Executive Director Report

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Greetings Everyone,

As accustomed as we certainly are to less than ideal weather conditions here in upstate New York, I must say we have been enjoying some beautiful weather these last two months or so. I know some parts of the State are a little on the dry side, but hopefully that condition will resolve itself with some rainfall soon. As far as temperatures go, it is a bit of a glass half full / glass half empty scenario. Cooler temperatures result in lower levels of electric sales, but on the other hand, the lack of a hot summer (so far) in the northeast has kept our demand and prices for supplemental power from skyrocketing, so our customers benefit from that.

I attended two significant meetings this month. Chris Wentlent’s report provides details on the New York Independent System Operator Joint Board of Directors / Management Committee meeting several weeks ago. Chris is the Chair of the Management Committee, and we can all be proud of the work he is doing at the NYISO representing our collective interests. Representatives of various industry sectors were present at the meeting, including utilities, generators, transmission operators and regulators. I think it is safe to say that most everyone in attendance can agree on the different challenges before us in converting to a greener state electric grid. The questions yet to be answered are how we can achieve the mandates at a reasonable cost to the ultimate consumer and still maintain system reliability.

Last week I attended the New York Power Authority’s annual review of operations and finances with Kevin Brocks, Ken Podolny and Jim Lahtinen. The significant transmission and other energy-related projects being undertaken by NYPA come, of course, with a cost. The Authority is spending approximately one billion dollars on repairs and upgrades to maintain the current production at the Niagara hydro facility, from which our systems will directly benefit for years to come. Other projects may not benefit our systems directly, but we will nonetheless be required to pay a share of those costs. We can expect NYPA to request Public Service Commission approval of a rate increase for the cost of our preference power in the near future. We will keep you informed as developments occur.

I want to thank all of the systems that responded to the membership survey that was sent to MEUA and NYMPA members. We are compiling the responses and should be able to report on the results soon. If you did not respond, you may still do so. If you need a copy of the survey, please contact Narin here at the office and she can email it to you.

Finally, a reminder that the MEUA annual meeting will be held from September 6th through 9th at the historic Marriott Syracuse Hotel. Registration forms and further information will be sent out in the near future. We understand that everyone has multiple demands on your time and resources, but we hope that everyone can attend the meeting and learn from the presentations, the vendors and your municipal utility colleagues.



**Chris Wentlent: MEUA Advisor**

**June 2022**

**NYISO Update – July 2022**

**Happy Summer and I hope your 4th of July was enjoyable for you and your families.**

**Climate Action Council Update**

New York State’s 22-member Climate Action Council, established under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), has completed their public hearings across the State. Written comments were due on July 1. The Utilities Consultation Group (UCG) which MEUA is a participating member along with Con Edison, Orange & Rockland, Central Hudson, National Grid, New York State Electric & Gas, Rochester Electric & Gas, and National Fuel Gas (NFG) submitted a forty-six (46) page response that included an Executive Summary, and sections on Reliability, Natural Gas Transition, January 2022 Cold Weather Case Study, Role of the Utility, and Economy Wide Strategies including thoughts about carbon pricing. The comments were distributed to all Climate Action Council members, Executive Office energy personnel, and key legislative leaders.

In addition, the Climate Action Council at its recent April 2022 meeting outlined they will create smaller sub-groups to evaluate the role of natural gas, role of alternative fuels such as hydrogen/renewable natural gas and how to pay for the entire draft scoping plan. At the May 26 meeting; they announced the smaller subgroups were formed. The role of the subgroups is to attempt to arrive at a consensus however, the recommendation would not be binding. The UCG will make a Natural Gas Transition presentation to the smaller sub-group on Wednesday, July 6. The presentation will utilize our written comments on the topic to ensure the priorities are effectively communicated.

The final Scoping Plan is currently scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022.

**Status of Key Air Permits**

Danskammer – Danskammer Repowering appealed the NYSDEC permit denial decision. On June 9, Orange County Judge Robert Onofry rejected the energy company’s effort to overturn the denial of a permit under the new climate law. The judge affirmed that the NYSDEC had ample authority under the state’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) to deny permits for new polluting gas plants that interfered with the law’s ambitious mandates to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed expansion was the first large-scale gas-fired power plant to be considered by state authorities since the 2019 passage of CLCPA, which calls for sharp reductions in the use of fossil fuels, such as natural gas, which would power Danskammer.

Greenidge Station T5 Permit Renewal – on Thursday, June 30, The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced its denial of the Title V air permit renewal for the Greenidge Generation, LLC, facility located in the town of Torrey, Yates County.

