



February
2024

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2023-2024

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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.

Municipal Electric Utilities Association of NYS

News and Views



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*Akron- Andover- Angelica- Arcade- Bath- Bergen- Boonville-
Brocton- Castile- Churchville- Endicott- Fairport- Frankfort- Greene-
Groton- Hamilton- Holley- Ilion- Lake Placid- Little Valley-
Marathon- Massena- Mayville- Mohawk- Penn Yan- Philadelphia-
Plattsburgh- Richmondville- Rouses Point- Salamanca- Silver
Springs- Skaneateles- Solvay- Spencerport- Springville- Theresa-
Tupper Lake- Watkins Glen- Wellsville- Westfield*



Executive Director's Report

Greetings Everyone,

We certainly have a ways to go, but so far, this has been the winter that wasn't. Maybe March will come in like a lion and provide a late season boost to electric sales.

I want to encourage all of our systems and corporate members that have not already done so to register to attend the 2024 Spring Engineering and Accounting and Finance and Accounting Workshops to be held in Syracuse on Tuesday March 12th and Wednesday March 13th.

In addition to our traditional educational sessions and vendor expo, for the first time, the workshop includes a Tuesday evening dinner outing that will provide a fun and relaxed atmosphere to connect and network with your peers. Also, on Wednesday morning, we will hear from two notable and accomplished speakers. To start the day, Dr. Donnie Wendt will present his cutting-edge expertise on IT and AI issues. Following Professor Wendt, renowned counselor, educator, and positive living expert Diane Lang will lead attendees through sessions to improve your daily work experiences with improved time management and techniques to deal with negative personalities and workplace stress.

Among the many segments of MEUA's efforts of which we can all be proud is the work of the IEEP and the benefits it brings to our systems and customers. IEEP has been instrumental in working with the New York Power Authority to bring NYPA funded DC electric vehicle fast charger stations to 11 of our member systems. Four systems are currently operational in Fairport, Bath, Salamanca and Richmondville, and seven more systems are in the planning and development phase in Skaneateles, Hamilton, Spencerport, Churchville, Angelica, Watkins Glen and Westfield.

NYPA applied for a federal grant last year to fund additional sites. At this point NYPA has not received an award notice, but there is still a chance that NYPA may receive additional federal funding for the program. If so, MEUA has five members, Greene, Plattsburgh, Wellsville, Boonville and Solvay, in the queue for potential DCFC sites.

Of NYPA's original goal to develop 400 DC fast charger "ports", MEUA's 11 sites in operation and under development represent a little over 10% of that objective. We are appreciative of the productive collaborative relationship we have with NYPA and proud of the efforts of our member systems in developing these sites to facilitate New York's electrification goals. If you have an interest in exploring the possibility of establishing a DCFC location in your community, please contact me at the MEUA office.

Hope to see you in Syracuse next month.

Take care,

Jim



Reader Question of the Month: Ken Podolny, Esq.

Question: Why are there not a sufficient number of RECs available,

which in turn increases the requirement to purchase ACPs?

Answer: The short answer is there has not been enough renewable generation built to produce the number of RECs the Public Service Commission (PSC) requires for compliance. That is due to a number of factors, including permitting and interconnection issues, supply chain shortages, and inflation, all of which have acted to restrain the construction of new facilities. When utilities cannot or do not purchase the required number of RECs, they are required to pay Alternative Compliance Payments (ACPs), the price of which is set administratively each year by NYSERDA.

Of course, the full answer is longer and more complicated. New York State enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) in 2015 with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from electric generation. The CLCPA directed the PSC to establish a program to ensure, among other things, that: (1) at least 70% of statewide load be served by renewable generation by 2030, and (2) that there be zero emissions from electric generation by 2040.

In response, the PSC adopted the Clean Energy Standard (“CES”). The CES created direct obligations on utilities to support these goals. The original requirements centered on two programs, the Zero Emission Credits (ZECs) and Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). Because the PSC recognized that the CLCPA mandates could never be reached without the state’s nuclear generators, the ZECs were designed to ensure that those facilities remain operational.

That program works in a fairly straightforward way. Essentially, the participating nuclear generators are guaranteed a payment per MWh of energy they generate every year. Those payments are funded by requiring utilities to pay their proportional share of ZECs. For example, if the total due under the program to the generators in a given year is \$100M, and NYMPA represented 2% of the statewide load for that year, NYMPA is required to pay 2% of \$100M, or \$2M to fund the program.

The REC program was designed differently. Because the goal of the program was to incentivize construction of new renewable generation, the PSC came up with annual obligations for utilities expressed as a percentage of their load each year. These obligations would increase every year, until the State reached the 70% renewable goal by 2030. The REC price was set as the average of the price per MWh NYSERDA contracted to pay the developers producing the renewable energy/RECs. If a utility was unable to purchase enough RECs to meet its obligation, it would be charged an ACP. The ACP was originally set at 10% above NYSERDA’s REC price.

