Executive Director Report

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I hope everyone had a Great Thanksgiving weekend and hope your December will be equally fine as preparation for the Holidays begin.

This certainly has been a challenging year for many with the Coronavirus which seems never to be near an end.  Hopefully the news of a vaccine being readied for Spring time will get us beyond this pandemic and back on a positive course as 2021 approaches.

**MUTUAL AID EVENT**

Mutual Aid was given by the Municipals from Spencerport & Fairport to Avangrid/NYSEG to the Lancaster, NY area the November 14th through November 17th.  High winds caused widespread outages throughout the Lancaster area.

Thanks for the Municipal response as Avangrid/NYSEG was very appreciative of the mutual aid given.

**DPS CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE**

DPS requests that all State-regulated utilities update their consumer-facing materials (e.g., bills, termination notices, websites, etc.) to reflect the various ways that consumers can file a complaint with the Department.

Therefore, please take the following steps to educate consumers about their complaint filing options:

* DPS Contact Information:  In all locations on your materials where the DPS HELPLINE (800-342-3377) telephone number appears, we request you also include DPS’s complaint webpage, [www.dps.ny.gov/complaints](http://www.dps.ny.gov/complaints).  Please list the webpage first, then the telephone number, and then the mailing address (if included).  Please note that all references of “PSC” should be changed to “DPS” unless the language is in reference to a PSC Case or Order number.
* Utility Contact Information:  Your Company’s contact information should be listed before DPS’s website or telephone number.  Customers must contact their utility with a complaint before contacting the Department.  Placing utility contact information first will help ensure that customers make initial contact with the correct entity.

In an effort to assist in this project, the format in which we would like to see our information listed is below:

For consumer complaints that cannot be resolved with the company, you may contact the New York Department of Public Service (DPS).

DPS complaints may be directed as follows:

Website: [www.dps.ny.gov/complaints](https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=f64eaabc-aa689d1f-f64c5389-000babda0106-0bdce23040755357&q=1&u=https%3A%2F%2Fnam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com%2F%3Furl%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.dps.ny.gov%252Fcomplaints%26data%3D02%257C01%257CKelly.Goodnight%2540windstream.com%257Cf27f4057d8cb45389bdc08d77a95ae2a%257C2567b4c1b0ed40f5aee358d7c5f3e2b2%257C1%257C0%257C637112655605243516%26sdata%3DWjIXQfHDocqI4jLoLh%252BEEdnokHINiCROPK9rd7%252BFaBY%253D%26reserved%3D0);
Phone: DPS Helpline at 1-800-342-3377

(M-F 8:30a - 4:00p); or Mail:

**Office of Consumer Services**

**NYS Department of Public Service**

3 Empire State Plaza

Albany, NY 12223

“Emergency HOTLINE: If your service has been, or is about to be, shut off you can call the PSC’s toll-free.  HOTLINE 1-800-342-3355 for help.  It is staffed from 7:30am-7:30pm on business days.

Also, DPS related, [Notice of Fourth Revision to Department of Public Service Guidance Relating to the Covid-19 Utility Moratorium on Terminations and Disconnections](http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId=%7bC652295E-0CD1-4ECF-83B3-F620324A6FC9%7d) was extended once again on December 3rd, 2020. Document link is listed below.

http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId=%7bC652295E-0CD1-4ECF-83B3-F620324A6FC9%7d

**FERC APPOINTS TWO NEW COMMISSIONERS**

The Senate just confirmed the appointments of two new FERC commissioners, Republican Mark Christie (formerly chair of the Virginia State Corporation Commission), and democrat Allison Clements (an energy consultant and former policy director for the NRDC). For the time being, this gives FERC a full complement of 5 commissioners, 3 GOP and 2 Dems. In January, the Biden administration will name one of the democrats as chair (probably Rich Glick). The majority will shift to the Democrats quickly if current chair James Danly resigns (as is customary post-election). Otherwise, it will shift once Comm. Chatterjee’s term expires at the end of June.  There, of course, remains the possibility that Mr. Biden will name one of his appointments next year as permanent chair. In any event, I expect that FERC will become more deferential to state clean energy mandates. It also may be more receptive to carbon pricing, but not necessarily as a national policy (it is the piecemeal implementation of carbon pricing that is most problematic).

