



Municipal Electric Utilities Association of NYS

News and Views

November 2024

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2024-2025 Executive Committee

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Executive Director's Report



Greetings Everyone,

It's been another active month for MEUA. On October 24th, the Class of 2024 Line Mechanic's Apprentice Graduation dinner and ceremony was held at the Woodcliff Hotel in Fairport. This was our first year for this event at the Woodcliff, and the facilities and dinner provided a fitting setting to honor these young men that will carry on into the future for our systems and customers. Bill Hesson provided an entertaining yet sincere presentation, noting the tradition and significance of one's choice to have a career as a lineman.

Bill has dedicated his life to the training and safety of our linemen for more than 20 years since "leaving" Niagara Mohawk. I can't use the word "retired" as he has been more active in the last 20 years than most people half his age. In what has become a pre-graduation tradition, Bill treated the graduates to a jet boat trip on the Niagara River, giving them and a few select guests a great water level view of the NYPA generating facilities in Lewiston and the international connection to Ontario Hydro across the river.



On November 6th and 7th, the MEUA 2024 Fall Accounting and Engineering Workshops were held in Syracuse. Day 1 featured separate individual sessions reviewing various compliance and accounting issues as well as new distribution system enhancing products and technologies.

Day 2 featured a combined Severe Weather Preparedness Workshop providing a forum to identify and share best practices and areas for cooperation and improvement in responding to severe weather events in New York. A collaboration between NYPA, MEUA and NYAPP, this workshop segment featured an open discussion focused on statewide weather trends and their impacts to the power grid, plans, resources, and personnel to respond to impacts, and best practices and lessons learned from attendees' past experiences.

Workshop attendees staying over in Syracuse Wednesday evening were treated to an after-dinner performance by mentalist Dustin Dean. We're not sure how he does it, but those in attendance were amazed by his feats of prediction. Combined with interjected humor, the result was an enjoyable time for all in attendance.



Mentalist Dustin Dean (left) entertaining workshop guests

As we have previously reported, the New York Power Authority has been legislatively tasked with developing additional renewable energy projects beyond its current core generation and transmission assets and responsibilities. In October, NYPA released its Draft Strategic Plan for renewable energy generation for public comment and scheduled a number of public hearings around the State. A copy of the plan can be accessed at: <https://www.nypa.gov/-/media/nypa/documents/document-library/renewables/NYPA-Renewables-Draft-Strategic-Plan>. MEUA presented comments on the plan at the public session held in Binghamton on November 14th. Excerpts from those comments are re-printed in this newsletter.



Bill Hesson displayed his musical talent in a guitar duet with apprentice graduate Dayne Hughey of Watkins Glen

Wishing you all the happiest Thanksgivings!

Take care,
Jim

2024 Line School Graduates

Seth Schumacher	Castile
Caleb Gordon	Fairport
Sean LeClair	Fairport
Torin Welch	Fairport
Jack Breed	Groton
Kellen Clukey	Plattsburgh
John Corrow	Plattsburgh
Chris Reynolds	Springville
Dayne Hughey	Watkins Glen

***Excerpt from comments presented by MEUA at the New York Power Authority
Renewables Public Hearing on November 14, 2024***

MEUA and its members have a decades-long relationship with the New York Power Authority. The majority of the electricity consumed by our members and customers is clean, low cost hydro power produced by NYPA's Niagara Power Project in Lewiston, NY that is critical to the economic vitality of our member communities. MEUA views the Niagara Power Project, as well as the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project as core missions of NYPA, and we fully support NYPA's planned investment of over 1 billion dollars in NYPA's Next Gen Niagara Initiative to preserve and upgrade Niagara's critical infrastructure to preserve this asset for generations to come.

We engage regularly with NYPA representatives and work cooperatively on matters and programs related to economic development, energy efficiency and the challenges of meeting New York State's electrification goals.

