



# RELIABLE NEWS

The official newsletter for the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance

SUMMER 2009

The Power Behind a Growing New York

## Innovation Key to Overcoming Energy Challenges

By U.S. Representative Paul Tonko

The first six months of the Obama Administration and the 111th Congress has been marked by a rapid about face when it comes to tackling our energy problems. As a nation, we finally recognize that we cannot solely rely on fossil fuels to power the economy of the future.

We need to look to energy conservation and efficiency, to drill and mine efficiency like we drill and mine for oil and coal. The development of alternative fuels is key to ending our gluttonous dependence on fossil fuels that are imported from some of the most dangerous spots in the world.

We've already made great strides forward, through an historic investment in green energy via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as well as the federal budget. Now Congress is starting work on an energy bill that will set the nation's new energy policy moving forward. Government will play a key role in not just the development of alternative energy sources, but in also filling the black hole between development and the free market, so that the best ideas can come to market in an affordable manner.

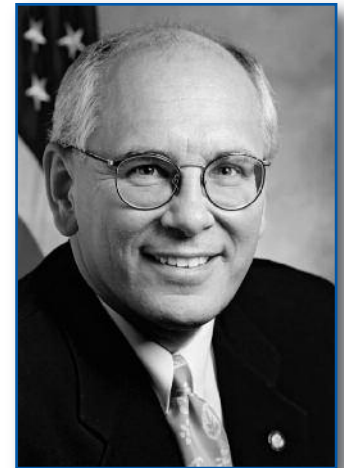
The major challenge we face in New York and the country is helping to create a stable market for energy investments. We must also recognize, at least in New York, that the state still needs a power plant siting process that is fair, reliable and comprehensive. Our energy policy should be about more than just keeping the lights on, it should be about smart, pragmatic solutions that will power future generations and enhance our energy security.

We can make great strides towards solving our future energy needs by focusing on a process that has been virtually ignored for the past eight years: research and development.

Time and again our economy has been pushed forward by a spirit of innovation. A century ago, the last energy revolution started right in the heart of my district with General Electric. Less than a half century ago President Kennedy announced the space race in response to Sputnik. We now have that opportunity again. But, when one

considers the global context, it's easy to see that the United States is falling woefully behind.

The House of Representatives is considering the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which would create millions of clean energy jobs, put America on the path to energy independence and cut global warming pollution. However, only 1.5 percent of this bill would go towards research and development. By comparison, China is investing \$12.6 million every hour towards clean energy. With this kind of deficit, we stand to lose our place in the world as it relates to our energy security, and that is a finished product we cannot afford to import.



U.S. Representative  
Paul Tonko

We don't have to look far to see that the kind of innovation that is worth investing in is alive and well in our country, especially in green energy development. There is a worldwide race to perfect alternative battery technology – to find a safe, reliable method for long-term storage and delivery of the energy created by renewable resources.

Just last month, in my district, General Electric made a commitment to build a plant that would produce a new battery system for diesel-hybrid locomotives based on sodium. GE invested \$150 million of its own money in the technology, but it is government investment in the new plant which will help catalyze the new system to market – a system that could save millions of gallons of diesel fuel, reduce costs and emissions, and be a major economic catalyst for the Capital Region and the company. It will also create hundreds of new jobs.

In conclusion, we cannot forget about investing in human capital – the mathematicians, engineers, physicists and other scientists and technicians who drive new ideas and innovation. We need to remain invested in people and ideas, and we need to find new ways to spark the interest of the next generation in the sciences.

The American Spirit is alive and well inside each and every one of us; we can and we will solve our massive energy and economic challenges, and create a better future for generations to come. We have taken the first step, recognizing our problems. Now, we need to move forward with investments in ideas that will lead to the solutions that better our economy, environment and energy outcomes. \*

### Inside this Issue

Member Spotlight: BALCONY ..... Pg. 5

NY AREA Resolution on Waxman/Markey Bill..... Pg. 7



# Chairman's Report

By Jerry Kremer

The American Clean Energy and Security Act, also referred to as the Waxman-Markey bill, narrowly passed the U.S. House of Representatives in late June. The 1,200 page bill will have impacts on almost all sectors of the economy, including a huge impact on the way electricity is generated. Of course it isn't clear how much of the expansive House bill will survive in the Senate. Many

moderate Democrats and Republicans have expressed dislike for portions of the bill which could negatively impact states that heavily rely on coal for electricity or have large industry sectors.

