expanding Clean Energy in New York's Growing Economy



On August 5, announced the Global Summit will be held in Syracuse on September 4 & 5. The summit will gather feedback on strategies to accelerate renewable energy and explore the potential role of next generation clean energy technologies. MEUA will be

attending the summit and will provide a summary in an upcoming *News & Views*.

NYISO Installed Capacity Working Group (ICAP)

The ICAP working group met on August 1, August 7 and August 13. The working group continues to discuss the proposed changes to the 2025-2029 ICAP Demand Curves. The NYISO Staff and Consultant Reports both recommend a 2-hour energy storage project as the proxy unit. However numerous market stakeholders including the NYISO Independent Market Monitor do not support the recommendation. It is expected the recommendation will be subject to review by the NYISO Board of Directors in the October/November timeframe. The final recommendation must be filed at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in November or December to be approved in time for the next capacity capability period, which is May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026.

Budget Prioritization Working Group (BPWG)

The BPWG met on July 31, and August 13. The NYISO staff reviewed the outcome of the stakeholder survey for proposed 2025 projects. In total, NYISO is proposing nine new projects for CY 2025. Four of MEUA projects were accepted in the final projects accepted including Balancing Intermittency, Capacity Market Structure Review, Winter Reliability Capacity Enhancements, and Winter Fuel Constraint Study.

The projects are expected to be finalized and incorporated into the 2025 Budget. The budget will be voted on in the November/December timeframe.

NYSERDA RES Solicitation for Tier 1 RECs

NYSERDA saw competitive interest in RESRFP24-1 Step Two Bid Proposals, the deadline for submittals was August 8, 2024. NYSERDA received bids from 38 projects, comprising 3.5 gigawatts (GW) of capacity. NYSERDA is evaluating the bids and intends to make public versions of the bids available on NYSERDA's website. Compared to previous solicitations, the level of activity was lower. This is a concerning outcome as New York must accelerate renewable energy development as outlined in the recent NYSERDA/NYS DPS Clean Energy Standard (CES) Biennial Report released in early July 2024.

Greenidge Data Center Lawsuit

In August 2024, Greenidge Generation LLC filed a lawsuit in Yates County against the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to block the agency's order to close its Dresden, NY power plant by Sept. 9. A hearing in the case is set for Sept. 3 before the Yates County Supreme Court. The lawsuit will test the DEC's authority to make permitting decisions for power plants based on the air emissions they create. The lawsuit states that Greenidge is the first company to be denied a renewal of its air permit due to conflicts with CLCPA goals. A decision could have impacts on future permit renewals for other businesses.

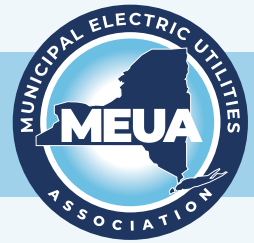
FUTURE ENERGY ECONOMY SUMMIT SUMMARY Syracuse, NY

New York State and Governor Kathy Hochul convened the Future Energy Economy Summit in Syracuse on Thursday, September 5 to bring together industry energy leaders to discuss how to reach Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) mandates while still achieving expected economic development projects created in the chip fabrication, AI, data and hydrogen industries.

Opening Comments

NYSERDA president and CEO Doreen Harris provided the Summit's opening remarks, stating that it is "all

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Independent Energy Efficiency Program Update

Mike Lyons

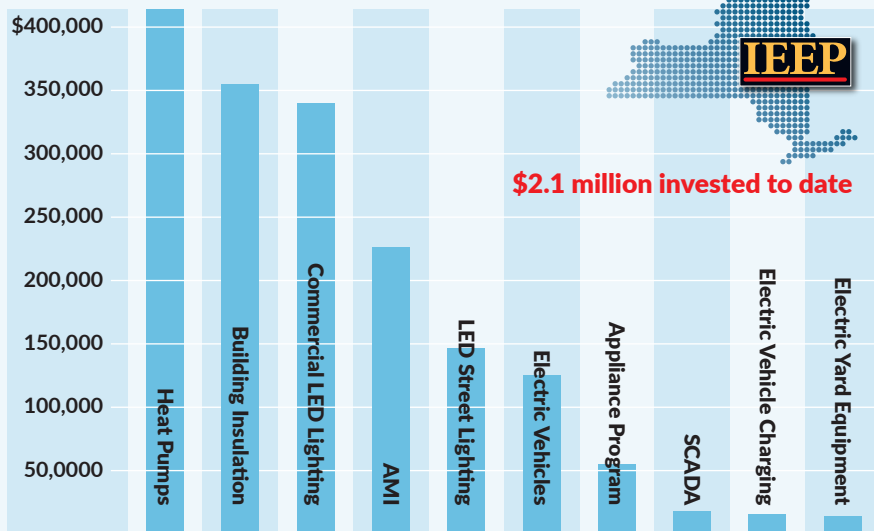
The Independent Energy Efficiency Program (IEEP) is on track to achieve our 2024 spending plan and has paid out over \$2 million of incentives through August for energy efficiency work completed, with another \$1.8 million of projects in process. Heat pumps, building shell improvements, and LED lighting projects make up our top 3 funding categories, representing 65% of this year's spending. The chart below provides an overview of year-to-date spending.