**CARBON PRICING UPDATE**

Reply comments on the FERC proposed policy statement on carbon pricing were filed yesterday. Notably among them was a short joint statement by the NYPSC, NYSERDA and NYPA (attached) that both applauds FERC for recognizing that states are in charge of setting a carbon price-- or any pricing of environmental attributes-- and cautions that mixing a carbon price with other state policies is really complex. It seems that NYS still does not want to send a green light to NYISO to file the CP proposal.  MEUA is following this very closely.

**CAPACITY PRICING**

 **(Jay Brew Update)**

As NY continues to add highly subsidized renewables in addition to the subsidies given to the Upstate nuclear units (RECs and ZECs), capacity prices are being pushed down. Merchant generators have protective capacity floor pricing rules (which NY calls Buyers Side Mitigation (BSM) that applies today only in the NYC area zones. NYISO proposed exemptions from the BSM rules for certain renewables and SCR demand response resources that have been in dispute for some time (FERC recently shot down a NYISO proposal exempting SCRs that also get CSRP payments).

Recently, generators (Cricket Valley and Empire) brought the hammer down and filed a complaint at FERC asking the Commission to void all of NYISO's BSM rules and apply the strict capacity floor price rules that it recently adopted for the PJM market (which they call Minimum Offer Price Rules (MOPR) STATEWIDE to both new and existing resources. They call particular attention to the upstate nuclear subsidies in asking that the floor prices apply across the state.

 I expect vigorous opposition from NYISO, the PSC, MI and renewable investors. If the complaint is successful (they have asked for a fast-track FERC decision BTW), this likely would force a state response in the PSC Resource Adequacy docket and could well kill the capacity market altogether.

On behalf of the MEUA & NYMPA Staff, Narin, Margo and myself wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Enjoy the season, we’ll see you next year.

Thanks.



**Chris Wentlent: 2020 November NYISO Advisor Report**

Season’s Greetings and Merry Christmas to you and your families. I hope this holiday season is meaningful to your families. Health and Happiness in 2021.

The December 2020 Column follows:

**WINTER 2020-2021 WINTER PREPAREDNESS ASSESSMENT**

The NYISO provided their winter preparedness update in mid-November. Wes Yeomans, Vice President Grid Operations at the NYISO provided the update.

His presentation highlighted substantial generation capacity margin is expected during winter 2020/2021. In the expected winter 50/50% scenario; over 9000 MWs of available generation capacity is expected. In the extreme 90/10% scenario; the capacity margin exceeds 8000 MWs.

Capacity additions include Cricket Valley Energy Center rated at 1177 MWs and the 126 MW Cassadaga Wind project. Negative adjustments included Indian Point 2 (1299 MWs), Somerset (655 MWs) and West Babylon (52 MWs).

Seasonal generator fuel surveys were conducted, and it was determined that ample supply of fuel resources exist going into the winter period. The NYISO also conducted surveys of generating resources to ensure cold weather preventative maintenance, and fuel switching capabilities were in place.

With respect to transmission related work, the NYISO will continue to monitor planned transmission work and if necessary; reschedule planned work if conditions warrant.

Finally, the winter preparedness also included discussions with NERC, State agencies, other ISOs/RTOs, and gas industry personnel.

**NEAR-TERM RELIABILITY NEEDS**

In 2019, the NYISO established the Short-Term Reliability Process (“STRP”) with its requirements prescribed in Attachments Y and FF of the NYISO’s Open Access Transmission Tariff. The STRP evaluates the first five years of the planning horizon, with a focus on needs arising in the first three years of the planning horizon.

The Short-Term Assessment of Reliability (“STAR”) for 2020 Quarter 3 finds Short-Term Reliability Needs on the Bulk Power Transmission Facilities (“BPTF”) starting in 2023 and increasing in scope and scale through 2025. The Short-Term Reliability Needs include both thermal overloads on the bulk system as well as dynamic instability. For thermal loading, several 345 kV circuits in the Con Edison service territory are overloaded under N-1-1 conditions beginning in year 2025. Dynamic instability is observed starting in 2023 and continuing through 2025. The issues include low transient voltage response, loss of generator synchronism, and undamped voltage oscillations. The transient voltage response issues arise on transmission facilities owned by Con Edison in its transmission district but extend into areas adjacent to Con Edison’s service territory.

The issues identified are primarily driven by a combination of forecasted peak demand and the assumed unavailability of certain generation in New York City affected by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s “Peaker Rule.” The plans indicate approximately 1,500 MW of peak capability would be unavailable during the summer by 2025 to comply with the emissions requirements. A subset of those generators would be unavailable starting in 2023.