President Barack Obama and many Democrats insist that the bill will spur job-creating investments in "green" technologies while lessening our reliance on foreign oil. The bill also has the difficult task of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change. It would put a cap on emissions that are linked to climate change with a goal of reducing overall U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent from 2005 levels by year 2020 and 83 percent by 2050.

The proposal is similar to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in that it requires companies to buy permits to emit carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

New York's previous and ongoing participation in RGGI puts us at a distinct advantage over many states with no experience documenting and auctioning emissions. The federal proposal expands the reach of RGGI to include emissions from sources beyond power plants.

Beyond cap and trade, the legislation focuses on making the U.S. more energy independent and promoting various forms of clean energy. It also targets buildings, appliances and vehicles for increased efficiency and emission standards.

Additionally, it attempts to soften any major or negative impacts by easing into the program and ensuring consumers and low-income families are protected. Over half of all allowances are used to protect consumers from energy price increases through 2025. Beyond that, over 80 percent of allowances are distributed without charge in the early years of the program to ease transition to a clean energy economy.

If this legislation becomes law, how will this legislation impact New Yorkers? New York's electricity generation portfolio puts New York in a unique position. Approximately 50 percent of New York's power comes from

clean, emission-free sources of power, mainly hydropower and nuclear.

It is a bit unfortunate that creating a 'Renewable Electricity Standard' did not include hydropower or nuclear and puts limits on biomass that disqualify much of it. It does promote increased efficiency measures for hydropower at existing dam locations and by putting a price on carbon emissions, which automatically creates a competitive advantage for nuclear power.

Moreover, it supports nuclear further by creating a 'Clean Energy Deployment Administration' which would promote access to affordable financing for clean energy and energy efficiency technologies.

What will the cost be to New Yorkers? This legislation has the potential to increase energy prices across New York State and the country. Several members of New York's congressional delegation have expressed concern over the state's already high energy prices and the potential increases and loss of business that would result if Waxman-Markey becomes law. Proponents of the bill claim that the impact to average households will be fewer than 30 cents per day, or about \$100 a year. Many Republicans and opponents to the bill instead claim that the legislation will cost average middle class families around \$3,000 a year. The true cost is unknown and the Senate will have the opportunity to make changes that could increase or decrease the bill's impact.

New Yorkers can be happy with our current "clean" portfolio of electricity generation and look forward to how the Senate approaches the bill, particularly since the state is represented by the influential Sen. Charles Schumer and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, who sits on the Environment and Public Works Committee.

As the Senate hearings unfold, it will be interesting to see how New York's interests fare. My hope is they create a bill that limits pollution, encourages investment in energy and has minimal impact on middle class families. \*



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# Entergy Seeks Action on Nuclear Spin-Off

New York AREA member Entergy Corporation announced in mid-July the revision of financial plans related to the spin-off its two New York nuclear power plants, Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan and the James Fitzpatrick nuclear plant near Oswego, as well as three other nuclear power plants. The spin-off creates Enexus Energy Corp., a new company that will operate nuclear power plant facilities in New York, Michigan, Massachusetts and Vermont.

In a filing with the New York Public Service Commission, Entergy asked that regulators in New York expedite their decision on whether the deal was going to be allowed to proceed in a timely fashion.

Entergy has been working towards spinning off these five nuclear power plants since November 2007 and has worked with New

**Entergy has been working towards spinning off these five nuclear power plants since November 2007, and has worked with New York officials to allay any concerns regarding how the plants will operate under the new company.**

York officials to allay any concerns regarding how the plants will operate under the new company.

Entergy has made changes to its initial reorganization proposal, including an increase in Enexus' beginning unrestricted

cash balance from \$250 million to \$750 million, \$1.175 billion in secured credit and a minimum liquidity level commitment of \$350 million. The revised plan also contains data to prove that funding for decommissioning of the power plants will be readily available.