Results: Investments made this year have resulted in

- 228 cold climate heat pumps installed
- 68 commercial LED lighting projects completed
- 65 insulation and air sealing projects facilitated
- 1,550 LED streetlights upgraded
- 668 residential customers received incentives to purchase EnergyStar equipment

2024 ANNUAL IEEP SPENDING THROUGH AUGUST



This year several IEEP members are having success in upgrading their village offices, DPW buildings, police, and fire departments to install new energy efficient LED lighting, cold climate heat pumps, EV Chargers, and building shell improvements. These photos shows how the IEEP and the Village of Groton demonstrates a “lead

by example” effort by installing cold climate heat pumps and level 2 EV chargers at their new village facility:



The IEEP is planning for 2025 and beyond and will continue to demonstrate the MEUA’s commitment to programs and initiatives that support the achievement of New York’s electrification goals. Please contact the IEEP for assistance in promoting our programs to your customers such as:

- Insulation and air sealing programs
- Programs for low-income customers
- Commercial LED lighting and variable speed drive incentives
- Appliance, Electric Yard Care, and Heat Pump Rebates
- Incentives for municipal electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging equipment
- Power factor correction for industrial customers
- Custom projects for C&I customers
- LED lightbulb distribution support
- AMI / AMR smart meter programs
- Program marketing support

Thank you to all of our IEEP members who continue to make this program successful.

about starting to map the future” of New York’s energy. The information gathered is expected to be incorporated in the State Energy Planning Process, which was initiated by Governor Hochul on Friday, August 29. Harris recognized that wind, solar and energy storage will play important roles but the need for dispatchable emissions free resources (DEFERs) still exists, and we must pursue actions to solve this challenge. The event began with the unveiling of the “Draft Blueprint for Consideration of Advanced Nuclear Technologies.” A 30-day comment window is now open and NYSERDA is requesting public input on the draft blueprint by October 5. Comments can be submitted to draftblueprint@nyserdera.ny.gov.

Governor Hochul’s Comments

Governor Hochul stressed New York remains committed to the CLCPA goals, but we are also facing an energy shortfall over the next decade which cannot be ignored. Additional resources such as nuclear, geothermal, long duration storage and hydrogen must be fully evaluated to alleviate this going forward risk while providing dispatchable 24/7 resources that will be necessary to support the emerging economic development opportunities in New York State.

Governor Hochul identified three important themes:

- New York must continue to focus on building our renewable energy potential.
- New York must dedicate resources to research, development and commercial demonstration of new technologies.
- New York must leverage all funding opportunities to derisk such initial investments.

She closed her comments by stressing our state has always been a leader in the electricity space; and we can lead again in balancing and managing the economic, energy and environmental challenges of the Clean Energy Transition in a holistic manner.

Panel 1 – Richard Kauffman and David Crane, Department of Energy Undersecretary

Mr. Crane outlined how federal programs are helping provide financial resources to states, not only to

research new zero emissions technologies, but to implement them. Nuclear energy is an area of increased momentum and new development is occurring globally in Canada, China, and other countries. Federal money is available and can help maintain the momentum and promote greater efficiency in costs. The fundamental issue that nuclear technology faces is that the first-of-a-kind build is costly. It is important to continuously reduce costs for the additional reactors being considered to avoid project delays and cost overruns. Additionally, he pointed out that long-duration storage is a critical enhancer of other technologies and that the grid needs long-duration energy of not just 4-hour batteries, but also 10 hours or even multi-day. Mr. Crane also mentioned hydrogen and stated that it requires significant energy input to make, and demand is already targeted for industrial decarbonization and transportation related efforts.

