

Executive Director Report

Pic

March is here, Spring is in sight.

The MEUA Semi-Annual meeting scheduled for April 20 -21, 2021 will once again have to be a virtual event.

While restrictions have started to loosen up some, having an in-person meeting is not going to work just yet. If things keep heading in the right direction, we will look forward to getting together in August for the Annual Meeting.

The Semi-Annual meeting will be a virtual event on April 21st.

Information for that meeting will be sent out soon. Please save the date.

Accounting Newsletter



The Accounting & Finance Committee will start an accounting newsletter to the MEUA account personnel in our muni electric companies. With COVID and no accounting

workshop this year, the need for this informational newsletter is greater than ever. Over the past few months Aaron Daniels and Liz Melock have worked together, with input from Bill Freitag, to get a newsletter off the ground.

The plan is to email the newsletter to each muni electric to their financial person, who can then pass it on through email. Hopefully, the office

accounting staff will find this helpful as we move forward.

FERC

FERC has already announced it will hold technical conferences on power market designs (i.e., capacity pricing) starting with PJM, then NYISO and ISONE. They are also going to hold one on electrification and the future of the grid. Since this is a broadly encompassing topic that is also dominating NY energy policy discussions, it may be worth following. This also seems indicative of the Glick approach at FERC: holding conferences and workshops as a prelude to announcing policy changes and new rulemakings.

The purpose of these technical conferences is to initiate a dialog between Commissioners and stakeholders on how to prepare for an increasingly electrified future.

NYPA

On February 16th, NYPA notified the Municipal systems that icing conditions on the Niagara River have resulted in unanticipated curtailments to generation at the New York Power Authority's Niagara Power Project. When generation does not meet customer's firm hydropower load requirements, substitute energy is procured in the real time market by NYPA during the impacted hours.

NYPA is currently assessing the real-time purchases required to offset the hourly shortfalls. When more information is available from NYPA, the Municipals will be updated.



MEUA Lobbying Update

John Jennings



Early this January, the state legislature convened to kick off the 2021 legislative session. Due to the continued health emergency caused by COVID-19, the legislature is meeting remotely. The Capitol and the Legislative Office Building remain closed to the public, and most legislators are remaining in their home districts.

Governor Cuomo continues to exercise his authority to change laws and regulations through executive orders. As you recall, the legislature delegated this significant expansion of executive authority at the outset of the health emergency. Nevertheless, the legislature is attempting to proceed with a normal legislative session. Committees are meeting, bills are being passed, and hearings are being held. At this point, most everyone is focused on the budget process. Governor Cuomo introduced his proposed executive budget a couple of weeks ago, each branch of the legislature will introduce its version of the budget in mid-March, and they will negotiate with a goal of reaching a budget agreement before the start of the new fiscal year on April 1. Significant uncertainty surrounds the budget process this year because the budget will rely on Federal bailout funding to fill a projected \$15 Billion gap.

The Governor's proposed budget contained several provisions that would interest MEUA members. Not surprisingly, he proposes cuts to AIM funding. In past years, the legislature restored some of that funding, and we are advocating for the same this year. Another provision would expand the ability for New York to impose moratoriums on utility shut offs during states of emergencies. We are working diligently with the Governor's office and regulators to find ways to help municipal electrics from being disproportionately harmed by these ongoing moratoriums.

Finally, we are tracking dozens of bills introduced in the legislature related to utilities. As a result of

the power outages last year effecting Long Island, the Senate Democrats seem interested in new laws and regulations imposing new duties and increasing penalties on utility providers. We will keep you apprised regarding developments related to these bills.

If you have any questions related to legislation or the state budget, feel free to reach out to Tony, and we will be happy to provide you with additional information.



Chris Wentlent:
NYISO Advisor

March 2021

Climate Action Council

The purpose of the Climate Action Council is to create the pathway to meeting the CLCPA Mandate which includes:

- 70% renewable generation by 2030
- Carbon Free Generation Sector by 2040
- Economy wide 85% reduction, with the other 15% covered by GHG offsets.

The major working groups involved with the Climate Action Council are waste, local government and land use, power generation, buildings & energy efficiency, high intensity industries, transportation, just transition, and environmental justice. These groups will be providing their recommendations to the Climate Action Council in March 2021. The Climate Action Council must integrate the recommendations into a Draft Scoping Plan by end of 2021. Calendar Year 2022 will be utilized to present the plan at public meetings and finalize it. Ultimately, the plan will also be used to incorporate into the State Energy Plan.

The utilities formed a consultation group to comment on working group recommendations and perform outreach to the Climate Action Council.

