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89th MEUA Annual Conference: Annual Charity Fundraiser

President Owen McIntee has picked the Aurora House for this year's charity for the Annual Meeting—our 89th year.



The Aurora House, located in Spencerport, NY, is a comfort home for the dying and their loved ones. Caregivers—along with the support and guidance of nurses, provide loving and compassionate care based on the model of families caring for loved ones at home.

Their philosophy includes the belief that healing, well-being, and positive personal development can be achieved even in the setting of a devastating disease.

A person comes into the care of Aurora House through a referral made by a hospice agency. Aurora House staff then work closely with the hospice team and the physician to provide excellent end of life care. Patients are provided with their

own suite, and family members are able to stay in their own living space just downstairs.

The Aurora House strives to provide an uplifting and rewarding environment, not depressing as one might think. Families come to Aurora House from everywhere, due to their individual needs and because of what the home provides.



Executive Director, Marj Smith, remembers a lady who was bed-bound and had a large family. The lady commented to caregivers that she has always prepared the Christmas dinner for her family every year. As Christmas came, her family wheeled her bed out to the dining room so that she could still sit at the “head” of the table. With 20 family members present, she was able to comfortably enjoy her last Christmas dinner.

As the drive to cure subsides, the Aurora house and their staff are free to realize the potential for the dying process to represent life's fulfillment.



All services of Aurora House are offered free of charge, made possible through the generosity and compassion of volunteers, donations, memorials, grants, and fundraisers.

New York Power Authority: Hydro Power Curtailments

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) has sent our information in regards to the hydro shortfalls that occurred in January, February, and March of this year. In each case the hydro shortfalls were caused by ice build-up in the Niagara River.



Severe low temperatures earlier this year produced ice conditions which resulted in periods of adverse water conditions related to the NYPA Niagara River generation. This reduced NYPA's generating output and temporarily reduced the firm hydropower output in certain hours during the periods of January 26th to February 4th, February 24th to February 26th, and from March 4th, to March 6th.

Also, a fourth period occurred April 26th to April 28th— though the results of that shortfall are not known at this time.



When these unexplained hydro curtailments occur, it is necessary pursuant to the NYISO procedures for NYPA to make real-time purchases to offset hourly shortfalls.

NYPA plans to invoice their Municipals' and Co-op customers in the May, June, and July 2019 billing periods to be invoiced in June, July, and August and will be referred to as "Intra-month Curtailments".

The MEUA is having discussions with NYPA officials to better understand why the curtailments/shortfalls are happening more frequently.



Chris Wentlent:
March 2019
NYISO Report

Summer Preparedness – The NYISO presented its Summer 2019 Capacity Assessment at the June 4, 2019 Management Committee meeting. The assessment forecasts a 2,227 MW surplus for the normal baseline scenario, and 423 MW surplus for an extreme 90/10 percentile forecast for the entire state. Southeastern New York is expecting a 3252 MW surplus for the base case, and 2648 MW surplus for the extreme scenario. Finally, New York City (Zone J) will have a 1722 MW, and 1358 MW surpluses for both scenarios studied. This analysis excludes the fact that an additional 3,124 MWs of emergency operating procedures exist. These procedures include voltage reductions, voluntary industrial load curtailment, general public appeals, emergency purchases from other ISOs, and elimination of 30-minute reserves. In summary, the NYISO forecast outlines the system is well prepared from a supply standpoint to meet expected summer load during either a base case or extreme scenario unless unforeseen contingencies occur. The full report is available at:

<https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/6771038/03%202019%20Summer%20Capacity%20Assessm ent.pdf/b61861fa-d424-40cf-9c68-23660c692eb6>

Project Prioritization Process – the NYISO is in the process of evaluating which projects to include in their 2020 Project Priority budget process. The final project list survey will be circulated

approximately June 12 with survey responses due by the June 25 timeframe. Similar to last year, Chris Wentlent will coordinate the responses for our member systems. Areas that will receive highest priority for MEUA/NYMPA consideration will include projects that reduce transmission congestion, IT modeling enhancements that better align with real time market outcomes, projects that create higher stakeholder performance standards for market product revenue recovery, and new product developments such as more granular operating reserves, ancillary services shortage pricing, enhanced fast start pricing and improvements to the NYISO planning processes.



Carbon Pricing Update – the NYISO continues to work through the details of incorporating a carbon price adder into the wholesale market. They have contracted with the Analysis Group to further evaluate the results of the recent Brattle Study and analyze whether additional benefits are realized by implementing a carbon price methodology into the market. The Analysis Group report is delayed due to many comments received by market stakeholders, including MEUA and NYMPA. The report is expected later in the 2Q 2019 and a possible stakeholder vote will be taken in the 3Q of 2019. A stakeholder vote is conditioned on whether key New York state agency representatives and the Governor’s Office support the proposed market change. This aspect is critical because anything ultimately approved is subject to final approval at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

MEUA has not supported this change to date due to several factors including:

- Upstate is already well positioned for increasing carbon requirements in the

generation sector and does not need to incur this added cost.

- Transmission must be built to realize the full benefits of any carbon implementation. Such transmission is slow to develop to date.
- Lack of transmission will continue to result in further upstate transmission congestion, and erode any expected benefits of carbon pricing ability to reduce Renewable Energy Credit (REC) and Zero Emissions Credit (ZEC) total costs.
- The expected cost of the program is high vs. the expected environmental benefit realized.

Fuel Security Update – the NYISO continues to study fuel security sensitivities that could impact the New York Energy System in the 2023 timeframe. They have contracted with the Analysis Group to conduct the analysis. The Analysis Group has developed preliminary results subject to NYISO Operations feedback. A July 2019 report is expected and the results will be presented in a future MEUA News & Views column.

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