Panel 2 – Accelerating Renewable Energy Deployment

This panel included representatives from Vestas, World Resources Institute, JP Morgan Chase, American Clean Power Association, and US Department of Energy Load Program. The panel members outlined the many challenges to overcome to build a renewable future including transmission - funding and timing, alleviating supply chain constraints, streamlining permitting and land use issues, the need for additional workforce development and training, and overcoming community related issues. Another issue identified by the panel was competition for available financial resources between chip manufacturing, AI, renewable energy and other emerging technologies. Other panel members offered advice on how to resolve some of the known obstacles delaying progress.

Panel 3 – Status of Next Generation Energy Technologies

The third panel of the day focused on the status of next generation technologies. Panel members included NY-BEST, National Renewable Energy Lab, Cornell, US Department of Energy, EPRI, and NY League of Conservation Voters. NY-BEST cited how long-duration (more than one day) storage needs to have a market driver, and how nuclear energy and storage can work

together in the future. The Advanced Research Projects Agency talked about hydrogen and the most reasonable near-term uses are hard to decarbonize industries and transportation systems. Hydrogen use within the generation sector requires greater supply volumes, transportation and storage solutions. Further, hydrogen uses are driven by region specific differences.

The panel agreed that record demand growth is occurring throughout the United States, while simultaneously, the electric grid requires significant infrastructure upgrades. Power quality, system reliability and cost will dictate where new development commercializes. To achieve success, it will require an all-options approach vs restricting options in the initial stages of the transition.

Panel 4 - Insights of Large Electricity Consumers

The panel members included representatives from Micron, Raymond Corporation, Council on Foreign Affairs, and National Grid Ventures. Micron stressed that their load requirements are 24/7 and a system reliable condition. If production is stopped in mid-stream, it creates loss of product. Accordingly, while renewable energy is a part of their expected portfolio going forward; base load dispatchable generation is also needed.

Raymond Corporation suggested that batteries are a short-term solution and that we must be able to offer the entire solution including other forms of generation, and T&D buildout to support long-term options. Failure to promote a holistic solution will impact future private sector investment.

Panel 5 & 6 - Global Perspective Advanced Nuclear Development/Blueprint for Advanced Nuclear Technologies

PSC Chair Rory Christian led the next panel on perspectives of advanced nuclear development in other states and nations. Panel members including Ontario Power Generation, EPRI, MIT and SUNY Buffalo. A key points this panel raised was learning from previous nuclear plant experiences and adapting those as the State considers building new plants. Ontario Power

Generation mentioned that Ontario is seeking to mitigate the first-of-a-kind upfront costs of a new nuclear plant by building four reactors at once. Six units in Canada were scheduled to be closed, but due to electric demand increase, the decision was made to refurbish four of the units. This decision was made because refurbishing the units was quicker and more economical. The effort helped reinvigorate the supply chain and construction contractors and the trade unions necessary for project success. Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) noted the exorbitant costs of a first-of-a-kind unit, however, additional units after the first have proven lower costs globally. MIT's representative acknowledged that New York has been a leader in preserving existing reactors and future development should include a full review of the existing sites. SUNY Buffalo's representative added that the federal government understands the importance of lessons learned from nuclear energy, and that the resource must play a vital role in New York as we add large capacity onto the grid.

The final panel discussed the draft nuclear blueprint. John Williams, NYSERDA, moderated the panel. The panel members included Clean Air Task Force, Nuclear Innovation Alliance, US Department of Energy Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear Program, Local 81 United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters, Onondaga County Executive McMahon, and Nuclear Energy Institute. The panel stressed that New York's experience with current operating nuclear assets must be leveraged. Public policy and acceptance are critical, however, upstate New York has already sited facilities for decades and has a good foundation to work from. J. Ryan McMahon, the Onondaga County Executive, stated that the draft blueprint is a good start to a conversation, but timing is everything. He reinforced that Onondaga County, New York State, and the federal government have already partnered on the Micron Project. To promote a more expedited approach, he suggested the same approach be considered in moving nuclear expansion forward.