Problems with this approach became apparent immediately. There have never been enough RECs actually generated for utilities to meet their purchase obligations. As a result, ratepayers have been charged the ACP since the program began in 2017. Even after the PSC lowered the REC

obligations, the same issue has persisted. These are the REC obligations as set, and then modified by the PSC through 2024:

Tier 1 REC Annual Obligations		
Year	LSE Tier 1 Obligation	Updated LSE Obligation 3/16/22
2017	.035%	.035%
2018	.15%	.15%
2019	.78%	.78%
2020	2.84%	2.84%
2021	2.04%	2.04%
2022	5.61%	3.25%
2023	8.20%	6.16%
2024	–	6.45%

So, for example, if NYMPA’s total load for 204 is 3,000,000 MWh, it would be obligated to buy 6.45%, or 193,500 REC’s. The price for each REC available is determined by averaging the NYSERDA contract price per MWh paid to the renewable energy generators.

The ACP price, on the other hand, is set administratively at the beginning of the year based on NYSERDA’s projections of how many RECs generators would produce throughout the year. For 2024, that price is \$45.39 per MWh.

The problems with this approach are obvious. First, while ZEC payments actually go to the owners of the nuclear facilities, and only for each MWh of energy they produce, the ACPs go to NYSERDA. That is money collected from ratepayers since 2017 which is held by NYSERDA but not paid to generators as intended.

In recognition of this issue, the program design is going to change starting in 2025. Starting in 2025, the REC program will transition to a similar approach we currently use for ZECs. That is, NYSERDA will only sell the RECs they actually have, and the ACPs will be abolished entirely. Until then, the state’s ratepayers will continue to pay for a product that simply does not exist.



NYISO Update Chris Wentlent

NYISO - Operating Committee

On January 18, 2024, the NYISO Operating Committee approved the Final Calendar Year 2024-2025 Locational Capacity Requirements.

The following table compares the results from Calendar Year 2024/2025 to Calendar Year 2023/2025:

Results Comparison	Internal Reserve Margin (IRM)	NYC Zone J LCR	Long Island Zone K LCR	Hudson Valley Zones G-J LCR	Loss of Load Expectation (LOLE) - (Event-days/yr.)
2024-2025 Final LCRs	22.0%	81.7%	105.3%	81.0%	0.089
2023-2024 Final LCRs	20.0%	81.7%	105.2%	85.4%	0.098

The chart shows the statewide IRM will increase from 20 to 22%, while the locational requirements for Zone J (NYC) and Zone K (Long Island) remain basically the same. The increased capacity requirement is driven by asset changes, new transmission, and reduced emergency assistance from our neighboring power systems. The result of the analysis is that system load will need to acquire additional capacity to maintain LOLE reliability requirements.

Climate Action Council – The NYSDEC/NYSERDA released the second stage of engagement on December 21. The package of materials included a New York Cap and Invest Pre-Proposal Outline, and a list of planned webinars on January 23, 25 and 26. The January 23, the webinar covered The Role of Cap and Invest. On January 25, the topic was a review of the Pre-Proposal Outline, and finally, on January 26, the webinar covered the Preliminary Analysis Overview. Anyone interested in reviewing the webinars and presentations made can obtain the information at <https://capandinvest.ny.gov/Meetings-and-Events>.

This is an informal phase in the process. Stakeholders are recommended to send any comments by March 1, 2024, to the NYSDEC/NYSERDA regarding the information shared. A more formal stage is expected later this calendar year, with the current expectation to commercialize the program in CY 2025.

Energy Storage – Battery Fire Inter-Agency Task Force

On December 21, 2023, Governor Hochul announced release of initial findings from the Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group investigating recent Energy Storage Battery Fires at three locations (Jefferson, Orange and Suffolk counties) in New York State.

Based on available analyses of air quality, soil, or water data collected in the days following the incidents, the Working Group concluded that there were no reported injuries and no harmful levels of toxins detected.

Additionally, statewide battery system project assessments and fire code reviews are currently underway with draft recommendations expected to be released for public comment in the first quarter of 2024.

The Working Group includes representatives from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Department of Public Service (DPS), and the Department of State (DOS). The group was convened in August 2023 and has gathered data and worked diligently with project developers, equipment manufacturers, and government officials to learn as much as possible about the fires at the three battery system sites.

**Legal Notice
Village of Groton
Invitation to Bid**

The Village of Groton will receive sealed bids for the purchase of a RF Mesh Advanced Metering Infrastructure. The bids will be publicly opened on April 5, 2024 at 12:00 noon local time.

Invitations and bid proposals may be obtained at the Clerk-Treasurers office at the municipal building, 143 E Cortland Street, Groton, NY 13073.

Please submit all sealed bids and invitations to the office of the Clerk-Treasurer at the Groton Municipal building, 143 E Cortland Street, Groton, NY 13073.

The Village of Groton reserves the right to reject any or all bids or waive any or all requirements.

2024 MEUA EVENT CALENDAR

SPRING ACCOUNTING & FINANCE WORKSHOP

March 12-13, 2024

Embassy Suites by Hilton Destiny USA, Syracuse

SPRING ENGINEERING WORKSHOP

March 12-13, 2024

Embassy Suites by Hilton Destiny USA, Syracuse

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

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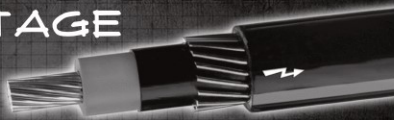
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