Executive Director Report

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The Coronavirus has sure changed things these last few weeks and it looks like for the immediate future as well. I hope you and your families are doing well and that everyone remains healthy throughout this very difficult time.

It is hoped that the canceled Engineering Workshop can be rescheduled sometime later in the year after risk of this virus has subsided.

It is also hoped that the MEUA Semi-Annual Meeting which was also postponed will be rescheduled as well. More on both of those events at a later time.

**DPS Updates**

The Department of Public Service has ruled the IOU’s may not terminate any service for non-payment during this virus pandemic. Also, the DPS has also ruled for the IOU’s that no late payment fees may be charged during this time as well.

The DPS has also asked the Municipals in New York State to abide by the same regulations as it pertains to turnoffs and late payment fees. Another request from the DPS is that no municipal employee enter a residence for the purpose of reading meters, but asks that an estimate of usage be used for billing purposes as necessary.

I believe NYPA is also following very similar guidelines for the full requirement customers as well.

**2020 MEUA Apprentice Program: Schedule Amended**

Also, virus related, the beginning of the MEUA’s Apprentice Lineman Training Classes has also been changed. As of today, March 31st, 2020 this is the schedule moving forward.

**Week of May 5th** - 4th Year Apprentice Class; Session 1 of 4 Will Commence

**Week of May 12th** - 1st Year Apprentice Class; Session 1 of 4 Will Commence

**Week of May 19th** - 2nd year Apprentice Class; Session 1 of 4 Will Commence

**Week of May 26th** - 3rd year Apprentice Class; Session 1 of 4 Will Commence

**Week of June 2nd** - 4th Year Apprentice Class; Session 2 of 4 Will Commence

The second sessions for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year classes will be rescheduled once new dates are determined by instructor Bill Hesson.

If the schedule of classes needs to be further adjusted due to the virus restrictions remaining in place longer than anticipated, the MEUA Office will contact all students and their municipalities. Any questions, please contact the MEUA Office.

**Safety & Training Classes**

The following Safety & Training Classes have been canceled and will be made up at a date to be determined.

April 13th Village of Mohawk, April 20th Village of Bath and April 27th Village of Fairport.

The first Safety & Training class scheduled will be in Endicott on May 4th.

If it is necessary to change the schedule further due to the pandemic, the MEUA Office will contact all the Municipalities. Thanks for your understanding, if anyone has any questions, please contact the MEUA Office at your convenience.

**New York State Budget Process**

April 1st is the official budget deadline for the State of New York.  While it appears unlikely that all bills necessary to enact a state budget will be completed by this midnight deadline, progress is being made, and it is anticipated that the final bills will be released and voted on in the next day or so.

Last night, the first two budget bills were printed and released.  We are in the process of reviewing those bills and will be in touch about specific issues of importance. Details on healthcare and education funding are still being finalized and those negotiations are ongoing.

During his daily briefing today, the Governor was asked about the budget negotiations.  He indicated that the negotiations were happening but that there were no final numbers yet because there was no final deal.  He also stated that it was unlikely that legalization of recreational marijuana will be included in any final budget deal.  It does appear that some changes to the bail reform law will be included.

There is also still the open question of what will the funding numbers look like and how will cuts to various areas be handled.  The Governor stated that he has been told that the federal government will be doing further legislation that will include funding for state governments to cover loss of revenue.

However, he stated that until this was actually done, New York cannot do a budget that relies on any federal funds.  It appears that funding may be held at the current spending levels and language will be included that will give the Governor flexibility on when and how to make cuts as needed should federal funds not be released or not cover the lost revenues.  We should have the answer to this and other questions in the next day or so.

We will send any relevant information to you as it becomes available.  Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you, Stay safe & healthy.



**MEUA Consultant Chris Wentlent**

**2020 Updates:**

**April**

I hope that as I write this column for News & Views that you and your families are safe and healthy. I have been involved with the New York Energy Industry for over thirty (30) years including many different events such as market deregulation, 2003 Northeast blackout, terrorist attacks that impacted New York, major weather events including hurricanes and winter events and now the Corona Virus health emergency. I pray your families sustain each other, and each of us find the inner strength to remain calm, positive and productive as we work through the current challenges of each day.

**Winter Operations Report**

Wes Yeomans, Vice President, Operations presented the 2019-2020 Winter Operations Report at the March 19, 2020 NYISO Operating Committee meeting. Our winter peak load was 23,253 MWs on Tuesday, December 19. This compares to an all-time Winter Electric Peak Load of 25, 738 MWs on January 7, 2014. The New York Control Area (NYCA) experienced three noteworthy cold weather conditions including:

* November 11-14, 2019
* December 18-21, 2019
* February 14-15, 2020

All three events included some natural gas system conditions such as compressor station outages, pipeline and Local Distribution Company (LDC) Operational Flow Orders (OFOs). An Operational Flow Order (OFO) notice requires shippers to balance their gas supply with their customers' usage daily, within a specified tolerance band. Shippers may deliver additional supply or limit their supply in order to match customers' usage. NYISO operations was able to maintain system reliability during these events. Generation fuel mix across the first two events was dominated by nuclear, hydro, natural gas and dual fuel facilities. Wind and other renewables average between 1-6% of the resource mix during the first two occurrences.