One of those initiatives is the Industrial Economic Development Program, which provides additional allotments of NYPA's Niagara hydropower to businesses within our systems that are growing and increasing employment. Another is the Municipal Alternative Vehicle Program, pursuant to which NYPA provides critically needed financial assistance to all 51 Municipal and Rural Electric Cooperative utilities in New York State to purchase alternative fuel fleet vehicles to reduce consumption of conventional fuels. Along those same lines, NYPA's EVolve NY program has provided millions of dollars in funding and technical support for the installation of DC EV fast charging stations in many of our member communities in furtherance with NYPA's efforts to build out a state-wide EV charging network that will support the continuing conversion of motor vehicles away from fossil fuel.

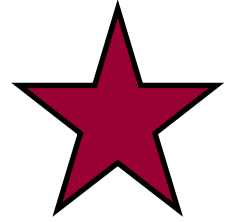
As NYPA moves forward with the development of new renewable energy projects, it is important that these new initiatives not adversely impact NYPA's core mission and its ability to continue as a reliable supplier of clean, low-cost hydro power. The significant increase in NYPA's operating costs that it will incur in the development and operation of new power generation initiatives must be borne by the projects themselves and must not be shifted in any way to existing NYPA customers. Moreover, the costs of new renewable projects must be considered as they are selected for development. One way or another, these costs will be borne by all ratepayers in the State, and that must always be a top consideration in selecting projects for development.

Additionally, NYPA's history of success is in large part to its effective administration of its assets and prudent planning. While we understand the calls for more ambitious action, MEUA urges NYPA to stay with a measured and reasoned approach to development of new renewable generation. And those initiatives should not be limited to conventional wind and solar projects. MEUA urges NYPA to also explore emerging technologies in the areas of long-term battery storage and nuclear energy.

MEUA acknowledges and applauds NYPA's efforts in producing this draft Strategic Plan. As we move forward, MEUA stresses the need to keep energy affordability and grid reliability at the forefront of the evaluation and development of all new energy generation projects and we look forward to our continued partnership with NYPA in achieving these goals.



Congratulations to the 2024 Line School Apprentice Graduates!!!



Graduate Jack Breed (center) & Supervisor Steve Teeter (center) from the Village of Groton.



Graduate Kellen Clukey (left) from Plattsburgh Municipal Lighting.



Graduate John P. Corrow (left) from Plattsburgh Municipal Lighting.



Graduate Caleb Gordon (center) & Superintendent Matthew Hegarty (right) from Fairport Municipal Commission.



Graduate Dayne Hughey (center) & Supervisor Tom Ballard (right) from the Village of Watkins Glen.



Graduate Sean LeClair (center) & Superintendent Matthew Hegarty (right) from Fairport Municipal Commission.



Graduate Chris Reynolds (left) & Foreman Tom Weronksi (center) from the Village of Springville.



Graduate Seth Schumacher (right) & Superintendent Tom Wright (left) from the Village of Castile.



Graduate Torin Welch (center) & Superintendent Matthew Hegarty (right) from Fairport Municipal Commission.



Congratulations to the November 2024

Engineering Workshop Door Prize Winners!



*Dan Fiorentino
(Frankfort)*



*Dylon Love
(Spencerport)*



*Jeff Pond, Jr.
(Salamanca)*



*Jeff Thomas
(Frankfort)*



*Ryan Skiff
(Tupper Lake)*



*Asher Billings
(Wellsville)*



NYISO Update Chris Wentlent

NYISO Installed Capacity Working Group (ICAP) –

The NYISO Board of Directors conducted a hearing on

Monday, October 14, 2024, regarding the 2025-2029 Demand Curve Reset Process and the final consultant report, The Board heard oral arguments from stakeholders both in support and opposed to the consultant recommendation to use a 2-hour energy storage project as the proxy unit to set the demand curves. A Board Decision is forthcoming and the NYISO must file the revised Demand Curves at FERC in November. The revised Demand Curves, if approved by FERC, are effective beginning May 1, 2025.

