

# WESTERN NEW YORK UPDATE

NIAGARA POWER PROJECT

NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2004-2005

## WNY NOTES

- Randy Crissman, NYPA's regional manager for Western New York, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Old Fort Niagara Association, which operates the 300-year-old military complex situated where the Niagara River empties into Lake Ontario. In recent years, the Power Authority has assisted in improvement projects at Old Fort Niagara, a state and national historic landmark. Crissman will help develop a visitors center and upgrade exhibits and programs at the fort during his 18-month term.
- The Niagara USA Chamber hosted a Dec. 6 dinner to applaud recent graduates of its Leadership Niagara program, including Steve Colan, human resources facilities manager at the Niagara project. Each year, approximately 30 individuals are chosen to participate in the program, which encourages greater knowledge of and involvement in Niagara County issues and activities. In 2003, Leadership Niagara honored the Power Authority for its contributions to tourism and the local economy.
- The YWCA of Niagara County recognized Kathy Moyer, a general clerk at the Niagara project, at its 2004 *Tribute to*

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## NIAGARA PROJECT UPGRADE HEADS INTO HOMESTRETCH

A 15-year program to upgrade generating equipment at the New York Power Authority's Niagara Power Project is entering its final phase.

Workers at the project's main Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant started work in mid-January on the 12th of 13 turbine-generator units undergoing a major overhaul targeted for completion by late 2006.

The \$300 million upgrade, begun in 1991, will replace or refurbish equipment that has been operating for more than 40 years, producing some of the nation's least-expensive electricity. With output from the Robert Moses plant and an adjacent facility, the Lewiston Pump-Generating Plant, the Niagara project can produce 2,400 megawatts of hydroelectricity, making it the state's largest power producer.

NYPA employees, who are handling most of the upgrade work, completed overhauling the 11th turbine-generator unit in early November.

When completed, the upgrade will extend the lifespan and improve the efficiency of the Moses plant, permitting production of more electricity at times of greatest consumer demand without significantly increasing its overall output.

In a related development, the Power Authority has decided not to pursue an upgrade of the Niagara project's pump-generating plant, determining that proposed improvements could raise

the cost of electricity while providing no additional power for economic development.

The decision came after NYPA officials studied the findings of an independent consultant, Acres International Corporation of Amherst. Instead,



*Niagara project generator undergoes overhaul.*

NYPA will proceed with an ongoing \$20 million maintenance overhaul of the Lewiston plant, including inspection and repair of its pump-turbines and equipment.

The Power Authority uses the Lewiston plant to generate electricity at times of peak demand by pumping water from the Niagara project's forebay into Lewiston Reservoir during off-peak hours. The water is then available for power production when demand for electricity is greatest. ❖

## Energy Efficiency Improvements Benefit WNY Students, Taxpayers, Environment

The Power Authority's latest energy services project completed in Western New York provides more comfortable living conditions for students at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo and cleaner air for them and surrounding communities.

The installation of \$10.8 million in new energy-efficient technologies at Goodyear Hall,

located on SUNY Buffalo's South Campus, is a prime example of environmentally sustainable building strategies. Taxpayers will also benefit from the savings realized through these energy-efficiency improvements at the state university.

NYPA completed most of the three-phase project during the summer months, when the impact of the work on students was minimized. The Power Authority

recoups its investment in energy services upgrades within 15 years by sharing in the savings resulting from the efficiency improvements.

"The modern, energy-efficient systems installed in Goodyear Hall will save scarce resources, which UB can apply to other critical needs," said SUNY Chancellor Robert King. "Efficient use of energy also benefits the environment, and the construction project itself provides jobs and economic activity."

Among the improvements included in the project are more than 300 specially designed windows coated with a film that



*More than 300 new windows are helping keep dorm rooms warm inside SUNY Buffalo's Goodyear Hall.*

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## NYPA Power Allocations Help Attract New Jobs At Local Industries

As 2004 was drawing to a close, Power Authority trustees approved power allocations for two local businesses pledging to expand their operations and hire additional workers.

In November, NYPA approved an allocation of 700 kilowatts (kw) for Fujisawa Healthcare, Inc., which has pledged to create 30 new jobs as part of a \$9 million expansion at its manufacturing facility in Grand Island where it produces dermatological prescription medications.

The following month, trustees approved an allocation for Curtis Screw Co. of Buffalo. Curtis Screw, which manufactures components and assemblies for the automotive industry, will receive 1,450 kw in return for adding 16 more jobs to its work force of 260.

The allocations are the result of a new streamlined process developed in cooperation with the Western New York Advisory Group, created to help make hydroelectricity from NYPA's Niagara Power Project available on a continuous basis for economic development. The advisory group consists of the Power Authority, Niagara Mohawk, Empire State Development and Buffalo Niagara Enterprise. The Niagara County Industrial Development Agency also participates in advisory group proceedings. ❖

## Energy Efficiency

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reduces glare and unwanted heat from sunlight in the summer; the film will help keep rooms warmer during the cold weather months as well.

The Power Authority also upgraded the heating system, replaced steam radiators with hot-water units and installed new air handlers to increase the flow of fresh air throughout the 45-year-old, 10-story dormitory building.

An automated energy-management system will enable faster responses to heating requirements based upon weather conditions. Additionally, NYPA reinforced the building's electrical system, providing lighting and air-conditioning improvements. Room-occupancy sensors will automatically control lighting as well.

The various technologies employed in the Goodyear Hall project will help conserve enough energy to reduce greenhouse emissions by almost 650 tons annually.

In recent years, the Power Authority has completed energy-efficiency improvements at other public facilities in Western New York, including 20 municipal buildings operated by Niagara County and 23 buildings owned by Buffalo Public Schools. A new energy services project is scheduled for the four Governors Residence Halls on SUNY Buffalo's North Campus in suburban Amherst this summer.

Elsewhere, NYPA has completed 46 similar projects at 82 SUNY facilities across the state. ❖

## NOTES *continued from front*

*Women Dinner* in September.

Moyer, an 18-year veteran at the hydro project, received the organization's Front Line Award for her many charitable efforts at work and in her church, St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church in Niagara Falls. In all, 24 women were nominated for consideration in six categories. Proceeds from the dinner benefit Caroline's House, a housing project being built in Niagara Falls for homeless women and their families.

- Niagara project employees raise money throughout the year to support charitable causes and provide assistance to the less fortunate. By Christmas, volunteers with the Niagara Employees Community Support Group had collected approximately \$9,000 through in-house raffles, auctions and donations, enabling them to buy warm clothing and other gifts for 88 local children. The group also contributes to area soup kitchens and food pantries.

## 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.

## Lewiston Jazz Festival Keeps Getting Better

The Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival continues to grow in size and reputation. Over the last weekend of August 2004, close to 30,000 people filled Village of Lewiston streets to browse antiques, admire classic cars, sample gourmet delights and listen to lots of jazz. As primary sponsor of the annual event, NYPA has already begun planning the 2005 festival, set for Aug. 26-28, in cooperation with the revamped Lower Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce and almost 30 co-sponsors.