Municipal Commission:

- Commissioner: David Ernst
- Commissioner: David Leffingwell
- Commissioner: Mark Emery
- Commissioner: Perry Egnaczyk
- Commissioner: Andy Bailey

Boonville, New York is situated 32 miles north of Utica and 48 miles southeast of Watertown. The township, which consists of 4400 residents, is nestled between the Mohawk River and Black River on the southeastern portion of the Tug Hill Plateau in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains. The earliest settlers hunted the Tug Hill in the mid-18th century on lands which are now downtown Boonville. The first attempt at establishing a permanent settlement here was made in the spring of 1796, when Gerrit Boon arrived. A native of Leyden, Holland, Boon was sent by Col. Adam Mappa, an agent of the Holland Land Company, to initiate land sales here.

Credited with being the founder of Boonville, Boon is not listed as the first settler. That honor is given to Andrew Edmunds because he brought his family to the northern wilderness when he arrived with Boon. The men were in the process of constructing a sawmill on Mill Creek

Village of Boonville

13149 State Route 12
Boonville, NY 13309

Website: www.villageofboonvillenyny.com
Phone: 315-338-2880

Settled: 1795

Town Formation: 1805

Incorporated: 1855

Population: 4400

Electric Utility Established: 1903

Customers: 3400

System Operating Voltage: 13,200 & 8,320

Mayor: Judith Dellerba

Superintendent: Robert Schneider

Senior Account Clerk: Miranda Zimmer



when a fire destroyed the entire project. As winter and a state of depression set in, the small band moved South to spend the winter. The following spring they returned, rebuilt the mills, and welcomed settlers on behalf of the land company.

In 1802, the first school was opened, and in 1805, the first church. On April 22nd of the same year, the first town meeting was held. In 1812, the first two-story building was erected and still stands on the town square: The Hulbert House. The 1850s were a golden decade for Boonville with a plank road, railroad, and canal,



Boonville Electric & Water, now known as the Municipal Commission of Boonville.

While early residents of Boonville may have settled Boonville due to the abundance of wild-life and timber, the current and potential residents choose Boonville for its central location and unlimited outdoor opportunities. Boonville is often referred to as the “snow capital of New York” with snowfalls averaging 150 plus inches yearly. Due to our geographic location the winters are crucial to the local economy, bringing in skiers, hikers, and snowmobilers by the thousands. Boonville hosts a Snow Festival every January which brings sled racers from all parts of the United States and Canada. Racers

which connected the village to the growing city of Utica. The Black River Canal was designed to connect the Erie Canal (Barge) to the Black River with Boonville playing an integral part. From Rome to Lyons Falls, 109 locks were constructed to lift boats, cargo and water levels.

try their luck on the world-famous ice oval located within the Boonville Oneida County Fair Grounds.



In 1855, the railroad was completed from Utica to Boonville. The same year, the village was incorporated. Sargent’s Mill, a manufacturer of stools and chairs, was established in 1851. Other important dates in the life of the villagers were: 1863, installation of the telegraph; 1897, completion of the first reservoir in the village water system; 1898, streetlights were provided; 1900, telephone lines arrived; 1904, the village homes received electricity which established the formation of

The transition from Winter into the Spring, Summer and Fall months provides our residents and visitors with some of the best access to lakes, rivers, canals, golfing, hiking, biking and ATV trail systems in the nation. Boonville is home to the NYS Woodsmen’s Field Days, drawing in vendors and spectators alike from up and down the east coast every August. Competitions held over a three-day period are used to determine who will be crowned as the annual National Lumber Jack & Jill Champions.

Boonville hosts weekly concerts in the park, countless fairs and festivals, along with the area’s best July 4th

continued next page



John Jennings, Esq. Harter Secrest & Emery LLP



Our last report coincided with the conclusion of the legislative session back in June. As expected, the legislature has not returned to Albany since, and they may not reconvene until the 2025 legislative session begins in January. There has been plenty of action on the legal and regulatory fronts (as Chris and Ken will attest in their reports), but the summer was relatively quiet legislatively.

This fall, however, we are likely to see Governor Hochul act on some of the bills of interest that passed earlier this year. As you may recall, a bill must pass both houses in identical form to be considered passed and then sent to the governor. This legislative session, each house introduced approximately 10,000 different bills, but only about 800 bills passed in both houses. The vast majority of these bills have not been sent to the governor yet.