The NYISO plans to solicit a regulated non-generation solution solely from Con Edison for the Near-Term Reliability Needs in 2023. The NYISO will also solicit market-based and other permitted solutions to the 2023 needs consistent with Section 38.4.2 of its OATT. The needs observed in years 2024 and 2025 are identical to those identified in the 2020 RNA, and therefore will be addressed in the long-term Reliability Planning Process.

**MEUA MUNICIPAL MEMBER EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISEMENTS**

**Marathon: Linemen**

The **Village of Marathon**, an equal opportunity employer, is accepting resumes for an Electric Utility Worker (Lineman). Minimum qualifications are high school graduation and journeyman lineman certification. This work consists of erection, installation and maintenance of overhead and underground electric distribution systems. Work requires rigid observance of safety protocol, working during inclement weather conditions, climbing utility poles and handling high voltage. Supervision and inspection may be exercised over work while in progress and upon completion.

The successful candidate may, from time to time, be assigned to other duties consistent with the operation of a municipal electric utility. Salary will be dependent on relevant experience. The Village of Marathon offers a competitive benefits package.

Resumes must be submitted to Village of Marathon, P.O. Box 519, Marathon, NY 13803 or may be dropped off at the Village Office, 18 Tannery Street, Marathon, NY. Please contact Eric Leet at 607-849-6795 or email marathonpower@stny.rr.com with any questions.

**Wellsville: Lineworker**

The **Village of Wellsville**, Department of Public Works, is presently accepting applications to fill a vacancy in the Municipal Electric Division.  This position will require working with high voltage electric and will encounter working at considerable heights in possible adverse conditions.

The position will also require completion of a 4-year apprentice Lineworker program as set forth by the Municipal Electric Utilities Association and the NYS Department of Labor.

Qualifications – The ideal candidate will possess an Associate’s Degree from an accredited electrical trade school or three (3) years of equivalent experience in the commercial electric trade, a valid NYS CDL driver’s license, and reside within a fifteen (15) minute drive of the Village of Wellsville.

​Applications will be accepted at the Village of Wellsville, Department of Public Works, 200 Bolivar Road, Wellsville, NY 14895 through 09/04/2020.  The Village of Wellsville is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

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**Churchville:** [**Lineworker**](https://a93637c4-dcdb-4865-9e49-37e1b8fb94c9.filesusr.com/ugd/22a2c5_c75c59cd2c0248ca8cdc641045348be3.docx?dn=help%20wanted%20line%20worker%20nov%202019.docx)

The **Village of Churchville**, an equal opportunity employer, is accepting resumes for a full time Electric Utility Worker.  This work consists of construction, installation and maintenance of overhead and underground electric distribution systems.  Responsibilities require strict observance of safety protocol, working during inclement weather conditions, occasional nights & weekends, climbing utility poles, and handling high voltage.  Supervision and inspection may be exercised over work while in progress and upon completion.

The successful candidate may, from time to time, be assigned to other duties consistent with municipal operations that may require heavy lifting.  The position will also require completion of a 4-year apprentice Lineworker program as set forth by the Municipal Electric Utilities Association.

Minimum Qualifications – High School diploma or equivalency diploma, a valid NYS CDL driver’s license, and reside within a twenty (20) minute drive of the Village of Churchville.  Experience working on a power distribution system preferred.

Salary will be dependent on relevant experience.  The Village of Churchville offers a competitive benefits package.  Drug screen, DOT physical and background check required.

Resumes must be submitted to Village of Churchville, Attn: Paul Robinson P.O. Box 613, Churchville, NY 14428 or may be dropped off at the Village Office, 23 East Buffalo Street, Churchville, NY.

**Solvay: Assistant Electric Department Superintendent**

Salary Range: $75,000-85,000 Annually

Start Date: January 2021

**Job Description:**
The work involves responsibility for assisting in the daily management and supervision of the Village of Solvay Electric Department. An employee in this class is responsible for scheduling and directing the day-to-day and long-term activities of various departments and the crews. Under general supervision of the Electric Department Superintendent, an employee in this class carries out work in accordance with general policies of the Village Board of Trustees and its Electrical Committee with wide leeway for the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out technical duties of the work. General supervision is exercised over a large number of technical and clerical subordinates. An employee in this class is required to be on call at all times in order to direct staff during emergencies. Does related work as required.

**Work Activities:**
Assists in managing, planning, organizing and directing departmental activities involving the operation, construction, maintenance, repair and modification of the village electrical distribution system. Schedules, directs and supervises day-to-day operations for the line departments.