Operationally, the market systems worked well. There was no need for statewide supplemental capacity commitments or Special Case Resource activations. The transmission infrastructure performed excellent during the entire winter operations period.

**NYISO Public Power and**

**Environmental Sector Meeting**

NYISO Senior Leadership hosted a conference call with Public Power and Environmental stakeholders on March 12. The meeting was converted to a conference call due to Corona Virus concerns. Some of the topics covered included status of carbon pricing, public power transmission projects, NYISO planned involvement with the New York Climate Action Council, resource adequacy, future needs of a Grid in Transition, resilience, and downstate buyer side mitigation. NYMPA, NRDC, Alliance for Clean Energy, New York University, LIPA, NYAPP and NYPA were some of the parties that participated.

Several major topics communicated during the call included:

* Carbon Pricing – the NYISO continues to seek state guidance and support for their carbon pricing concept.
* Public Power Transmission – the NYISO will conduct three different studies during 2020 to better understand the intermediate and long-term transmission needs for New York State. The three studies include a 70% by 2030 renewable scenario in the 2020 CARIS Report. The report should be completed by July 2020 and will assist in identifying transmission constraints on the system.

The second study is the ten-year Reliability Needs Assessment (RNA) will include a ten-year evaluation of overall system reliability for the New York energy system.

The third study is entitled Climate Change and Resilience Study. This study will evaluate a 2040 zero emissions target as outlined in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). All three studies should provide important information about future infrastructure and market products necessary to operate the grid going forward.

* New York State Department of Environmental NOx Generation Peaker Rule – the NYISO received the generator compliance plans in early March 2020. Both entities are currently working through the detailed plans submitted. The NYISO expects to provide a high-level presentation soon and will include the overall outcome of the plans submitted in their Reliability Needs Assessment (RNA) Study. It is expected that impacted generators will either repower, upgrade existing controls, elect not to operate during ozone season, comply by averaging renewable or energy storage with current peaker emissions, or elect to retire specific units. We will continue to update this topic in a future News & Views column.

**Public Policy Transmission Projects**

MEUA/NYMPA continue to track the progress of planned public policy transmission projects that will impact upstate transmission and possibly relief congestion. The three projects are the NYPA Moses Adinrondack Smart Path Reliability Project, NextEra Western New York Public Policy Transmission Project and 1000 MW AC Transmission Project.

* NYPA Moses Adinrondack Smart Path Reliability Project has completed its Article VII process and started construction. The expected in-service date is June 2023. The project will replace 78 miles of Moses Adinrondack 1&2. One line will remain in service and work is expected to be performed during the spring and fall time periods each year.
* NextEra Western New York Public Policy Transmission Project is currently involved in evidentiary hearings before the Public Service Commission. The subject of the hearing is whether NextEra must either divest the transmission project or current generation holdings to resolve a potential vertical market power concern. Reply briefs were due on March 13, 2020. An Administrative Law Judge ruling is expected on this matter.
* 1000 MW AC Transmission Projects are still in the Article VII process.

New York State Reliability Council (NYSRC) appoints Steve Whitley – On March 20, The NYSRC announced the appointment of Mr. Stephen Whitley as an Unaffiliated Member of the NYSRC Executive Committee, effective April 1, 2020.  Mr. Whitley has spent his entire career in the electric power industry in New York, New England and TVA, including most recently as President and CEO of the NYISO.  Mr. Whitley’s extensive experience will make a significant contribution to NYSRC's mission of promoting and preserving the reliability of the New York State Power System. Our NYMPA/MEUA members have a long-established relationship with Mr. Whitley and we wish him success in his new role.

**Employment Ads**

​[**Senior Lineworker**](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/22a2c5_8a38c8bd1b2348fba93155651b317588.docx?dn=Sr.%20Lineworker%20ad.docx)**: Penn Yan**

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The **Village of Penn Yan** has an opening for one (1) Senior 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.

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The applicant will supervise the Line Crew as assigned and in the absence of the Line Crew Chief; 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.

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Range of hourly rate is $28.68 - $33.28 depending on years of experience.

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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.

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[**Lineworker**](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/22a2c5_43308dd5b6504e09bba229562ea2b933.docx?dn=Part-time%20Lineperson%20Ad%20for%20MEUA.docx)**: Penn Yan**

​The **Village of Penn Yan** has openings for two (2) experienced electric line workers. This is a competitive NYS Civil Service position that is full time, 40 hours per week and subject to Civil Service rules for eligibility. This job provides a competitive salary and the potential for a $5,000 employment bonus.

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The applicants 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.

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For an application, full job description, minimum qualifications and Civil Service rules for eligibility please visit: <https://mycivilservice.yatescounty.org/jobopps>.

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Candidates will be subject to drug and alcohol testing prior to employment.

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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.

[**Line Crew Chief**](https://a93637c4-dcdb-4865-9e49-37e1b8fb94c9.filesusr.com/ugd/22a2c5_73f93ba96d2343ee9d9cdb44c2be0145.docx?dn=Part%20time%20Sr.%20Lineworker%20ad%20for%20MEUA.doc)**: Penn Yan**

**​**

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

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The applicant will supervise the Line Crew; manage the operational budget and maintain an adequate inventory for the Electric Department; 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.

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Range of hourly rate is $31.04 - $36.59 depending on years of experience.

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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.

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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 Friday, July 30, 2019.

