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ELECTRIC
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NEWS RELEASE: For immediate release

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Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) board members announce the unexpected resignation of BPU General Manager Walter W. Haase effective immediately. Haase is leaving the utility to pursue other opportunities.

A search for Haase's replacement will begin immediately. In the transition period, Deputy General Managers David Leathers and Randall Peterson will assume management responsibility for the organization.

Leathers has been named Interim General Manager and will have direct responsibility for the Electric Division. Peterson will continue his long-time role in overseeing the remaining four divisions of water, waste water, solid waste and district heat/chilling.

In announcing Haase's departure, BPU Board Chair John Zabrodsky stated that, "Although this change is regretful and unexpected, I want to assure the community that the situation is manageable. Strong organizations such as the BPU have the ability to manage and even embrace change. The BPU management and staff are the best in the business. We are extremely confident that we can continue to deliver our products and services with the excellence our community has come to expect."

"With Wally's departure, I am sure community members may question the Board's commitment to the Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB) Clean Coal Project," continued Zabrodsky. "We want to emphasize that there is a strong team of BPU staff members, professional consultants and engineers working on the CFB project at the BPU, directed by David Leathers. The departure of the General Manager will not delay that continuing work, and the Board is dedicated to the Clean Coal Project."

Mayor Sam Teresi added, "With Board leadership, and the help of BPU Management and Staff, Wally Haase has helped to position the BPU to maintain our more than 100-year organization as a leader in the municipal electric business providing cost-effective and reliable utility

service to our customers. We wish Wally and his family well and thank him for the outstanding service and leadership he has provided to the BPU.”

Haase was hired as BPU General Manager on January 28, 2000. During his BPU tenure, the organization completed many initiatives and realized strategic goals such as the expansion of water and waste water services to additional communities in the region.

Other Haase successes included the completion and start-up of a 40 megawatt gas turbine combined cycle generating unit initiated by his predecessor James Gronquist. The BPU collaborated with Chautauqua County on a dedicated leachate line from the county landfill in Ellery to the BPU waste water plant in Jamestown.

The expansion of the BPU district heating system and creation of a district cooling system occurred during Haase’s leadership. He led the BPU in expanding and commercializing dark fiber optic high speed communications media. He spearheaded numerous environmental, recycling and energy conservation projects for BPU operations.

Under Mr. Haase’s direction, the BPU’s five business units deployed a strategic planning process throughout its entire management group.

Also during Haase’s tenure, the BPU in 2003 was able to secure a contract extension with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) for supply of hydropower until 2025. This negotiation will save BPU customers more than \$150,000,000 over the life of the contract.

“We are sorry to see Wally Haase leave the BPU,” repeated Zabrodsky. “At the same time, I wish to reiterate that Mr. Haase’s departure will not deter the Board from the strategic initiative of the CFB Clean Coal Project. The CFB remains the Board’s and the organization’s unquestioned top priority.”

“The Clean Coal Project continues to represent the most economical path to solving our community’s energy demands into the foreseeable future. The project also will demonstrate significant environmental improvements over the current BPU coal generating facilities and will provide a potential platform for other emerging technologies,” noted Zabrodsky.