In a press release from Entergy, the company explained that in addition to the increase of half a billion dollars of capital reserves, Enexus "proved its ability to raise capital in challenging financial markets evidenced by entering into a \$1.175 billion Enexus-secured bank facility in December 2008 with 14 financial institutions in the most challenging financial markets in many decades."

Additionally, Entergy has put together a schedule of procedures for a final proposal in anticipation of the November meeting of the New York Public Service Commission. \*

## New York AREA Advisory Board Meeting in Albany

On Tuesday, June 16, 2009, the New York AREA Advisory Board gathered in Albany to discuss the coalition's legislative agenda and strategic planning for the remainder of the year.

Board Members in attendance were: Gavin Donohue of the Independent Power Producers of New York (IPPNY), Kevin Lanahan of the Energy Association of New York State, Heather Briscetti representing the Business Council of New York State, Paul Vitale the Business Council of Westchester, Al Samuels of the Rockland Business Association, Jerry Connolly representing the Coalition of Labor for Energy and Jobs, Bob Seeger from Millwrights Local 740 and Matthew LoPresti representing Boilermakers Local 5.

Additionally, guests included New York AREA members Mike Elmendorf of the National Federation of Independent Business and Christopher McGrath of New York Capitol Consultants.

Following a brief overview of New York AREA's recent activities, talk quickly turned to Assembly Bill 1563 which would eliminate competition within New York's electricity markets. Mr. Donohue gave a brief rundown of the bill and also distributed IPPNY's memo in opposition.

Later that morning, Chairman Jerry Kremer and New York AREA Executive Director John Durso, Jr. presented a resolution on the American Clean Energy and Security Act (HR 2454), noting the numerous requests from New York's congressional delegation for more feedback on the bill.

The duo also discussed the potential impact of the bill on New York State's current electricity portfolio. They noted that New York's current portfolio, consisting of more than 30 percent nuclear power and nearly 20 percent hydro-power, was not fully recognized in the composition of the bill at that time. The New York AREA Advisory Board resolution unanimously approved the resolution (see page 7), which specifically requested that the bill amend the definitions of "renewable" and "sustainable" energy to support New York State's clean energy portfolio. \*



(left to right): Jerry Connolly, Matthew LoPresti, Chris McGrath, Bob Seeger, Paul Vitale and Al Samuels



(left to right): Mike Elmendorf, Heather Briscetti, Gavin Donohue and Kevin Lanahan

## New Issue Brief Focuses on Electricity Competition

In late June, New York AREA released the issue brief titled *New York's Competitive Electricity Market and Why We Should Keep It*, the latest of its ongoing series of educational issue briefs.

Co-authored by New York AREA Chairman Arthur "Jerry" Kremer and Dr. Matthew Cordaro, Dean of the Townsend School of Business at Dowling College, the issue brief discusses the history, benefits and ramifications of eliminating competitive markets for electricity in New York, via New York State Assembly Bill 1536.

According to the brief's authors, the legislation would result in increased costs to

businesses and consumers, inhibit improvements to New York's transmission system and distract from greater electricity problems that New York has to solve.

In defense of keeping competition alive in New York, Mr. Kremer and Dr. Cordaro agree that the current system, operated by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), provides, "...a powerful incentive for producers to offer supply at the lowest possible price. Under this system, a uniform price will be paid for the supply of electricity needed. Thus, some generators may receive more for the electricity provided than their actual bid."

The authors state that Assembly Bill 1536 is seeking to replace the competitive market with what is described in the report as a "descending clock, pay-as-bid auction." The problem with this proposal, according to the issue brief, is the lack of assurance that supply will meet demand at a low cost.

In addition, it points out that the bill could be interfering with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) authority, which includes oversight of wholesale power pricing.

To read the issue brief, visit New York AREA online at [www.area-alliance.org](http://www.area-alliance.org). \*

## Editorial Series Addresses Need for Energy and Jobs

Beginning in January of 2009, New York AREA published a series of opinion editorials in *The Capitol* and *City Hall* newspapers.

