

WESTERN NEW YORK UPDATE

NIAGARA POWER PROJECT

NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2004

WNY NOTES

Computer Donations

A Power Authority program providing surplus computer equipment to public schools continues to benefit Western New York communities. This spring, the nonprofit organization Computers for Children, Inc., received 20 computers from NYPA for use in Buffalo city schools. The program kicked off two years ago with delivery of 30 NYPA computers to the Niagara Falls School District. Each computer is cleaned and furnished with 64 megabytes of memory. The program is intended to make computers available to students who may not be able to afford them at home.

Mark Your Calendars

• June 24

Niagara Relicensing Stakeholder Meeting, Quality Inn, Niagara Falls, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

• August 27-29

Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival (visit www.lewistonjazz.com for details)

• September 25, 26

NYPA's 19th annual Wildlife Festival, Niagara Power Vista, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

RELICENSING STUDIES, OUTREACH POINTING TOWARD SETTLEMENT

Through the high-tech world of Internet communications and the more personal approach of face-to-face meetings, the New York Power Authority's relicensing team is keeping stakeholders up to date on efforts to secure a new license for New York State's largest hydroelectric facility, the Niagara Power Project.

Rick Chase, NYPA's executive director for hydro relicensing, addresses stakeholders.



Throughout the first half of this year, NYPA's Niagara relicensing website (<http://niagara.nypa.gov>) has been updated regularly with information about ongoing studies relating to the power project and its role in Western New York. Relicensing team members have also been meeting with stakeholder groups to discuss study results and lay the groundwork for upcoming settlement discussions, which will ultimately lead to the filing of a license application, plus an Applicant-Prepared Environmental Assessment (APEA), with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by August 2005.

The next meeting for the more than 100 stakeholders—representing local governments, community and environmental groups, NYPA's industrial and municipal- and cooperative-system customers, and Native Americans, as well as state and federal regulatory agencies—is set for June 24. At that time, the group will review a schedule for the next 14 months that includes a series of settlement discussions with stakeholders, starting in August; the preparation of a draft license application and draft APEA by February 2005; and, ultimately, the filing of the final license application and APEA.

"Everything we do between now and August 2005 will be geared toward developing our license application and environmental assessment," said Rick Chase, NYPA's executive director for hydro

continued on back

Work Begins on Moses Power Dam Facelift, Repairs are Made to Fishing Platform

Most "40-somethings" don't need a facelift, unless they happen to be one of the nation's biggest power producers and call Western New York home.

The Niagara Power Project's main generating facility, the Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant, has been churning out reliable supplies of low-cost hydroelectricity through the hottest summer days and the coldest winter nights since it began operating (in union with the project's Lewiston Pump-Generating Plant) in 1961.

This spring marked the start of a three-year rehabilitation of the Moses plant's concrete face, standing 38 stories high along the lower Niagara River and stretching almost 2,000 feet across the western end of the hydro project forebay. Scaffolding stretched over the dam face will allow workers to inspect and make repairs to every inch of the structure during the warm weather months over the next three years.



The concrete face of the Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant will undergo repairs during the next three years.

The work coincides with an ongoing \$300 million life-extension project, begun in 1991, to replace the Moses plant's 13 turbines and provide improvements to other generating equipment. That project is scheduled for completion in 2006.

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Relicensing Studies, Outreach

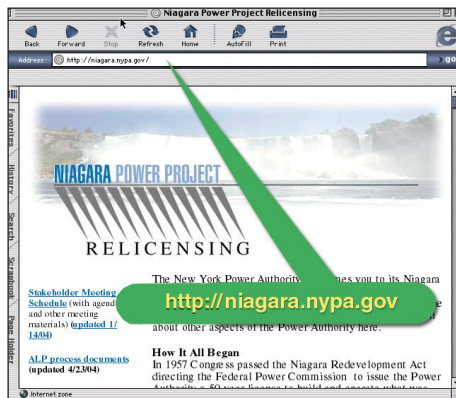
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relicensing. “That is the critical date for everyone. That date is not negotiable with FERC.”

Since their last meeting in November, stakeholders have been following NYPA’s progress on the relicensing via the Internet, where they’ve been able to read draft reports of more than 30 studies as they are posted, provide input during comment periods and then read responses from the relicensing team in a virtually paperless process.

Information from these studies—which cover a range of topics, including environmental, socio-economic, recreational and cultural issues—will help inform the upcoming settlement discussions.

NYPA’s relicensing team members have also been continuing their outreach efforts with



NYPA’s Niagara relicensing website helps reduce the amount of paper required to keep stakeholders informed of relicensing developments.

Western New York stakeholders to keep communication lines open and maintain momentum in the relicensing effort. Most participants recognize that the next few months are among the most important for the future of Niagara project operations and the many benefits the hydropower project brings to the region, Chase said.

“The stakeholders seem to understand that we are pursuing an ambitious schedule and they are

looking forward to participating in the upcoming settlement discussions,” he added. “We’ve been busy all along, but now the relicensing process will really start to pick up as we proceed toward our August 2005 deadline.” ❖

Power Dam Facelift

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Since May, drivers along Robert Moses State Parkway, which runs across the top of the plant, have experienced minor detours as the parkway’s southbound lanes are closed and traffic is diverted onto part of the northbound section. Lewiston

Road (Route 104), which runs adjacent to the parkway, will be minimally affected by the construction. A hiking trail crossing the plant will also be altered slightly during the concrete rehabilitation work.

Repairs began in May, following approval by NYPA trustees for the \$13 million project. In 2005 and 2006, the road closures and repair work will resume each April and continue through November.

Repairs have also begun on the Niagara project’s fishing pier, which opened to the public in 1989. The free, handicapped-accessible fishing facility has played host to thousands of local anglers since its opening.

Workers are disassembling portions of the concrete-and-galvanized-steel platform, located at the base of the Moses plant, and correcting normal wear and tear experienced by the popular fishing spot. The \$100,000 repair job is expected to take approximately 45 days, with the pier’s reopening scheduled by July. ❖

Since 1989, the Niagara project fishing pier has been a popular spot for local anglers.



STAKEHOLDER PROFILE

FRIENDS OF THE BUFFALO NIAGARA RIVERS

More than 100 individuals and organizations have been involved in the Niagara Power Project relicensing. Meet one of these stakeholders:

Name: Friends of the Buffalo Niagara Rivers

Founded: 1989

Leadership: Barry Boyer, president, and Julie O’Neill, executive director

Mission: FBNR is a community-based organization within the Niagara River watershed that works to restore river ecology, protect public health, improve waterfront public access and conserve heritage resources as the basis for Western New York’s sustainable economic development.

Quote to Note: “The relicensing of the Niagara Power Project will have an enormous influence on the health of the Niagara River system over the next 50 years. FBNR seeks to negotiate a settlement package with NYPA that restores and protects the Niagara River watershed in support of the region’s long-term sustainability.”

—Julie O’Neill, executive director

ABOUT WNY UPDATE

This quarterly newsletter reports on Power Authority activities in Western New York, particularly those associated with NYPA’s Niagara Power Project.

We welcome your comments. To contact us, call Joanne Willmott, community relations manager, 716-286-6651.