DEC determined the permit renewal application does not demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Based on DEC's review of the specific facts and circumstances presented, this natural gas-fired facility's continued operations would be inconsistent with the statewide greenhouse gas emission limits established in the Climate Act.

Among the factors considered was the dramatic increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the facility since the passage of the Climate Act, driven by the change in the primary purpose of its operations. Rather than solely providing energy to the state's electricity grid, the power plant now primarily provides energy behind-the-meter to support the demands of Greenridge’s energy-intensive proof of work cryptocurrency mining operations.

**NYISO Joint Board & Management Committee**

On June 13 & 14, the NYISO hosted its Annual Joint Board/Management Committee Meeting. This is an annual event bringing together board members and Management Committee stakeholders. Jim Stokes and I attended the two-day meeting; as well as 130 other attendees. The agenda and discussion topics were prepared in advance and ten tables including thirteen participants discussed in detail the topics. On the second day, one NYISO Executive, the Management Committee Chair and Vice Chair provided a detailed summary of the comments received to the NYISO Board of Directors. The information shared is incorporated into the NYISO Five Year Strategic Plan.

The key themes covered during the closeout session included:

* Sense of urgency – this is a transformation of the industry, not a transition.
* Staffing Requirements – four major areas identified included interconnection support, coordinated planning, IT/Software Development, and market product development expertise. The magnitude of the market change is creating stress on these key areas.
* Role of NYISO – the energy industry has changed substantially. Market Stakeholders outlined the need for the NYISO to be an unbiased, informative, non-partisan and trusted advisor. Further, they must find ways to incorporate new stakeholders such as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and legislative and environmental justice representatives to the discussion.
* Market Products – the changing resource mix from traditional resources that operate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week are being displaced by intermittent resources that are subject to operating limits due to weather or technology. New market products will be necessary to manage these operational changes, and to maintain reliability and public safety.
* Operational System Planning & Reliability Planning – other markets such as California and Texas have experience severe system disruptions. New York has even more at risk due to our high population density areas and summer high heat/winter cold periods. It is critical that system reliability is included during the initial consideration before final decisions are made to ensure the path chosen does not have unintended consequences.
* Interconnection Process – every interconnection queue in the United States has experienced a high volume of interconnection requests. New York is no different. The process requires a full process review to determine what improvements can be realized, and additional staffing to manage the high volume.
* Timing & Sequencing – it is important to time new products with new technologies, new resources with the retirement of existing resources, and the buildout of transmission and distribution systems to manage the higher electric dependence that will occur through electrifying transportation and buildings simultaneously.
* Costs Matter – the industry must be transparent. All these proposed changes will cost, and the New York energy consumer must be educated about the impacts.

**NYISO 2023 Project Prioritization Process –** each year the NYISO stakeholders vote on which projects should be included in the 2023 budget and priorities for next year. In total, our vote covers eight systems. We selected the following projects as key priorities for next year and included a specific weight on each selection. In total, our projects selected must equal 100%.

All surveys were completed and submitted. The following were the projects, weight and basic explanation is provided:

* Coordinated Grid Planning Process - 5% - T&D buildout necessary to transition to new grid of resources.
* Balancing Intermittency - 20% - High intermittency will create new operational challenges to manage the grid. This project will evaluate ways to manage and balance intermittent resources.
* Constraint Specific Transmission Pricing - 5% - improves the efficient operation of the transmission power grid.
* Dynamic Reserves - 20% - a higher dependence on intermittency will create challenging gaps such as wind and solar lulls, peak and off-peak issues.
* Engaging Demand Side - 5% - Demand resources will become a new option and source of resources to manage the grid.
* Hybrid Aggregation - 20% - solar and energy storage must be maximized together. This project works on that capability
* Storage as Transmission - 5% - storage could offer quick response, but also potentially as a transmission option especially for congested areas. This project looks at this second element.
* Enhancing Interconnection Process - 20% -many ISOs/RTOs are facing bottlenecks in the interconnection process. This project will evaluate ways to improve the NY Interconnection Process.

The NYISO will report on the survey outcomes in mid-July 2022.

**MEUA Municipal Member EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISEMENTS:**

Full descriptions listed on our website —[**www.meua.org**](http://www.meua.org)

**Skaneateles: Electric Line Leader**

The Village of Skaneateles is seeking a full-time line leader for our electric department. This is a non-competitive civil service position involving overhead and underground work on our distribution system. Work will also involve other Village duties as necessary.