From January through June, opinion editorials focused on numerous topics vital to New York's energy future such as competitive electricity markets, a new power plant siting law, electricity infrastructure, jobs in the upstate and western New York regions, energy conservation in New York City and the importance of nuclear energy in the state's energy portfolio.

New York AREA members who authored op-eds included:

- Arthur "Jerry" Kremer, William Mooney and Mike Elmendorf (*The Capitol*, January 2009)
- Arthur "Jerry" Kremer, Lenny Caro and Robert Ledwith (*City Hall*, January 2009)
- John H. Banks, Jerry Connolly and Gavin Donohue (*The Capitol*, February 2009)
- Marsha Gordon, Bruce E. Ventimiglia and Tom Klein (*The Capitol*, March 2009)
- Matty Aracich, Edward H. Brzezowski and Michael J. Forde (*City Hall*, March 2009)
- Melvin Burruss, Larry Davis, and Arthur "Jerry" Kremer (*The Capitol*, April 2009)
- Kathy Wylde and Dan Durett (*City Hall*, April 2009)
- James Castellane, Al Samuels, and Kevin Lanahan (*The Capitol*, May 2009)
- Arthur "Jerry" Kremer, Joe Brown and Gary LaBarbera (*The Capitol*, June 2009)

To read the 2009 op-eds, visit New York AREA online at [www.area-alliance.org](http://www.area-alliance.org). \*

### Utilize Stimulus Funds to Rebuild our Energy Infrastructure



By Gary LaBarbera

New York City, with its famously "lit-up" skyline, is keeping its lights on by depending on power plants and power transmission infrastructure that in many cases pre-date World War II. If New York City truly intends to remain a world class place to live, work and visit we must address the toll that the hand of time is taking on our energy infrastructure.

Funding on its way from the Obama Administration to help improve New York City's infrastructure couldn't have come at a better time. The need for infrastructure upgrades and replacements are apparent and the working men and women of our city's building trades need the jobs.

Throughout New York City high-rise buildings that dot our skyline are essentially vertical towns and cities, housing hundreds of families and workers. Each apartment or office requires significant electricity and power transmission to distribute the voltage that keeps New York City going.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# BALCONY Unites Business, Labor for Common Purpose

Employing a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, the Business and Labor Coalition of New York (BALCONY) has been at the forefront of seeking common ground among business and labor within the Empire State. Founded in 2006 by Alan Lubin, Executive Vice President of New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and Bruce Ventimiglia, Chairman of the Saratoga Capital Management, BALCONY has been recognized as an effective, non-partisan coalition that has advanced significant public policy initiatives beneficial to businesses and workers alike.

“BALCONY represents a new era in collaboration and cooperation between employers, who want to share their successes with the people who labor on their behalf and employees who want their businesses to thrive in this challenging global economy,” said Mr. Lubin. “We seek common ground because we realize we are all in this together and when we work together, we have a far greater chance at achieving our mutual goals.”

Representing businesses, labor unions, chambers of commerce and advocacy organizations such as New York AREA, BALCONY adheres to the principles that the success of business and labor are uniquely intertwined – and that an informed and active membership can achieve great results. As BALCONY Executive Director Lou Gordon, a former journalist and political veteran noted, “We formed BALCONY the old fashion way – one member at a time.”

In 2008, BALCONY joined New York AREA, citing New York AREA’s focus on infrastructure, renewable energy and promoting the growth of a new generation of green-collar jobs. “New York AREA is very responsive to us as members. The projects and initiatives they support reflect those that interest BALCONY, especially those that bolster the New York economy like infrastructure upgrades and energy reliance,” said Mr. Gordon.

BALCONY has also achieved much notoriety for their series of public forums. These events, which have featured the likes of New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, Port Authority Executive Director Christopher Ward, New York City Comptroller William Thompson and former Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond Chairman Dr. Thomas Mackell, Jr.,

have enabled BALCONY members the unique opportunity to personally interact with key policy makers. Topics at these forums have included healthcare, infrastructure, pensions and the economy.

“At BALCONY we are dedicated to developing solutions to the complex issues facing New York State, including health care, economic security, education and infrastructure funding,” stated Mr. Ventimiglia. “Our coalition of business and labor is meeting the challenges of all New Yorkers by working together to address the important issues that we are all confronted with.”

