December 2023

MEUA News and Views

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

Community Christmas tree and First Baptist Church on the Hamilton Village Green

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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.

Executive Director's Report
Jim Stokes

As I look out the window at the lightly falling snow, I can't help but wonder where the year went. It seems that we just turned the calendar to 2023.

As we are planning for 2024 conferences and activities, it struck me that we are rapidly approaching the 100th anniversary of the founding of MEUA in 1930. With that in mind, I wanted to take this opportunity to briefly look back in order to better focus our outlook on the future.

Kevin Brocks with Jim Stokes

While I recognize it is somewhat cliché to say that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, it is nonetheless very true. At October's annual conference in Clayton, I was pleased to present a plaque to Kevin Brocks of Read and Laniado. While Kevin is enjoying semi-retirement now, for the past 25 years or so, Kevin's legal acumen and wisdom has continuously and steadily guided MEUA through many difficult challenges.

And as we do every year, at this year's annual conference, two traditional awards were presented to member system representatives. It was not until I was asked the question that I began to think about and inquire as to why the Deo B. Colburn Person of the Year award and the D.B.H. Dalrymple Community Service award are named after these particular individuals.

David B.H. Dalrymple

David B.H. Dalrymple was mayor of the Village of Sherburne from 1954 to 1964. A veterinarian by profession, "Doc," as he was affectionally known, also served the previous ten years as a village trustee and served as a member of the MEUA executive committee, holding the office of president 1957-1958. In addition, he was involved in numerous non-profit community organizations over the course of his life, some continuously for as long as 50 and 60 years, thus setting a high standard for a lifetime committed to community service.

Deo B. Colburn

Deo B. Colburn had a similar record of community service. He served the Village of Lake Placid as a village trustee, assessor and acting mayor, and was instrumental in the founding of MEUA in 1930. He served as president of the MEUA executive committee 1941-1942 and also served on the Olympic Park Commission that acquired and built facilities for the 1932 Olympic Games. But his

continued on next page

most enduring legacy is the foundation that he established in 1987 that to this day continues to provide higher education scholarships to Lake Placid area youth.

Mayor RuthAnn Loveless with Nancy Mitchell

This year's recipient of the Dalrymple award, Mayor RuthAnn Loveless of Hamilton, exemplifies that dedication to community service. Mayor Loveless has served on her local School Board and in many other civic and charitable roles over the years. Currently, in addition to her service to the Village, she is the president of the Board of the Hamilton Food Cupboard and a member of the Executive Committee of the New York Conference of Mayors.

This year, MEUA also recognized Nancy Niswender, Village Administrator and Clerk-Treasurer of the Village of Groton as our Deo B. Colburn person of the year exemplifying dedicated service to MEUA in the past year. A relative newcomer to Groton and MEUA, beginning her service with the Village in 2016, Nancy has jumped in with both feet, joining committees and generously sharing her time, knowledge and energy for the benefit of her fellow MEUA members. And I would be remiss in not mentioning Nancy's mentor, Chuck Rankin of Groton, who nominated Nancy for this award and himself has volunteered many hours of service to MEUA and NYMPA over the years.

Nancy Niswender with Chuck Rankin of Groton

MEUA is truly the product of the diligent efforts of many individuals over the any decades. We are grateful for all of their contributions, as well as for all those that are continuing to contribute. As I observed so many of our system representatives engaged in presenting and discussing issues of significance at our recent workshops, I could not help but feel encouraged about the future of our organization and our municipal systems, even in these most trying of times.

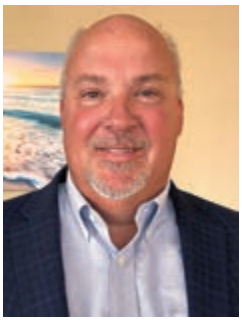
Erin Bonacci (Bath) Matt Hegarty (Fairport) Holly Easling (Penn Yann) at the Engineering - Accounting Workshop

At a time in history when it is sometimes easy to be dragged down by all the strife and negativity around us, and at a time of year when we often reflect on the past as we consider the future, I encourage all of us to resolve going forward to take a moment every day to be thankful for at least one of the blessings in our lives. And in the spirit of Dalrymple and Colburn, show your gratitude for those gifts by striving to do at least one small, unselfish act each day for someone else - known or unknown to you.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and the best of everything in 2024.

