

# WESTERN NEW YORK UPDATE

NIAGARA POWER PROJECT

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## WNY NOTES

### Hydrogen Project Planned for WNY

A \$21 million plan to use NYPA hydropower to produce hydrogen is expected to attract economic development to Western New York while demonstrating the viability of hydrogen as a clean, renewable, carbon-free source of fuel.

The initiative, announced in October 2006, calls for less than one megawatt of hydroelectricity from NYPA's Niagara Power Project to be used to create hydrogen through the process of electrolysis, which separates the



*This Honda FCX fuel cell car runs on hydrogen, with water vapor its only emission.*

oxygen and hydrogen molecules in water. Starting in 2008 the hydrogen will fuel a fleet of non-polluting vehicles to be operated by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority and Niagara Falls State Park.

Private businesses and government entities have expressed interest in the venture, considered one of the largest hydrogen

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## HYDROPOWER FUELS SUCCESS

Recent milestones reached by two of NYPA's long-time hydropower customers reflect the overall success of economic development efforts tied to the Niagara Power Project.

For FMC Corporation of Tonawanda and Steuben Foods of Elma, 2006 was a year of expansion, thanks to new allocations of Niagara project hydropower.

counties reported 62,000 manufacturing jobs, with more than 70 percent tied to Niagara hydropower.

"This is a good example of government working in partnership with business to promote a stronger economy," James Scerra, manufacturing finance manager at FMC, said in acknowledging the 2,500-kilowatt (kw) allocation approved in January 2006.



*At Steuben Foods' recent ribbon-cutting were, from left: Timothy Doolittle, Empire State Development regional director; Elma Town Supervisor Mike Nolan; Scott Toth, Horizon Organic vice president of operations; Henry Schwartz, Steuben's chief executive officer; State Sen. Dale Volker; Tom Taggart, Steuben's vice president of engineering; Ken Schlossberg, Steuben president; Michael Huvane, NYPA manager of business marketing; and Assemblyman Mike Cole.*

Together, the two manufacturers expect to create 100 new jobs while making multi-million-dollar investments to their Western New York facilities.

Industrial allocations from NYPA's Niagara project are now made based on recommendations from the Western New York Advisory Group, consisting of the Power Authority, National Grid, Empire State Development Corp., Niagara County and the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise. In mid-2006, Erie and Niagara

In return for the power, the chemical products company is undertaking a nearly \$3 million capital project while relocating operations from New Jersey and Arizona to Western New York.

Founded more than 120 years ago as the Food Machinery Corporation, FMC marked its 75th year on the New York Stock Exchange in 2006. The future remains promising for the firm, which has

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## Power Authority Supports New Micro-Park

Sometimes smaller is better. That's the idea behind a series of micro-parks being developed along the Buffalo Riverwalk Bike Path with assistance from the Power Authority.

NYPA Trustee and Western New York native Elise Cusack joined Assemblyman Sam Hoyt at LaSalle Park this fall to unveil plans for the stretch of property between Riverside Park and the Tiff Nature Preserve, part of the new Niagara River Greenway.

The Power Authority has contributed \$10,000 in seed money for the project to the Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo and Western New York, an organization that encourages better health through active living. Affiliated with a larger group called BeActive New York State, the Wellness Institute has taken the lead in developing small areas known as micro-parks for healthy outdoor activities.

"NYPA recognizes the importance of partnering with groups in this region whose aim is to create new recreational opportunities while at the same time



*Assemblyman Sam Hoyt, far right, and NYPA Trustee Elise Cusack present a ceremonial check to, from left, micro-park proponents Jason McCarthy and Justin Booth.*

giving residents greater access to the waterfront," Cusack explained.

"This grant will help kick-start the development initiatives that will be the focus of the Niagara River Greenway Commission and other waterfront revitalization efforts," Hoyt added. "I am pleased that the Power Authority recognized the importance of this initiative and provided this crucial funding." ❖



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## Hydropower

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developed a number of new products that help to clean contaminated soil at industrial sites through an oxidation process using persulfates.

Steuben Foods is using the savings from its 3,000-kw allocation, announced in December 2005, to finance an \$18 million expansion at its Erie County plant. Company officials held a ribbon-

cutting ceremony in October 2006 to unveil new facilities that process aseptic dairy-based products, which can be stored without refrigeration for extended periods of time.

“This plant, and all of the collateral benefits for the economy of Western New York, would not have happened but for the low-cost hydropower provided through NYPA,” said Steuben’s chief executive officer, Henry Schwartz. ❖



## Dramatic New Lighting For Niagara Rapids

The Niagara River Rapids have assumed a dramatic new presence at night, thanks to an energy-efficient lighting project NYPA has completed for the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Besides providing clearer, brighter illumination, the new lights will save the state (and its taxpayers) more than \$60,000 a year in energy, equipment and maintenance costs.

## Falling Snow, Trees Bring NYPA Response

NYPA transmission line crews were dispatched to Western New York to help clear massive numbers of fallen trees following October’s surprise snowstorm. Workers from the Power Authority’s facilities in



Massena, Gilboa and Marcy brought lift trucks, chain saws, wood chippers and other equipment to assist their coworkers from NYPA’s Niagara Power Project in Lewiston. ❖

## WNY NOTES *continued*

demonstration projects in the world. Besides tapping the resources of Western New York’s state universities and skilled work force, it will also educate the public about hydrogen’s many benefits as a vehicle fuel and energy carrier. In fact, the New York State Hydrogen Roadmap, released in 2005, is intended to help the state coordinate long-term public and private investments to develop a hydrogen economy in the Empire State. ❖

### YWCA Honors NYPA Staffers

Paula Galloway, a general clerk at NYPA’s Niagara project, won top honors in the Front Line Award category at the YWCA’s “Tribute to Women” dinner in September. Galloway assists with educational programs and special events at the project’s visitors center. Suzette Kosikowski, environmental supervisor, was a finalist in the Professional Award category. ❖

### ABOUT WNY UPDATE

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

**We welcome your comments.**  
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