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**NEWS RELEASE: For immediate release 2/6/03**

## **JAMESTOWN UTILITY SETS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RATES**

Board of Public Utilities General Manager, Wally Haase, has announced that the utility has received approval from the New York State Public Service Commission to implement economic development rates in the BPU service territory.

The BPU has been more actively promoting this region and its utility divisions, especially the electric division, for the past two years and intends to continue this effort. The Board has partnered with the New York State Economic Development Agency (NYSERDA), the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA), national site selection firms, the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce (CCCC), the Jamestown Area Manufacturer's Association (JAMA), the Greater Jamestown Empire Zone (GJEZ) and other trade associations. These organizations are trying to promote the region including all of its assets, inexpensive power, a skilled and educated work force, inexpensive land, and reasonable cost of living.

The utility's new economic development rates are intended to be but one tool to be used to encourage potential customers and existing customers to expand their businesses in the Jamestown area. It is hoped that these new economic development rates will be an effective development incentive for this community.

Haase explained, "The BPU intends to actively market its Economic Development Program to both new prospects and existing customers through its direct mail monthly newsletter, at presentations at trade association meetings, and on the BPU website, [www.jamestownbpu.com](http://www.jamestownbpu.com). All of the partnering development agencies will be made familiar with the new rate structure and can inform potential customers investigating the Jamestown area for business location. The rates will also be advertised regionally and nationally as the BPU finds it is competing against other communities outside of New York that also have very competitive rates."

Haase went on to explain, "The rates will assist potential new customers reduce their costs to move to this area and ease expansion costs for existing customers. While this utility's rates are some of the lowest in the country, the opportunity to offer discounts on our low rates will make this community even more attractive for development."

"One of the primary goals of these rates," Haase said, "is to increase the odds of success for new and expanding businesses during the very difficult first three years of operation."

John Zabrodsky, Chairman of the Board of Public Utilities spoke on behalf of the entire membership of the Board. "We are pleased that the Public Service Commission has embraced our suggestion for BPU active participation in economic development of the Jamestown area through these new rates. The commission has allowed our municipal electric utility to take a unique position in implementing an economic development rate package and we look forward to making it succeed. This is a great tool for us to have in our region's development package."

For more information regarding the BPU electric division economic development rates, please contact BPU Communications Coordinator Sue Jones at 661-1666.

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