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Andrew M. Cuomo - Governor

## Governor Cuomo Announces Low-Cost Hydropower Will Support More Than 1,900 Jobs and Create Economic Opportunity in Western NY and Southern Tier

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Albany, NY (January 28, 2014)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced new allocations of low-cost New York State hydropower for three firms in Western New York and the Southern Tier that will support more than 1,900 jobs and more than \$6 million in capital investments and create economic opportunity for the two regions.

"As we work to create new economic opportunities in Upstate New York, clean, low-cost power is one of our strongest resources to attract and grow businesses in this state," Governor Cuomo said. "With this latest round of allocations, we are powering three companies in Western New York and the Southern Tier, allowing them to move forward on major projects. With our support, they will retain nearly 2,000 jobs and create more than 100 new jobs in their communities."

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) Board of Trustees today approved hydropower allocations to Ingram Micro in Amherst and Graphic Controls in Buffalo. Additionally, the board approved a hydropower allocation to the Village of Groton Electric Department to facilitate the construction of a Finger Lakes Fresh produce distribution center. The three allocations are made possible by economic development programs for allotments of power from NYPA's Niagara Hydroelectric Power Plant in return for job commitments.

"I feel privileged to be in a position where I can assist to create opportunities for firms to expand and add jobs," said John R. Koelmel, NYPA Chairman. "Low-cost Niagara hydropower is a great asset to lower a business's operating costs and support its competitive operations."

"Under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, the Power Authority has committed itself to leveraging its low-cost power for economic development," said Gil C. Quiniones, NYPA president and CEO. "By utilizing Niagara hydropower, NYPA is able to give businesses exactly what they need to expand their operations, spurring capital investments and creating jobs."

"Ingram Micro and Graphic Controls are the next generation of innovators and employers in the evolving Western New York economy," said Congressman Brian Higgins. "This approval keeps Niagara's clean hydropower here and the low cost electricity frees up company resources to allow these Buffalo and Amherst based businesses to grow and create jobs."

Senator George Maziarz, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee, said, "The Niagara Power Project is the perfect regional asset to help companies like Ingram Micro and Graphic Controls grow in Western New York. These projects will be great examples of how our low-cost, locally-produced hydropower will help create and retain jobs."

"Hydropower is a great resource of our state, and making this low-cost power available to these two companies will help them to expand their operations in Western New York. Most importantly, it will help support nearly 2,000 jobs in the region," said Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Energy.

**Ingram Micro**, the largest global wholesale technology distributor, was awarded a seven-year hydropower allocation of 130 kW so that it can expand its operation to a second Amherst facility. Ingram will invest \$2.75 million, with the possibility of an additional \$8.25 million in capital expenditures, as a result of the firm's decision to remain in the region. The expansion will allow the company to retain its 1,510 employees as well as create 90 additional positions within the next two years.

Senator Michael Ranzenhofer said, "Millions of dollars in investment and new jobs are on the way to Amherst. I commend Ingram Micro's decision to reinvest in our community by expanding to a second facility while creating 90 new jobs. The largest global wholesale technology distributor and its more than 1,500 employees will continue to remain in Amherst."

"Helping to create jobs and foster economic development is exactly what we as legislators and public officials strive to do every day," said Assemblyman Ray Walter. "I know that Ingram Micro's presence in Amherst has been nothing but positive for our community, and I know that retaining Graphic Control in Buffalo is incredibly important to the employees and their families."

**Graphic Controls** is a long-time NYPA customer and manufacturer of data recording, medical and life science products and transactional media. The firm was awarded a seven-year hydropower allocation of 510 kW and will retain its more than 280 full-time employees, create 35 new jobs and invest a total of \$950,000 into its Buffalo location to upgrade the facility's electrical system, production equipment and infrastructure.

Senator Tim Kennedy said, "This critical investment of low-cost power will help create jobs and spur continued economic progress in Buffalo and Western New York. By targeting two great Western New York companies in growing industries, this low-cost hydropower will capitalize on our region's strengths and help fuel expansion efforts that will ensure Western New Yorkers have the opportunity to secure good-paying jobs. Congratulations to Graphic Controls and Ingram Micro, two thriving local enterprises that are investing in Western New York and creating new jobs."

**Finger Lakes Fresh**, a division of Challenge Workforce Solutions (CWS), will benefit from an allocation of 150 kW of hydropower provided through the Village of Groton to relocate its lettuce packaging operations as part of establishing a \$2.4 million food hub in Groton. The construction of the distribution center will result in the creation of more than 20 jobs. CWS is a non-profit vocational organization that is dedicated to providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

"We're excited about the contributions that the Finger Lakes Fresh distribution center will make to our local economy," said Groton Mayor Jeff Evener. "This is a highly innovative endeavor and we're most appreciative of the support of our fellow municipal electric systems around the state and the New York Power Authority in making the additional hydropower available for this venture."

The low-cost Niagara hydropower is currently priced at more than 50 percent less than wholesale market electricity in the regions of the latest allocations. In addition to new permanent jobs, the capital investments by the companies receiving the latest power awards are expected to support dozens of construction jobs.

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