Independent Energy Efficiency Program Update

Mike Lyons



In recognition of New York State's aggressive climate and clean energy initiatives, the Independent Energy Efficiency Program's (IEEP) primary 2023 objectives were to expand our building electrification and heat pump programs, to support efforts to decarbonize the transportation sector, and to secure outside funding from State and Federal sources to support new project initiatives wherever possible.

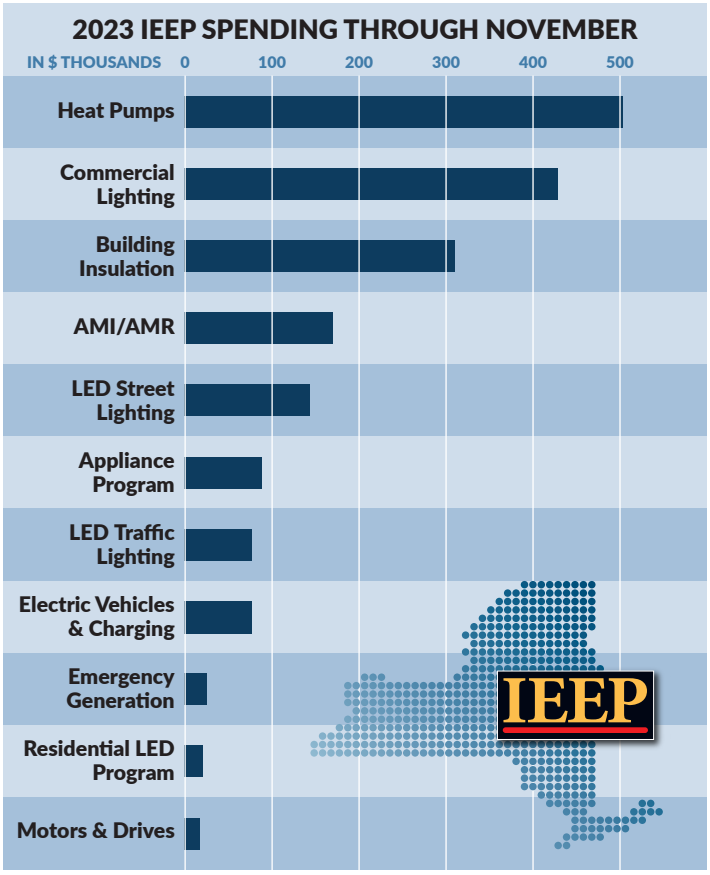
As we review our 2023 activities, the IEEP's first and third largest spending categories have been high efficiency heat pumps and building insulation—reflecting a re-alignment of IEEP spending priorities over previous years in keeping with the State's goals in these sectors. We have secured $1M of external funding from NYSERDA to further expand efforts in heating retrofits and building shell improvements for 2024. The IEEP has also successfully partnered with the New York Power Authority EVolve NY Program to support the installation of 10 DC fast charging stations in member communities. These communities include Angelica, Bath, Churchville, Fairport, Hamilton, Richmondville, Salamanca, Skaneateles, Spencerport, and Watkins Glen. Finally, we have updated our leading electric yard care rebate program which provides incentives to increase the use of battery powered yard care equipment which reduces carbon emissions from these sources.

These efforts demonstrate the MEUA's commitment to programs and initiatives that are supporting the achievement of New York's electrification goals and will continue to do so as we expand these efforts in the future. The chart on this page provides an overview of spending by program for the IEEP through November of 2023.

The IEEP is excited to launch our expanded heat pump and insulation programs in early 2024 which will assist low-income and disadvantaged communities with programs designed to improve building performance and utilize high-efficiency heat pump technology for our customers. As we look to close out 2023 on a strong note, please contact the IEEP for assistance in promoting our programs such as:

- Commercial LED Lighting Incentives
- Appliance, Yard Care, and Heat Pump Rebates
- Attic Insulation and Building Insulation Programs
- Electric Vehicles and Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment
- Power Factor Correction for Industrial Customers
- Custom Projects for C&I Customers
- AMI / AMR Smart Meter Programs

Thank you to all of our IEEP Members who continue to make this program successful. Have a wonderful holiday season.



Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to Everyone!