BALCONY is concerned and working towards maintaining the economic viability of New York businesses. “Energy cost is a major component of a business’s bottom line,” said Mr. Gordon. He also expressed the importance of the Metropolitan Transit Authority’s (MTA) infrastructure and capital plan moving forward and the finalization of the \$3.3 billion Port Authority capital plan in



At a recent forum, BALCONY Co-Chair Alan Lubin (l) joined New York City District Council of Carpenters Political Director Steve McInnis (r) to discuss the state of New York's infrastructure.

order to secure the jobs and infrastructure upgrades that are needed in New York. “We’re also supportive of state-funded infrastructure investment that will continuously allow for improvement of the conditions of New York’s roads and bridges,” added Mr. Gordon.

BALCONY is headquartered in New York City with affiliates in Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse. For more information on BALCONY, visit their website at [www.balconynewyork.com](http://www.balconynewyork.com), or call Executive Director Lou Gordon at (212) 219-7777. \*



**Yes! I want to join the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance.**

I support your efforts to educate communities regarding the necessity for safe, reliable energy and advocacy to ensure that New York has an ample and reliable electricity supply and economic prosperity for years to come.\* Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

Associate Member:  \$50  Other \$

Large Business/Labor Member: Contribution Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed

Mail to: 347 Fifth Avenue, Suite 508, New York, New York 10016

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Conditions of membership apply. For more details send inquiries to [info@area-alliance.org](mailto:info@area-alliance.org). New York AREA is a 501(c)(6) IRS Tax-Exempt Organization that advocates for reliable, affordable, and clean energy solutions, as well as conservation measures, for New York and all New Yorkers.

# Waxman-Markey Bill Moves to the U.S. Senate

On March 31, 2009, U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman (D, CA), who serves as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and U.S. Rep. Edward Markey (D, MA), who serves on the Energy and Environment Subcommittee, released their clean energy legislation, referred to as the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES). The stated goal of the legislation is to create jobs, help end our reliance on foreign oil and combat global warming.

On May 21, 2009, after hundreds of hours of public hearings and committee deliberations the bill was passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. It establishes a cap-and-trade program to control climate-altering emissions, dictates an increase in the

use of renewable energy sources and sets new efficiency standards for buildings, lighting and industrial facilities. It also calls for a 17 percent reduction in emissions of heat-trapping gases from 2005 levels by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050.

On June 26, the bill was passed by the full House by a vote of 219-212 with 44 Democrats voting against it and 8 Republicans voting for the bill, which now heads to the Senate where it faces an uncertain future. Many senators in the Midwest, which depends heavily on manufacturing and coal, fear that the legislation would cause energy prices to skyrocket. It is expected that the Senate will take up the bill after Senators return from their August recess. \*



Congressmen Henry Waxman (above) and Edward Markey (right).

## New York AREA Meets with Federal Lawmakers

As part of New York AREA's ongoing initiatives, Chairman Jerry Kremer and Executive Director John Durso, Jr. have led nearly a dozen meetings with members of New York's Congressional delegation and their staff throughout 2009. Meeting with Republicans and Democrats alike, Mr. Kremer and Mr. Durso have discussed the history and mission of New York AREA as well as the organization's support for the federal stimulus package.

They have also discussed New York AREA's ongoing efforts to support New York-based energy initiatives that will create new jobs, promote investment and protect our environment. These include the development of an upstate-based high-speed rail line between Buffalo and Albany, the development of smart grid technology, the license renewal of the Indian Point Energy Center and strengthening New York State's growing demands for clean, affordable and reliable baseload power.

New York AREA advisor and Greenpeace co-founder Dr. Patrick Moore also joined them for several of these meetings to discuss his personal journey from anti-nuclear activist to nuclear power advocate. Dr. Moore also explained the need to maintain and develop further our clean, renewable energy resources, citing hydropower and geothermal energy as examples.