One bill that we are watching closely is the so-called Climate Change Superfund Act. In short, it directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to identify businesses in the fossil fuel industry that have contributed to climate change, and to collect \$3 billion per year

to fund climate change adaptation. Many stakeholders in business and industry are lobbying the governor to veto the measure because they argue that it amounts to a massive new tax.

We have continued to lobby regarding A.1745-A/S.628 -A, which “strengthens complaint handling procedures.” Some of the key terms in the legislation lack clarity, and we are seeking amendments related to municipal electric utilities.

Finally, we will be communicating with the executive branch regarding next year’s budget. The governor releases the executive budget proposal in January, so much of the work related to its development occurs in the fall.

On the political front, every senate and assembly seat is up for election this year. As we’ve discussed in the past, the Democrats hold large majorities in both houses. The Republicans are unlikely to shift control of either house, but they will be working to gain enough seats to break the current veto-proof majorities.

We will keep you apprised regarding any legislative developments, and we will certainly provide a political update once we get past election day.

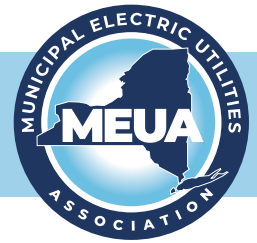


fireworks display. As the seasons change in Boonville, so does the decor of our community. Spring brings appreciation for our county with proud displays of flags and banners for those who have and those who currently serve our great nation. Our little Village Park becomes a focal

point due to the concert bandstand which is colorful and beautifully lit, depending on the season and the many causes our community supports.

Boonville officials continually seek public input to promote industrial and commercial growth while still preserving recreational opportunities. Boonville plans on increasing the snowmobile and ATV trail system to make our community even more accessible to all those who live in or visit the area.

The Municipal Commission of Boonville operates an elec-



Ken Podolny, Esq. • Reader Question of the Month

This month's question deals with Deferred Payment Agreements (DPAs). While the rules may seem straightforward, what you are required to do in specific situations can get a bit complicated.



Question: who is eligible for a DPA?

Answer: ALL residential customers are eligible for a DPA and MUST be offered one, unless the customer has broken an existing, MINIMUM DPA.

When do I have to offer a DPA?

- At least seven calendar days (10 days, if mailed) before a termination date in a final notice of termination
- when payment of outstanding charges is required for opening a new account
- when service has been terminated for non-payment
- when an existing DPA is broken (unless it is a minimum DPA)

What is a standard DPA? Each utility can have its own standard DPA. However, a typical standard DPA will require:

1. a downpayment of 50% of the arrears balance; plus
2. a monthly payment of 1/6th of the remaining balance; and

3. that all future charges be paid on time.

What is a minimum DPA? A minimum DPA must allow for no down payment and monthly payments as low as \$10 towards the arrears balance.

Is everyone eligible for a minimum DPA? Technically, yes, but only customers that demonstrate financial need qualify for a minimum DPA. You can require the customer to fill out financial information forms to establish need and to sign a DPA.

What happens if the customer defaults on a DPA?

If a customer fails to make a timely payment in accordance with their DPA, you must:

1. send a reminder notice at least eight calendar before you can send a termination notice
2. If the customer has not made payment or renegotiated their DPA by the 20th calendar day after payment was due, you can send a final termination notice.
3. Proceed with termination unless the customer demonstrates need and executes a minimum DPA.

The office has forms available for standard as well as minimum DPAs and the required reminder notices. As always, please contact us if you have any questions.

trical system providing power to 3400 customers with a footprint of just over 170 miles of distribution lines. The Municipal Commission of Boonville has 12 full time employees between the Electric and Water Departments.

For information regarding Boonville and what we have to offer, please visit The Village of Boonville at www.thevillageofboonvillenyc.com or The Boonville Area Chamber of Commerce at www.boonvilleareachamber.com.

The Municipal Commission website is www.mcboonville.com





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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

November 6-7, 2024
Embassy Suites by Hilton Destiny USA, Syracuse

Event Schedule
Opens 10am **Saturday**
September 21st 2024

DL Ease One All Event	The Posers 6:30p
HeelPath Brewery and Beer Garden All Event	Showtime 8pm
Food Trucks All Event	then FIREWORKS!
Car Show 10am - 3pm	
Farmer's Market 10am to Dusk	
Max Scialdone 11am	
Grit N Grace 12:30p	
Cridley Paige 2pm	
Car Show Awards Announced 3pm	
Soul Injection 3:30pm	
Shawn Smith 5pm	




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