Members include all major IOU utilities including Con Ed, O&R, NGRID, Central Hudson, NYSEG, RGE, National Fuel Gas, and MEUA. Executive Director Modafferi was instrumental in getting our organization as a participant on the consultation group. It is expected the consultation group will comment on all working group recommendation and provide input to the Climate Action Council through outreach and comments. Their goal is to stress striking a balance in the transition including not banning natural gas, need for R&D to develop new emerging technologies, need to maintain public safety, and power system reliability, and need to be sensitive to cost impacts especially on our most vulnerable New York consumers.

NYISO Sector Meeting

The Public Power Sector Meeting with NYISO Senior Management will be held on March 10, 2021. Tony Modafferi and Chris Wentlent will attend for NYMPA/MEUA. The sector conducted a conference call with NRDC, ACE NY, NYPA, LIPA, NYAPP and others to prepare a proposed agenda. We will report any significant items at next month's NYMPA Board Meeting and include an article in next month's News & Views.

Class Year 2019 is Now Completed

This process determines both the facility upgrade costs and system upgrade costs for all new projects that intend to connect to the NYISO Bulk Power System. The 2019 Class Year had the highest number of projects ever driven by the CLCPA clean energy requirements.



Public Service Commission Interim Chair Named

The New York State Department of Public Service (Department) announced that Governor Andrew

M. Cuomo has designated John B. Howard as the Interim Chair of the Public Service Commission

(PSC) and Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Public Service. Mr. Howard fills the vacancy created on February 26, 2021 with the departure of John B. Rhodes, whose term as Chair and CEO had expired.

On July 19, 2019, Mr. Howard was appointed Commissioner of the PSC to a term that runs through February 1, 2024.

Commissioner Howard has served the State for nearly 40 years, serving in various roles in the Legislative and Executive branches, with vast experience in the energy sector.

PSC approved the 20.7% IRM recommendation from the New York State Reliability Council. The IRM increased 1.8% from the previous year. This requirement places a higher requirement for load serving entities like NYMPA to secure capacity to meet the New York State Reliability Council and NPCC reliability requirements. The main drivers were load forecast uncertainty driven by more intermittent resources, a modeling change that better represented the actual capability of Energy Duration Resources (EDRs), and retirement of the final Indian Point Unit 3 facility. The higher IRM requirement is expected to put upward pressure on New York Control Area capacity values.

Gas Planning Process

The New York Public Service Commission announced a gas planning process to adjust to new energy and climate directions established by the State. The proposal provides a regulatory planning roadmap to enable them to meet current customer needs and expectations in a transparent and equitable way. The Department of Public Service staff proposal ensures utilities will minimize — and even potentially eliminate — new gas infrastructure investments while maintaining safe and reliable service.

Planning must be conducted in a manner consistent with New York's nation-leading Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) to lower carbon emissions and combat climate change.

One goal of this improved gas planning process is that utilities should be able to meet the needs of gas customers without declaring moratoria on the attachment of new customers.

The improved planning process should help guide utilities into New York State's low carbon future by maximizing the use of energy efficiency, new technologies (such as electric heat pumps) and demand response programs and limiting unnecessary infrastructure investment and the potential for stranded costs that might result.

Transmission

The Public Service Commission approved several transmission projects at the recent February 2021 Session. Together, these projects will help to reduce congestion in upstate New York and allow more clean energy to flow throughout New York State. The Projects approved include the following:

New York State Public Service Commission approved the New York Energy Solution Project - a 54.5-mile, 345-kilovolt transmission line valued at an estimated \$530 million - starting in Rensselaer County and extending to Dutchess County to speed the flow of clean, reliable energy to high demand markets and consumers downstate.

The Public Service Commission granted NextEra Energy Transmission New York, Inc. the necessary approvals to exercise municipal agreements to construct the Empire State Line - a 20-mile, 345-kilovolt electric transmission line, located in Niagara and Erie counties and valued at an estimated \$180 million, that will help relieve congestion and maximize the flow of renewable resources in Western New York.

PSC approved a fast-track for certain local transmission and distribution projects, known as Phase 1 projects. Phase 1 projects are actionable projects that satisfy traditional reliability, safety and compliance purposes but can also be accelerated or reprioritized to address bottlenecks or constraints that limit the delivery of renewable energy within a utility's system. The steps establish the process for cost recovery and allocation for such projects. The Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act requires the Commission to, among other things, reorient transmission planning and investment toward the achievement of CLCPA targets.