NYISO Winter 2024-2025 Assessment & Preparedness

Aaron Markham, Vice President, Operations provided a detailed assessment of Winter Capacity and Preparedness at the October 26 NYISO Operating Committee.

The key observations were:

- The NYISO expects sufficient winter capacity margins assuming all firm fuel generation available under normal and extreme weather conditions including the 50/50%, 90/10%, and 99/1% scenarios.
- Conditions in the more severe scenarios are impacted by natural gas pipeline constraints which affect natural gas generating facilities. Maintaining dual fuel (natural gas or fuel oil) capability is critical during these periods. The NYISO continues to monitor this area closely. Extreme cold weather normally results in fuel switching and the potential for higher energy pricing.
- Future reductions in winter capacity margins, disruptions in fuel supplies or other winter operational concerns may result in operational challenges given the reliance on

firm fuel generation during extreme cold weather events.

- The NYISO participated in various communications and coordination efforts with NERC, state agencies (DPS, NYSERDA), other ISOs/RTOs, and the natural gas industry, including Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA), Natural Gas Supply Association (NGSA), Northeast Gas Association (NGA), NY pipelines, and NY LDCs

New York Power Authority Releases Draft

The New York Power Authority released its draft NY Build Public Renewables Strategic Plan during October 2024. The plan outlines how NYPA will become more active in the renewable energy space within New York State including partnership with other developers and development of projects independently. NYPA will create a separate business model and subsidiary for this new area of business. Public Hearings will be held in Buffalo, Binghamton, Albany, New York City, Long Island and several virtual hearings. MEUA will participate in some of the planned hearings.



Albany Update: John Jennings Harter Secrest & Emery LLP

Election Day Update

Tuesday November 5th was Election Day, and as you have likely heard, Donald

Trump (R) defeated Kamala Harris (D) in the Presidential race. The Republicans recaptured control of the United States Senate and maintained control of the House of Representatives (although we are still waiting for final election results in a handful of races to know the final tally). In New York, Kirsten Gillibrand (D) won reelection to the U.S. Senate. In the House, the Democrats flipped three seats with Lauren Gillen (D) defeating Rep.

Anthony D'Esposito (R) on Long Island, John Mannion (D) winning against Rep. Brandon Williams (R) in Syracuse, and Josh Riley (D) defeating Rep. Marc Molinaro (R) in the expansive 19th Congressional District.

And while the federal races garnered the attention and coverage, all the legislative seats in New York were also up for reelection. Heading into this election, the Democrats held veto-proof majorities in both the Assembly and the Senate. As expected, Democrats maintained strong majorities in both houses. In the Assembly, the Democrats retained their veto-proof majority, but the Republicans broke the supermajority in the Senate.

This year, the ballot in New York also contained an initiative to amend the New York State Constitution, which voters approved by a relatively wide margin (at the time of this writing, approximately 57%-35%). It amends the Equal Right Amendment of the New York State Constitution, which will now provide that people cannot be denied rights based on their "ethnicity, national origin, age, and disability" or "sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy."

We are now gearing up for the legislative session, which will commence in January. We anticipate that there will be a shuffling of several key committees, especially in the Assembly. We will keep you apprised, and do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss election related matters.

2025 MEUA EVENT CALENDAR

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October 1-3, 2025

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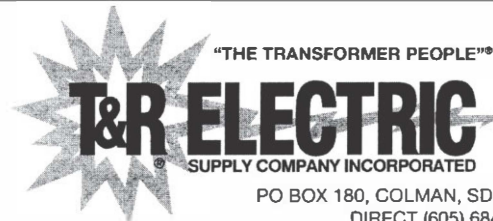
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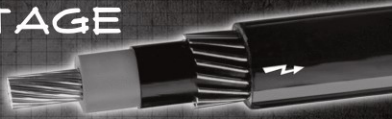
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