Chris Wentlet

I hope you enjoy the holidays with your families. My monthly column follows:

New York Independent System Operator (NYISO)

2Q NYISO STAR Update—
The NYISO released the results from its 2Q STAR Reliability Shortfall Solicitation for Zone J in New York City on November 20, 2023. The 2023 Quarter 2 STAR released earlier this year found a Near-Term Reliability Need ("Need") beginning in summer 2025 within New York City primarily driven by a combination of forecasted increases in peak demand and the assumed unavailability of certain generation in New York City affected by the "Peaker Rule."

On August 4, 2023, the NYISO issued a solution solicitation requesting the submission of proposed STRP Solutions to address the identified Need. Proposed solutions were due to the NYISO on October 3, 2023. The NYISO explained, at that time, that a potential outcome could include relying on generators that are subject to the Peaker Rule to remain in operation until a permanent solution is in place. The Peaker Rule implemented by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) anticipated the possibility that it might be necessary to temporarily retain peakers while permanent solutions are being developed when it authorized the NYISO to designate peakers to remain in operation beyond 2025 on an as-needed basis for reliability for up to two 2-year permit extensions.

One regulated solution was submitted by Con Edison; however, it would not be commercial by the summer 2025 requirement date. No market-based solutions were submitted that met the solicitation requirements. Accordingly, the NYISO has determined that temporarily retaining the generators on the Gowanus 2 & 3 and Narrows 1 & 2 barges is necessary to address the Need until the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) expected commercialization in the spring of 2026. The CHPE project is currently under construction. The NYISO will continuously evaluate the reliability of the system as changes occur and will carefully monitor the progress of the Champlain Hudson Power Express ("CHPE") project toward completion.

2023-2024 NYISO Winter Assessment

On November 16, 2023; Aaron Markham, Vice President of Operations, provided the NYISO Winter Assessment & Winter Preparedness Report to the NYISO Operating Committee. The NYISO expects

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sufficient capacity margins for the 50/50% peak forecast conditions. The expected capacity margin is 2641 megawatts (MWs). However, the expected margin is reduced to 1625 MWs for the 90/10% peak forecast case, and **negative** 161 MWs in the 99/1% peak forecast case. Winter capacity margins assuming only firm fuel generation available have declined by 2443 MWs since Winter 2019-20. Further, disruptions in fuel supplies or other winter operational concerns could result given the market's reliance on firm fuel generation during extreme weather events.

The recent **North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) 2023-2024 Winter Reliability Assessment** released on November 8, 2023, also outlines winter reliability concerns. Specifically, a large portion of the North American bulk power system is at risk of insufficient electricity supply during peak winter conditions. Prolonged, wide-area cold snaps threaten the reliable performance of the bulk power system generation and the availability of natural gas used by many generators. New York State and Ontario are identified as low risks, however, Quebec, the Maritimes, New England and PJM which neighbor New York are all identified as elevated risks.

This outcome raises two major reliability questions going forward;

1. How much can New York State depend on its neighboring power systems going forward during extreme conditions?
2. As New York State becomes a winter peaking electric power system due to load growth from electrification of the transportation and building sectors—will we have adequate capacity to maintain reliability and public safety?

Climate Action Council

Phase 2 outreach is still expected to occur in late 2023. The second round I expected to be informal and include an opportunity for stakeholders to comment. It will likely be a presentation or presentations and associated fact sheet. Modeling is ongoing at NYSERDA.

Phase 3 will be the formal rulemaking in calendar year 2024. It is currently expected that the Cap and Invest Program will be operational in 2025. Additional information is available at capandinvest.ny.gov.