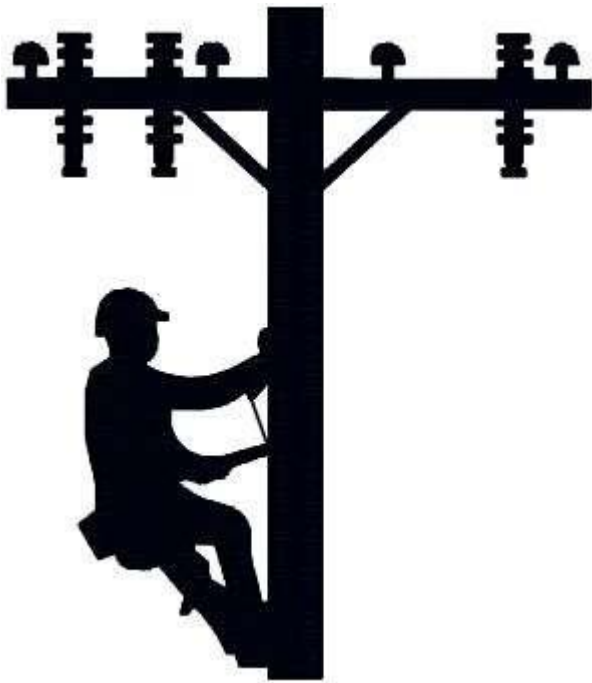
PSC approved the environmental management and construction plan filed by LS Power Grid New York, LLC, LS Power Grid New York Corporation I, and the New York Power Authority, to construct and operate Segment II of the 93-mile transmission project known as the Marcy to New Scotland Transmission Upgrade Project. The overall project was approved by the Commission on January 21, 2021.

Federal Energy Reliability Commission (FERC) – with the recent election results and changing administration at the national level, FERC conducted their first meeting with a new Chairman in February 2021. It is expected that FERC will be more open to working with states on emerging green policies which will allow a more expedited penetration of these resources on to the energy grid.

CORRECTIONS: February 2021 NYISO Advisor Column

- 1) The LS Power/ NYPA segment of the 1000 MW AC transmission project is Segment A, not B. [NY Transco is doing segment B].
- 2) At the last FERC meeting-- the first one chaired by Richard Glick, the Commission pulled the agenda item for the Cricket Valley complaint. Other action taken that day essentially eliminates the complaint but there has not been an order expressly denying the complaint yet.

Help Keep Us Current
Please email or fax over
name or address changes
Fax 315.453.7849
Email: info@meua.org
Thank You



Penn Yan: Electric Lineworker

The **Village of Penn Yan** Municipal Electric Department has an opening for one (1) experienced Electric Lineworker. This is a competitive NYS Civil Service position that is full time, 40 hours per week and subject to Civil Service rules for eligibility.

The applicant must be able to perform skilled work in the construction and maintenance of electrical overhead and underground distribution systems, including the rebuilding and maintenance of electrical substations. The work requires climbing poles, working in all kinds of weather conditions and rigid observance of safety precautions to protect the lives of themselves and others. Compensation rate is \$38.71 to \$42.69/hour, dependent on years of experience, Penn Yan also offers a competitive benefits package.

For an application, full job description, minimum qualifications and Civil Service rules for eligibility please visit:

<https://mycivilservice.yatescounty.org/jobopps>.

Candidate will be subject to drug and alcohol testing prior to employment. Please submit your application along with work history, qualifications, training history and education, proof of Lineworker status, references and any other pertinent information to the Yates County Civil Service Office by Monday, March 15, 2021.

Rouses Point: Line Helper/Line Worker

The **Village of Rouses Point** is seeking a full-time worker for our electric department.

This is a non-competitive civil service position involving installing and maintaining overhead and underground electric distribution lines, and assisting in other public works activities.

Classification as helper or worker depends on qualifications and experience. Minimum qualifications: high school diploma or equivalency diploma (helper); and two (2) years of

MEUA MUNICIPAL MEMBER EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISEMENTS

Angelica: Electric Lineworker

Electrical Lineworker – The Village of Angelica, Electric Department is presently accepting applications to fill a vacancy in the Municipal Electric Department. This position will require climbing skills, 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.

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, minimum Class B, and reside within a fifteen (15) minute drive of the Village of Angelica.

Applications will be accepted at the Village of Angelica, Village Office, 21 Peacock Hill Rd, Angelica, NY 14709 through 03/31/21. The Village of Angelica is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

experience (worker) working on a power distribution system.

This is a union position with state retirement benefits; paid vacation, holidays, sick and personal time; health, vision, and dental insurance. Education, certification and promotion opportunities. Salary: \$16.48/hr. helper; \$26.01/hr. worker. For an application call 518-297-5502 ext. 333.

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.

Solvay: Assistant Electric Department Superintendent

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

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.

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.

Solvay: Electric Department Superintendent

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

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.

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.

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.