Qualifications include 4 years of Journeyman level work, with all certifications. Knowledge of distribution electric systems and substations. Ability to plan, develop strategies and implement ideas for crew leadership while performing line construction duties. Must have the ability to direct subordinate employees.

This is a Union position with the benefits commensurate with negotiated contracts. Salary commensurate with contract. Mail resume to Laurie Walter, Village Clerk, 26 Fennell St., Skaneateles, NY 13152.

**Village of Penn Yan Applicants; Employment Ads listed below:**

Interested applicants should apply by submitting an application to the Yates County Personnel Office at 417 Liberty St, Penn Yan, NY 14527 or online at https://mycivilservice.yatescounty.org/jobopps.

The Village of Penn Yan is an equal opportunity employer and a drug free workplace.

**Village of Penn Yan: Electric Lineworker**

The Village of Penn Yan Municipal Electric Department is seeking candidates for the full-time position of an experienced Electric Lineworker.

Primary Responsibilities:

-Engaged in any type of construction, operation or maintenance on distribution lines and associated equipment.

-Apply safety rules and regulations as they apply to line substation and service work.

-Installs, inspect and repair poles, conductor, transformers, meters, hardware and other equipment on or near energized and de-energized lines in keeping with the appropriate specifications.

-Respond to outages to investigate, locate, analyze, correct faults and restore service on distribution equipment.

-Perform line switching, including switching at a transformer or automatic air-switch station.

-Reviews plans and specifications.

-Inform supervisors of equipment and materials required to complete jobs.

-Trains other crew members in construction of electrical distribution systems.

-Performs basic maintenance on equipment.

-Other responsibilities as assigned.

See “Benefits” listed for this position at [www.meua.org](http://www.meua.org)

Keys to success include working effectively with a team, following safety protocol, being respectful to others, and having integrity and pride in your work.

Minimum qualifications include graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma; AND four (4) years of full-time or equivalent part-time paid work experience as an Apprentice Lineworker on electric distribution systems; OR one (1) year of full-time or equivalent part-time paid work experience as an Electric Utility Lineworker. (Must possess Qualified Electric Person (QEP)). This is a competitive NYS Civil Service position that is full time, 40 hours per week and subject to Civil Service rules for eligibility.

**Village of Penn Yan: Line Crew Chief**

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

Primary Responsibilities:

-Deputy Line Crew Chief will supervise the crew in the absence of the Crew Chief, assuming full

responsibility for the safe and efficient performance of their assigned work

-Assists in design, planning and coordination of line projects

-Engaged in any type of construction, operation or maintenance on distribution lines and associated equipment.

-Apply safety rules and regulations as they apply to line substation and service work.

-Installs, inspect and repair poles, conductor, transformers, meters, hardware and other equipment on or near energized and de-energized lines in keeping with the appropriate specifications.

-Respond to outages to investigate, locate, analyze, correct faults and restore service on distribution equipment.

-Perform line switching, including switching at a transformer or automatic air-switch station.

-Reviews plans and specifications.

-Inform supervisors of equipment and materials required to complete jobs.

-Trains other crew members in construction of electrical distribution systems.

-Performs basic maintenance on equipment.

-Other responsibilities as assigned.

See “Benefits” listed for this position at [www.meua.org](http://www.meua.org)

Minimum qualifications

a) Graduation from a regionally accredited NYS college or university with an Associates degree or higher in Engineering Science, Engineering Technology, Construction Technology or closely related field; AND three (3) years of experience in construction, installation, maintenance and/or operation of an electrical utility distribution system as a Lineworker, one (1) year of which involved supervision; OR

b) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma; AND five (5) years of the experience as described in (a), one (1) year of which involved supervision.

**Village of Penn Yan: Senior Lineworker**

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.

Primary Responsibilities

-Senior Lineworker will supervise the crew in the absence of the Crew Chief, assuming full

responsibility for the safe and efficient performance of their assigned work

-Engaged in any type of construction, operation or maintenance on distribution lines and associated equipment.

-Apply safety rules and regulations as they apply to line substation and service work.

-Installs, inspect and repair poles, conductor, transformers, meters, hardware and other equipment on or near energized and de-energized lines in keeping with the appropriate specifications.

-Respond to outages to investigate, locate, analyze, correct faults and restore service on distribution equipment.

-Perform line switching, including switching at a transformer or automatic air-switch station.

-Reviews plans and specifications.

-Inform supervisors of equipment and materials required to complete jobs.

-Trains other crew members in construction of electrical distribution systems.

-Performs basic maintenance on equipment.

-Other responsibilities as assigned.

See “Benefits” listed for this position at [www.meua.org](http://www.meua.org)