President Barack Obama has publicly signaled that the issues of energy and the environment will be two of his administration's top priorities throughout his term in office. Working with the leaders of Congress, including New York's powerful and influential delegation, the President has focused his efforts on encouraging new research and development of alternative energy resources, pushing for greater energy efficiencies and promoting new technologies designed to protect our air and water.

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As Washington presses forward in securing our nation's energy future and fighting the growing threat of global climate change, New York AREA will continue to meet with federal officials in the months to come. \*

# New York AREA Backs Amendments to Climate Change Bill

**W**HEREAS, the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA) was formed in 2003 following the great Eastern blackout to address New York's growing electricity challenges; and

WHEREAS, New York AREA has grown to include more than 150 members representing the business, labor, utility and environmental communities across our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, New York AREA has achieved great success through the public advocacy for clean, reliable sources of baseload power, renewable energy research and development and new investment in New York State's aging energy infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, New York AREA remains focused on fortifying New York State's baseload electricity capacity through the siting and development of newer, cleaner baseload power resources and the enactment of a new, comprehensive, fuel-neutral power plant siting law; and

WHEREAS, more than 48 percent of New York State's energy portfolio is made up of clean, affordable and sustainable energy resources, such as hydro and nuclear power, contributing to New York's ranking as third in the nation for the lowest per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which instituted a cap-and-trade program within participating states, would not have been possible without New York's significant energy portfolio of clean, affordable and sustainable energy resources, such as hydro and nuclear power; and

WHEREAS, federal representatives Henry Waxman of California and Edward Markey of

Massachusetts have collaborated on H.R. 2454, entitled "The American Clean Energy and Security Act" and known as the "Waxman-Markey" bill; and

WHEREAS, the RGGI program has spurred federal efforts to institute a national cap-and-trade program under Waxman-Markey, which would establish a level playing field for power producers, businesses and other industry participants throughout our nation; and

WHEREAS, while there are many components of Waxman-Markey that take positive steps towards securing our nation's energy future and preserving our nation's natural environment against the continuing threat of climate change, the legislation's definition of renewable energy places New York State at a competitive disadvantage during the worst economic climate in three decades; and

WHEREAS, New York AREA is concerned that hydro power, which accounts for approximately 18 percent of New York State's energy portfolio, is not fully-recognized for its environmental benefits as part of the current legislation. According to an analysis done by the World Resources Institute, only a certain portion of available hydropower is utilized towards meeting the bill's renewable electricity standard, while hydro generation is not included in the base sales component of the provision; and

WHEREAS, New York AREA also is concerned that the current legislation ignores the benefits of nuclear power. Nuclear power accounts for approximately 30 percent of New York State's energy portfolio, and continued use of clean, safe and reliable energy produced by nuclear power is critical towards the development of creditable, sustainable and effective federal energy legislation. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Advisory Board and leadership of New York AREA support the overall, general goals expressed by the sponsors and co-sponsors of H.R. 2454 to curb global climate change, encourage energy efficiencies, cultivate needed renewable energy research and development, spur a new generation of green-collar jobs, and be it

RESOLVED, that the Advisory Board supports the establishment of a national cap-and-trade program to create a uniform, fair standard for all states and regions within the United States, and be it

RESOLVED, that the Advisory Board and leadership of New York AREA urge the United States Congress to amend H.R. 2454 to encourage the full use of available hydropower to meet future renewable energy standards, and to amend H.R. 2454 to include nuclear energy under the definitions of "renewable" and "sustainable" energy; and be it

RESOLVED, that that the Advisory Board and leadership of New York AREA urge the United States Congress to amend H.R. 2454 to define "renewable" energy in the inclusive manner described above and comparable to the definition of "renewable energy resources" in the New York State Energy Law, being "sources that are capable of being continuously restored by natural or other means or are so large as to be useable for centuries without significant depletion and include but are not limited to solar, wind, plant and forest products, wastes, tidal, hydro, geothermal, deuterium, and hydrogen;" and be it

RESOLVED, that the Advisory Board and leadership of New York AREA transmit copies of this resolution to the leadership of the United States Congress and to the distinguished members of New York State's Congressional Delegation. \*

## Power for Jobs Extension Signed into Law

**P**ower for Jobs, a statewide program that supplies low-cost power to companies that pledge to retain and create jobs in New York, was signed into law on July 13th by Governor David Paterson.

