

What Causes Winter Water Main Breaks?

Why do water mains underground break in cold winter temperatures, causing water to come to the surface and sometimes spray into the air?

Randall Peterson, BPU Deputy General Manager of Water Resources, explains that, as winter temperatures dip, frost enters the ground. The ground then moves and shears the pipes, depending on the ground condition. Water leaks from the pipe and comes to the surface.

Ground with shale, for instance, causes more trouble for pipes than ground containing gravel, because gravel is a material that can shift around the pipes and not cause breakages.

“Age of the pipe is another factor in underground water pipe breakage,” says Peterson.

Any trouble report - such as broken water mains and power outages - may be reported anytime to the BPU at 661-1640.



BPU water engineer Mike Saar and water service worker John Penna work to repair a water main break in the city.

\$99,000 New York State Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant Awarded



In front from left are: Kathy Sullivan, Busti Town Supervisor; Pat Tyler, Ellicott Town Supervisor; Tony Caprino, Lakewood Mayor; and Sam Teresi, Jamestown Mayor. In back are Dick Kimball, representing State Senator Cathy Young; Walter Haase, BPU General Manager; and Lori Cornell, representing State Assemblyman William Parment.

The New York State Department of State has awarded a \$99,000 grant under the Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant Program to the Village of Lakewood in cooperation with the City of Jamestown and the Towns of Busti and Ellicott.

According to Lakewood Mayor Anthony Caprino, the purpose of the grant is to examine the financial and engineering feasibility of creating municipal electric systems to replace the electric service currently provided by National Grid at the distribution level.

“The study would consider not only the municipalization of current National Grid operations, but also the possibility of establishing an agreement with the City of Jamestown to allow its Board of Public Utilities to serve as the operator of the new municipal systems,” Jamestown Mayor Sam Teresi said. The Mayor noted that such an arrangement would be similar in nature to a current contract between the City and the Village of Lakewood in which the City’s BPU serves as the operator of the Lakewood Municipal Water System.

“That means the study will explore the possibility of the BPU providing distribution services and overseeing the procurement of electric power, ancillary services and transmission services,” added Walter W. Haase, BPU General Manager. “The BPU would be pleased to add these customers to our service area. The rates paid by the customers would be different than our existing customers and would be based on the unique characteristics of this new service territory.”

Town of Busti Supervisor Kathy Sullivan and Town of Ellicott Supervisor Pat Tyler were on hand for the announcement of the grant and added their support of the study.

The study will look at expanding BPU coverage throughout Lakewood, in Busti north of Baker Street and in a small section of Ellicott.

The purpose of this project is to quantify potential savings from the municipalization of Lakewood and parts of Ellicott and Busti electric distribution systems. In addition, the study should indicate any potential for enhanced productivity by the Jamestown BPU in providing distribution level services to the three municipal entities.

New York State Senator Cathy Young and New York State Assemblyman William Parment were praised for the roles they played in assisting with procurement of the grant.

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

Many of us have difficulty paying our bills from time to time, for one reason or another. Sometimes illness interferes with one’s ability to pay or perhaps a wage earner may lose their job.

To help in this situation, the Board of Public Utilities established its Customer Assistance Program (CAP) to help residential customers who “fall between the cracks,” those who do not receive public assistance but need help in special circumstances.

If you believe you may qualify for this help, contact the Salvation Army at 664-4108.

Any individual or group may contribute to this fund by sending a check made out to the BPU Customer Assistance Program (CAP), P.O. Box 700, Jamestown, NY 14702-0700. Donations may also be made in person at the Customer Service Office, 92 Steele Street, Jamestown.

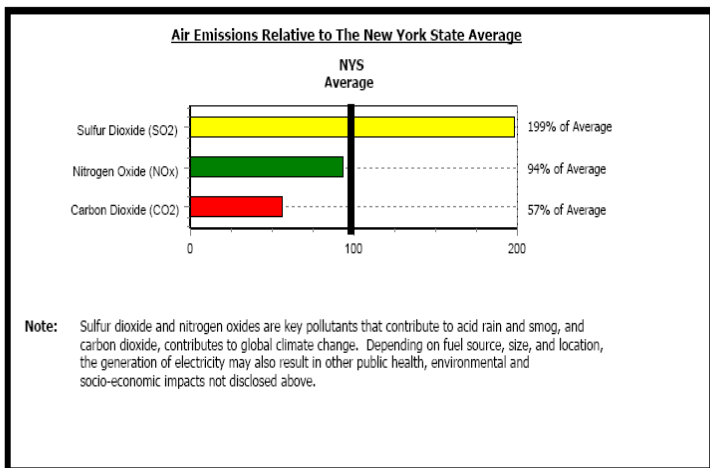
Customers who wish to contribute financially to the program may check a box on their monthly utility bill stubs indicating the dollar amount they wish to donate or write the donation amount in the blank on the stub. The customers then add the donation amount to their payment checks.



