



## **NIAGARA POWER PROJECT** **FACT SHEET**

**NAME:** Niagara Power Project

**TYPE:** Hydroelectric

**LOCATION:** Town of Lewiston in Niagara County in the Western New York region of New York State. It is located on the Niagara River about 4 ½ miles downstream of Niagara Falls.  
5777 Lewiston Road, Lewiston, NY 14092-2199; (716)-285-3211

**NET DEPENDABLE CAPABILITY:** 2,441,000 kilowatts, Firm Capacity: 1,912, 000 kilowatts

**CONSTRUCTION COST:** \$737 million

**FIRST POWER:** January 28, 1961

**PROJECT DEDICATION:** February 10, 1961. President John F. Kennedy, in a recorded message, joins in the first power ceremony, held at the Niagara University Student Center with nearly 4,500 guests.

**FULL OPERATION:** October 11, 1962

**NEW PROJECT LICENSE:** Original license issued on Jan. 30, 1958. New license issued Mar. 15, 2007 (five months before the August 31 expiration of original license) and took effect Sept. 1, 2007.

### **PRINCIPAL FEATURES:**

- In 2006, NYPA completed a 15-year upgrade of the Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant (RMNPP) and a major overhaul of the Lewiston Pump-Generating Plant (LPGP).
- RMNPP, the project's main generating plant, has 13 turbine-generators. The \$298 million upgrade, which included replacement of turbines and retrofitting of other components, increased the plant's firm and peaking capacity by 41 megawatts.
- LPGP has twelve 20,000-kilowatt pump-generators and a 1,900-acre storage reservoir. LPGP operates during periods of peak power demand supplementing power from RMNPP.
- Two water intakes on the Niagara River 2-1/2 miles upstream from the Falls.
- Two underground conduits, each 46 feet by 66 feet, carry water four miles under the City of Niagara Falls and the Towns of Niagara and Lewiston to a forebay connecting the RMNPP and LPGP.

**STAFF:** 325 employees

**ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF PROJECT OPERATIONS:** More than \$80 million a year in terms of purchases of goods and services in the region, and wages.

**MAJOR CUSTOMERS: Among the Niagara project's customers under state and federal laws are:**

- About 130 Niagara Frontier companies employing more than 31,000 people;
- Residents in the state's municipally electric and rural cooperative electric systems—including 17 systems in Western New York alone;
- Municipal members of Niagara Power Coalition, Niagara University and the Tuscarora Nation through relicensing settlement agreements; and
- Seven neighboring states as required by the federal legislation.

**MAJOR INDUSTRIAL POWER ALLOCATION PROGRAMS:**

Replacement Power (445 megawatts) and Expansion Power (250 megawattsw), account for more than one-third of the project's firm capacity and remains within a 30-mile radius of the Niagara project.

**POWER VISTA:**

- The Niagara project's visitors center, the Power Vista, with sweeping views of the surrounding Niagara River gorge, was dedicated and opened in 1963. In 2001, it received a \$2.3 million renovation. The total number of visitors to the Power Vista as of 12-31-10 is 6,752,727.
- The Power Vista's attractions include displays and interactive exhibits relating to the production of electricity, energy efficiency and the area's history, plus spectacular views from the observation deck, 350 feet above the Niagara River Gorge. Parking and admission are always free.
- For additional information and details pertaining to the variety of educational presentations available to all age groups at the Power Vista throughout the year, visit NYPA on the Web at [www.nypa.gov/vc/niagara.htm](http://www.nypa.gov/vc/niagara.htm) or call 716-286-6661.

**LAKE ERIE-NIAGARA RIVER ICE BOOM:**

Use of the boom is authorized by the International Joint Commission (IJC). The IJC's International Niagara Board of Control oversees the boom's installation, operation and removal.

Each winter since 1964, the ice boom, which is jointly owned by NYPA and Ontario Power Generation, has been installed near the outlet of Lake Erie to reduce the amount of ice entering the Niagara River. This helps to prevent ice build-up upstream at the water intakes of their hydroelectric projects. The boom also lessens the probability of shoreline damage by ice blockages.

Installation of the boom, which consists of 22 steel pontoons, begins on or about Dec. 16, or when the water temperature at the Buffalo water intake reaches 39 degrees Fahrenheit. The boom's removal begins April 1, unless there is more than 250 square miles of ice on the lake east of Long Point.