Responsible for the layout and design of new line replacements and inspects installation and repair of distribution system and advises Superintendent of problems. Maintains SCADA system and responsible. Assists in overseeing the procurement and installation of equipment including transformers, switching equipment, instrumentation, and storage facilities. Assists in studying load and system problems to devise methods to solve same. Works with Superintendent, Electric Commission and Solvay Village Board to develop and implement written policies and procedures. Assists Superintendent in identifying training needs for staff; trains and documents safety training of personnel. Assists in evaluating effectiveness and development of personnel. Oversees all interaction with contractors and staff; schedules and manages work of contractors. Coordinates with outside agencies and community at large on projects requiring modification or expansion. Attends board meetings and executive sessions for input and discussion on all policy and personnel issues. Supervises line workers as well as technical and clerical subordinates. Acts for Superintendent in the latter’s absence.

**Necessary Skills and Abilities:**
Good knowledge of the principles and practices of maintenance and operation of a village electrical system. Good knowledge of the management, planning, and development of electrical power programs. Good knowledge of power distribution concepts and implementation. Good knowledge of the principles and practices of supervision. Ability to develop plans, work schedules, programs, and designs for construction, repair, and modification of electrical utilities. Ability to evaluate and suggest changes to policies. Ability to promote Solvay Electric Department’s community commitment while meeting overall goals. Ability to plan, direct and supervise effectively the work of subordinate employees. Ability to coordinate and schedule work assignments.

**Minimum Qualifications:**
Five (5) years of professional supervisory level work experience, or its part-time equivalent, in business management which must have included operations planning and job cost analysis, while working or contracting for a municipal or private electric power company.

NOTE: Electrical contracting work must have been with a municipal or private electric power company.
Home, building construction or industrial contracting does not qualify.

**Please email resume and references to** **hdecarlo@villageofsolvay.com** **for consideration.**

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**Solvay:** [**Electric Department Superintendent**](https://a93637c4-dcdb-4865-9e49-37e1b8fb94c9.filesusr.com/ugd/22a2c5_c75c59cd2c0248ca8cdc641045348be3.docx?dn=help%20wanted%20line%20worker%20nov%202019.docx)

Salary Range: $80,000-90,000 Annually

Start Date: January 2021

**Job Description:**
The work involves responsibility for the daily management and supervision of the Village of Solvay Electric Department. The Superintendent is responsible for planning construction, coordinating operation of power stations, transmission lines, and distribution systems, and supervising staff. An employee in this class carries out work in accordance with general policies of the village board of trustees and its Electrical Committee with wide leeway for the exercise of independent judgement in carrying out technical duties of the work. General supervision is exercised over a large number of technical and clerical subordinates. Does related work as required.

**Work Activities:**
Manages, plans, organizes and directs all departmental activities involving the operation, construction, maintenance, repair and modification of the village electrical distribution system.

Reviews information relating to the extension and development of village territory and resulting increase in demand for service and plans to meet these demands.

Oversees the procurement and installation of equipment including transformers, switching equipment, instrumentation, and storage facilities.
Formulates and presents to the Mayor and Village Board, budgets, financial requirements, and long and short-term goals, with the supporting data for discussion and approval.

Initiates, evaluates, accepts and submits major capital expense items and policy revision recommendations to the Mayor and Board for consideration and approval.
Studies load and system problems to devise methods to solve same.

Represents and works with the Board, at meetings, contract negotiations and in public relation matters.
Supervises line workers as well as technical and clerical subordinates.

In the absence of the representative for the MEUA, must interface with regulatory agents such as PSC, NYPA, NYMPA, and the electric commission.

**Necessary Skills and Abilities:**

* Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of maintenance and operation of a village electrical system.
* Thorough knowledge of the management, planning, and development of electrical power programs.
* Good knowledge of the principles and practices of administration.
Good knowledge of the principles and practices of supervision.
* Ability to develop plans, work schedules, programs, and designs for construction, repair, and modification of electrical utilities.
* Ability to direct, coordinate, and supervise the activities of the department.
* Ability to make effective written and oral presentations.
* Ability to communicate effectively with the public.
Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

**Minimum Qualifications:**
Six (6) years of professional supervisory level work experience, or its part-time equivalent, in business management which must have included operations planning and job cost analysis, working or contracting for a municipal or private electric power company.
NOTE: Electrical contracting work must have been with a municipal or private electric power company.
NOTE: Home, building construction or industrial contracting does not qualify.

**Please email resume and references to****hdecarlo@villageofsolvay.com****for consideration.**