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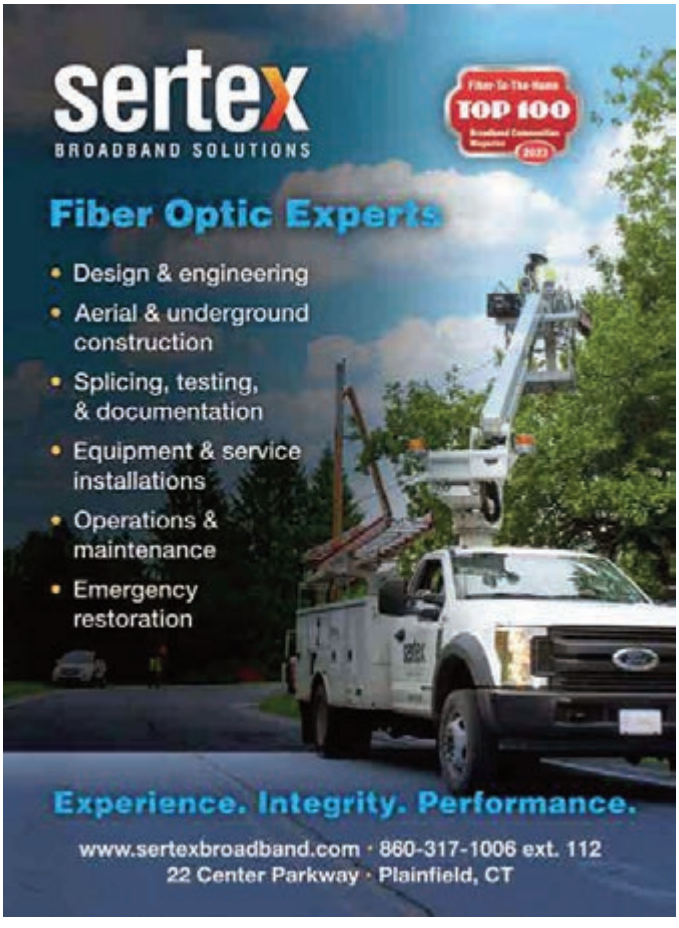

The Hamilton Village and Utilities Office

Village of Hamilton

3 East Broad Street, PO Box 119, Hamilton, NY 13346
Website: www.hamilton-ny.gov
Phone: (315) 824-1111

Population: 4,239

Area: 2.5 square miles

Electric Utility Established: 1895

Customers: 1,528

System Operating Voltage: 4160

The Village of Hamilton is located in southern Madison County in central New York State, marking its establishment date as 1795. Originally called Payne's Settlement or Payne's Corners in honor of Elisha Paynes's work in settling the area, it was incorporated as the Village of Hamilton in 1816, taking its name from American founding father Alexander Hamilton. In 1895, the "Great Fire" erupted in Hamilton. More than 60 buildings were destroyed, and a temporary "Shanty Town" was constructed on the Village Green so that business could continue. Most of the significant masonry buildings in downtown Hamilton today are those rebuilt immediately following the fire.

Much of the historic core of the village is part of the Hamilton Village Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The historic Colgate Inn anchors the north end of the historic Village Green.

The Chenango Canal formerly bisected the Village. Service on the canal continued from 1825 to 1889. The canal was filled in after its abandonment and today, only several historic markers indicate its former location. Nearby Lake Moraine, now a popular vacation and recreation resource, was originally part of the canal system water supply. In 1868, the first railroad through the Village—the Utica, Chenango, and Susquehanna RR—commenced service. In 1955, the "Great Chocolate Train Wreck" occurred on the Ontario and Western Railway line as boxcars containing Nestle chocolate

bars spilled onto the Hamilton streets. No one was harmed in the wreck, but many children and other residents came away with chocolate goodies. Train service in the Village ended in the late 1950's.

The largest employer and cultural anchor in the Village is Colgate University, which dates its founding to 1819. A nationally renowned institution of higher education, Colgate prides itself on being a distinctive university known for its intellectual rigor, world-class professors, campus of stunning beauty, and alumni famously loyal to their *alma mater*. In addition to the Colgate Inn, the University owns and operates Seven Oaks Golf Course, a nationally known course admired by avid golfers.

Hamilton Power House circa 1900. Note the tall smokestack.

Today's municipal electric utility was established in 1895. The Village originally generated its own electricity with steam power that also powered pumps for the Village water system. The original "Power House" building is still in use by the Village electric utility as well as the Village's municipal natural gas utility (est. 2014) and water departments.

Hamilton also owns and operates the Hamilton Municipal Airport, the only public use airport in Madison County. A 5314 ft runway with a full-length taxiway regularly handles a variety of private jet aircraft such as the Gulfstream 6000. Dignitaries including U.S. senators and professional sports stars and team owners regularly utilize the airport given the Village's proximity to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Whether it is the Village's Airpark business park, or other locations in the Village, Hamilton is a great location for future business growth. Hamilton was recently awarded one of the State's first New York Forward grants for the enhancement and further development of its village core and is actively seeking new residential and business development to serve this vibrant community. In addition to the NCAA Division 1 sporting events, museums and cultural events offered by Colgate University, Hamilton prides itself on the many quality of life events regularly offered to the public, including its weekly farmers' market, July 4th parade and celebration, annual Symphoria concert, Thursday Nights on the Green concert series and its parks and recreational facilities regularly utilized by adult and youth sports leagues.

