



Happy 85th Anniversary to NYPA!

The fastest-growing segment of the American population is 85 and over. NYPA is in good company.

Today marks the 85th anniversary of when Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law in 1931 the Power Authority Act to “give back to the people the waterpower which is theirs.” Plans for public ownership of the state’s hydro resources had begun in 1907, but foundered until FDR took action. It would, however, take another 23 years until construction started on the St. Lawrence Power Project—laying the foundation for the NYPA we are proud to be a part of today.

The Power Authority’s story is remarkable and constantly evolving. Decade after decade, we fulfilled our mission by supplying some of the nation’s cheapest power and providing economic stimulus to cities and towns across the state. Even before St. Lawrence was completed—and delivering full power two years ahead of schedule—we were already planning for the Niagara Power Project. I’m still in awe over the fact that Niagara, the state’s largest power plant, began operation in 1961, less than three years after construction began. Can you imagine that happening today? Me neither.

But we never settle for the expedient solution and always pursue the most innovative answer.

That’s why we now have 16 generating facilities and 1,400-circuit miles of transmission lines that typically supply one-fifth of the state’s power.

That’s why we’re making broad incursions into the world of distributed energy sources and renewables like solar and wind to complement our industry-leading hydro resources. Governor Cuomo’s Reforming the Energy Vision calls for half of New York’s power to come from renewable sources by 2030. NYPA will play a big role in getting the state to that goal.

That’s why we’re spending hundreds of millions of dollars upgrading our transmission facilities, not just to make repairs, but to provide upgrades that will make them faster, more efficient, reliable and a model of excellence that the North American utility industry can emulate.

And it’s why we provide solutions, as well as power. The Marcy South Series Compensation Project will soon be operational, alleviating bottlenecks so cheaper upstate power can get downstate without having to add new transmission lines.

Age really is a state of mind. We’re 85 years young and we are always in motion. From the North Country to Long Island, NYPA is filled with people who know that good isn’t good enough. As we commemorate this milestone, we are planning, designing and implementing bold projects we will marvel at when we finally arrive at our 90th anniversary, or even the 100th. Our Strategic Vision 2020 Plan is an excellent roadmap for helping us to achieve such ambitious and necessary aspirations.