

# WESTERN NEW YORK UPDATE

NIAGARA POWER PROJECT

NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2003

## WNY NOTES

- Since January, more than 100 stakeholders have been working with NYPA to identify issues associated with the Niagara Power Project's relicensing. By late July, NYPA is expected to publish a report known as Scoping Document 1. A public meeting to solicit further community input is set for Aug. 13. Learn more at <http://niagara.nypa.gov>.

- The Power Authority has selected Dale Henry, a security officer at the Niagara Power Project, as its Volunteer of the Year for 2003. Born and raised on the Tuscarora Reservation, Henry was chosen from a list of four nominees for his volunteer efforts assisting senior citizens and young people in his community.

### • Did You Know?

NYPA has completed close to 30 energy services projects in Erie and Niagara counties. These projects, at schools and other public facilities, allow more efficient use of electricity, saving local taxpayers almost \$2 million annually.



## SUMMER TOURISM HEATS UP, SIGHTS AND SOUNDS ABOUND

Niagara Falls, one of the world's most spectacular natural wonders, may be over 12,000 years old, but there's always something new to see or do in this corner of Western New York.

The New York Power Authority has been working to enhance tourism opportunities within the communities near its Niagara Power Project, the state's largest hydroelectric facility, since it began operating more than 40 years ago. Out-of-town visitors and local residents alike will encounter a season of sights and sounds that show off the Niagara Frontier in new and different ways this summer.

One of the newest attractions that NYPA has helped initiate is the Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival, held the weekend before Labor Day. This year's theme, "A Great American Tradition Continues," reflects the success of last summer's inaugural event, which attracted an estimated 10,000 participants to downtown Lewiston. Restaurants and local merchants reported some \$250,000 in festival-related business, a figure organizers hope to top during this year's event, scheduled for Aug. 22-24.

NYPA is again the primary festival sponsor, providing financial backing along with promo-

tional materials that include graphics created with the assistance of a local college student. To learn more about the weekend's jazz performances, including a Saturday evening concert by the Rob

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*Last year's first-ever Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival was such a success that organizers hope to continue this "great American tradition" the weekend of Aug. 22-24.*

## Power for Jobs Electricity Provides Another Way NYPA Helps Keep New Yorkers on the Job

When it comes to using low-cost electricity for economic development, the New York Power Authority has more than one option to offer businesses in Western New York.

Replacement Power and Expansion Power allocations from NYPA's Niagara Power Project, which represent more than a third of the facili-

ty's output, are the nation's least-expensive electricity for industry. The Power Authority also supplies low-cost power under various other programs aimed at helping companies stay and grow in New York State.

The Power for Jobs™ program, for example, offers monthly utility bill savings of 10-to-25 percent to businesses and not-for-profit organizations in return for commitments to add or protect jobs. Gov. George E. Pataki introduced the statewide Power for Jobs initiative in 1997 to help bridge New York's transition to a competitive electric marketplace.

Last year, a new phase of the program was enacted by the state Legislature, with Western New York firms starting to realize fresh savings this spring.

Buffalo textile manufacturer AccuMED Technologies is one of the newest recipients of Power for Jobs

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*AccuMED Technologies of Buffalo is one of NYPA's newest Power for Jobs customers.*

## Summer Tourism

*continued from front*

McConnell Tentet, followed by a fireworks display, visit: [www.lewistonjazz.com](http://www.lewistonjazz.com).

The newly reopened observation tower at the Niagara Reservation boasts a multimillion-dollar rehabilitation partly funded by the Power Authority. This attraction is a traditional favorite, since visitors can view the Falls from an overlook 20 feet above street level before taking new high-speed elevators down 200 feet to an observation deck in the gorge below.

Another new feature, the Niagara Gorge Discovery Center, has been reborn in the former Schoellkopf Geological Museum, with funding from various supporters, including the Power Authority and the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Visitors can travel back in time to experience virtual reality and interactive exhibits on the geological and natural history of Niagara Falls.

The Discovery Center is located at the trailhead for a recently upgraded gorge trail, as well

as an eight-mile trail leading from the center to Earl W. Brydges Artpark in Lewiston. Artpark, New York's only state park dedicated to the visual and performing arts, is located on land provided by NYPA during construction of the Niagara project.

Perched on the southern end of the project's Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant is NYPA's visitors center, which reopened in 2001 after a complete renovation that added more than 50 new interactive displays about electricity and the historic role it has played in Western New York. The admission-free attraction, the Power Vista, also provides sweeping views of the Niagara River Gorge. It has attracted more than 6 million visitors since it opened in 1963.

The Power Authority's contributions to Western New York are all part of a renewed effort by Gov. George E. Pataki to reclaim Niagara Falls and its environs as a prime tourist destination. ❖

## Power for Jobs

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electricity. In April, Power Authority trustees approved a 125-kilowatt (kw) allocation, which will result in savings that AccuMED will use to create



*Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center*

136 new jobs along with infrastructure improvements at its Bud-Mill Drive manufacturing site.

A total of 36 new customers, including businesses and not-for-profit organizations elsewhere in the state, were approved for allocations this spring; 40 more entities were approved for reallocations of Power for Jobs electricity.

In Niagara and Erie counties, more than 75 employers—ranging from factories to hospitals to food and beverage producers—have signed on to

the program in order to retain and create jobs in Western New York.

In Niagara County, these customers include Candlelight Cabinetry of Lockport, which pledged to create 109 new jobs with its 400-kw allocation; Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, which is protecting 930 jobs with a 500-kw allocation; and CWM Chemical Services, LLC, which receives 400 kw in return for a commitment to retain 100 workers at its Model City site.

Besides AccuMed, Power for Jobs customers in Erie County include such major employers as Buffalo's Mercy Hospital (1,100 jobs tied to a 1,000-kw allocation), Fisher Price in East Aurora (800 jobs linked to 800 kw) and Remarketing Services of America in Amherst, which has committed to using its 100-kw allocation to add 635 new jobs to its existing work force of 294 employees.

Overall, Power for Jobs electricity is linked to approximately 300,000 jobs at more than 700 customers statewide. ❖

## CUSTOMER PROFILE

### PRECIOUS PLATE INC.



The Power Authority provides Western New York with low-cost electricity from

its Niagara Power Project and other economical sources that helps create and protect jobs. Meet one of our customers.

**Name:** Precious Plate Inc.

**Location:** Niagara Falls, Niagara County

**Business:** Specification electroplater serving the high-tech electronics market since 1980.

**Type of Allocation:** Power for Jobs, Replacement Power (starting August 2003)

**Total Employment:** 85

**Quote to Note:** Electricity is a significant portion of the cost of producing electroplated finishes. NYPA power helps PPI to maintain jobs and remain competitive in order to attract more business and increase employment.

*--Bill Copping  
Vice President, Engineering*

### 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.



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