Hamilton is a vibrant and growing community welcoming visitors and new residents alike to share in its small town, but culturally diverse atmosphere. For more information to plan your visit, go to the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce website at https://thisishamiltonny.com.

Ken Podolny, Esq.

Dear Members:

The Public Service Commission ("Commission") has received its annual report on winter preparedness from the Department of Public Service ("DPS") Staff. In a recent presentation, the Commission provided its predictions on the supply and cost of natural gas and electricity for the 2023–2024 winter season. The good news is that prices are expected to be significantly lower than last winter's forecasts.

As you know, the price of electricity in New York depends in large part on the weather and the price of natural gas. Last year, steep increases were predicted than never materialized. This year, market prices are expected to be lower than what we saw last winter. Of course, actual bills may be higher than anticipated if the winter is especially cold or if areas are subject to severe winter storms.

New York utilities are expected to have enough natural gas and electric supply to cover anticipated customer demand for the upcoming winter. Statewide, a peak load of 24.5 GW is expected, and approximately 36 GW of capacity is projected to be available.

Statewide, electricity bills are expected to be lower this year than they were last year. Last year, the forecasted and actual statewide averages for full-service residential bills for the winter season were very different. The forecasted average was $300 for total winter use of 2,400 kilowatt hours, and the actual average was less than $250 for total winter use. This year, the forecasted average is just shy of $250.

At this time last year, electricity futures were trading at approximately $86 per MWh. Actual prices ended up being closer to $37. Current futures are trading at $55 per MWh, which is significantly lower than projected prices for last winter, but higher than last year's actual prices.Based on these numbers, the DPS Staff forecasts for investor-owned utilities' ("IOU's") bills are similar to actual costs for electricity last winter. Your customers' bills will, of course remain significantly lower than IOU customer bills given the amount of low cost hydro power allocated to each of your systems.

As always, please contact us with any questions.

Kimball Daby

We welcome Kimball Daby to the MEUA Executive Committee. Kimball is the Electric Superintendent for the Village of Lake Placid and is a long-time member of the MEUA Engineering Committee. Kimball's experience and perspective will be most valued and appreciated.

The Executive Committee is the governing body of MEUA and, with the Executive Director, serves as the general administrative body of this Association, subject to the Constitution and Bylaws. A new member is elected to the Executive Committee at each annual meeting. If you think you might be interested in serving, please contact any current Executive Committee member or Jim Stokes at the MEUA office.

John Jennings, Esq. Harter Secrest & Emery LLP

Happy holidays to all! It's not difficult to feel jolly because things have been relatively quiet in Albany. The Governor still has over one hundred bills to act upon before the end of the year. We will certainly keep you apprised regarding action related to any bills of interest.

The next major milestone in the legislative calendar will be on January 9, when the Governor will deliver her State of the State address to a joint session of the legislature. In the State of the State, the Governor will preview her priorities for the coming year. We will have a more concrete understanding, however, when she releases her Executive Budget proposal in mid-January. Usually, any policy that the governor considers to be a priority will be packaged into the budget proposal. Each house of the legislature will release their budget proposals in mid-March, and everyone will work towards concluding the process with an on-time budget on April 1.

As the state continues to respond to the mandates set forth in the CLCPA, we expect to see energy and climate legislation discussed as part of the budget process. In addition, all the bills the legislature introduced last year remain live in 2024. We expect to see a significant amount of advocacy surrounding proposals such as the so-called HEAT Act (S.2016/A.4592), the climate change superfund act (S.2129a/A.3351a), the bill to amend the greenhouse gas accounting methodology in the CLCPA (S.6030/A.6039), and others.

Please feel free to reach out to Jim Stokes at the MEUA office if there's legislation that you have heard about that seems to be of interest. And as always, do not hesitate to suggest ideas for potential new legislation that we could support.

Scenes from the Clayton Annual Conference 2023

A beautiful sunrise after the storm on the St. Lawrence

NYS Senator Mark Walczyk

President Andrew Thompson with his commemorative lamp

Andrew Thompson presents the President's gavel to Bryan White

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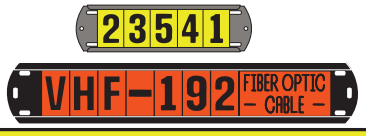

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