The program began in 1997 and was scheduled to sunset in June 2009 if it did not gain an extension by the legislature and the Governor.

Across New York State, 570 companies providing 330,000 jobs are part of the program.

"We must do everything we can to protect these jobs and businesses," Governor Paterson said at the bill signing ceremony in Syracuse. "Signing this bill could not wait another day."

The Power for Jobs bill passed unanimously through the Senate and State Assembly, extending the program until May 15, 2010.

The bill also requires companies in the program to submit to energy audits in order to create a long-term power subsidy program to potentially replace Power for Jobs in anticipation of the May expiration date. Audit results are due by February 2010. \*

# Energy Infrastructure Update

## GE To Open High Tech Battery Plant Outside Albany

General Electric (GE) recently announced plans to open a \$100 million state-of-the-art, heavy-duty battery manufacturing plant just north of Albany in the town of Niskayuna and the proposed facility will be the headquarters of GE's new battery business.

The new plant, which will be near GE's Global Research unit, will become the one-stop-shop for all research and development for GE batteries that will be used in trains and eventually hybrid vehicles. GE is receiving funding from the state and aims to eventually merge their battery and transportation sectors.



According to GE Chairman and CEO Jeffrey Immelt, "This type of public-private partnership is essential to rebuild America's manufacturing base, create new jobs and to accelerate the pace at which new technology comes to market. We believe the advanced battery business could be a \$1 billion business over the next decade."

The facility, for which GE is seeking federal funding, will create an estimated 350 new jobs in the region and be operational by the middle of 2011. Congressman Paul Tonko (D, NY 21) has been a key supporter of this effort and New York Governor David Paterson (D) committed \$15 million to supplement the cost of the facility.

"This project is a sound example of how our government can work hand-in-hand with private companies to pursue new technologies and renew and revitalize our communities, particularly in Upstate New York," stated Congressman Tonko.

The cornerstone of GE's new battery business is the development of a high-energy density, sodium-based chemistry battery that will be first used in the company's hybrid.

## Chautauque County Gets New Methane-fired Generator

On May 26th, Chautauque County Officials met at the region's Ellery, New York landfill to break ground on a new methane-fired generating plant. With an estimated cost of \$12 million, the new plant is expected to produce just over six megawatts of electricity through the burning methane gas obtained from the landfill.

Construction will take about four months to complete and the plant is expected to generate \$2 million in annual revenues.

"The profits eliminate the need for our local taxpayers to pay those taxes and we'll be able to lower property taxes with that money," said Chautauque County Executive Gregory Edwards (R).

Methane gas is a highly potent culprit of global climate change and has about 23 times the negative impact on a pound-by-pound basis as CO<sub>2</sub>. Along with carbon dioxide, it is a by-product of decomposing trash. Most landfills across the country require some sort of methane recovery system on-site to reduce

the chance of fires or explosions.

In Monroe County, County Executive Maggie Brooks (R) opened a similar facility in June 2007 at the Mill Seat Landfill in Riga. The plant produces nearly five megawatts of power and operates in partnership with Waste Management.

The new project in Chautauque County is expected to be up and running by fall 2009.

## Energy Rebates Available to Central Hudson Customers



Central Hudson Energy & Gas is now offering monetary incentives for consumers to become more energy efficient.

Thanks to a state program administered through the New York Public Service Commission (PSC), Central Hudson residential customers have the opportunity to receive \$400 to \$600 for installing efficient air-conditioning systems, ground-source heat pumps and electric heat pump water heaters.

Customers can also claim a \$25 rebate for installing Energy Star programmable thermostats in their homes.

Business customers are eligible for free energy audits and up to 70 percent off the cost of electric equipment, such as efficient lighting and electric heating and cooling systems, among other devices.

In 2008, the state proposed nearly \$27 million for use as an incentive for utilities to create energy efficiency programs for their customers. Central Hudson and other participating utilities would receive money from the PSC if the energy use reduction goal of 693,951 megawatt-hours annually is met. \*

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