In observance of Presidents’ Day,
BPU offices will be closed
Monday, February 19

Fuel Sources	
Biomass	0 %
Coal	13 %
Gas	Less Than 1%
Hydro	86 %
Nuclear	0 %
Oil	0 %
Solar	0 %
Solid Waste	0 %
Wind	0 %
Total	100 %

(Actual Total may vary slightly from 100% due to rounding)



The New York State Public Service Commission now requires all suppliers of electricity to provide their customers with periodic environmental disclosure statements. These statements, called environmental disclosure "labels," provide plain language information on what fuels the suppliers use to generate electricity, the air emissions resulting from generating electricity, and a comparison of those emissions to a statewide average.

With the recent changes in the energy industry, consumers within New York State can now shop for an electricity supplier that offers the best price and value for their energy dollars. In addition, environmental disclosure allows consumers to consider the environmental impact of generating electricity when selecting electrical suppliers. The environmental disclosure label is designed to help you understand how producing that electricity affects the environment.

PREVENT FROZEN WATER PIPES & METERS... AVOID UNEXPECTED WINTER REPAIR BILLS!

With winter cold here, the BPU reminds you to take six steps to prevent costly repairs due to frozen water pipes and meters:

1. **Protect pipes in unheated parts of your home, including crawl spaces. Wrap pipes with rags, blankets, or commercial wraps.**
2. **Open doors under your sink. If a sink is located against an outside wall, open cabinet doors to allow warm air to reach water pipes.**
3. **Eliminate drafts. Seal crawl space vents and broken windows. Make sure basement doors and windows are closed tightly. If you leave home for a few days, turn your furnace down to a lower setting, but don't turn it off.**
4. **Insulate your water meter. Construct a foam box around your meter and fill it with crumpled paper. If you have an outside meter, make sure the lid is not broken and that it is properly insulated. Unheated indoor meters should also be insulated.**
5. **Drain water lines to outside faucets. Disconnect garden hoses and, if practical, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets.**
6. **Locate your indoor shut-off valve and tag it so a family member can locate it quickly in an emergency.**

UNITED WAY HONORS BPU EMPLOYEES

The United Way honored BPU employees January 23rd for increased donations to the United Way's "Helping Together" campaign for 2007. BPU management and members of the IBEW and Teamsters worked together to raise personal donations by \$3,553 for a total of \$11,879. An additional 29 BPU employees contributed this year.

The United Way expressed thanks to BPU employees for carrying over their attitude of caring about their customers to supporting the 19 United Way agencies so generously with their personal funds.

BPU COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR SUE JONES RETIRES



Sue Jones officially retired from her job of 17 years as Communications Coordinator of the BPU. Sue, pictured above with General Manager Walter Haase, established the position at the utility, beginning with news releases and newsletters to develop advertising, educational presentations and more.

Sue plans to remain active in the Jamestown community. She currently serves as President of Crèche, on the Board of the Rotary Club of Jamestown and as Chairman of the club's 2007 Golf Tournament. She also serves as Secretary of the Jamestown Community Learning Council and Chairman of the Blood Committee of the Chautauqua County Red Cross. She and her husband, Dr. Gregory Jones, have two grown children and two grandchildren.

Succeeding Sue is Rebecca Robbins, a former local radio reporter/announcer, who most recently worked part-time as Director of Development of the Robert H. Jackson Center and prior to that as a Development Officer at Chautauqua Institution. Becky has been active on numerous community boards such as the WCA, Carnahan-Jackson and Gebbie Foundations, WCA Hospital, the United Way, and the Busti Historical Society. The mother of three grown children, she is married to Dale C. Robbins.

2007 RED CROSS DRIVES SET

The BPU announces 2007 dates for blood drives to be held on its first floor offices at 92 Steele Street, Jamestown. Bloodmobiles are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with light lunch provided for donors. The public is invited to walk-in or to make an appointment with Becky Robbins at 661-1666.

Future dates include:

March 29
 May 24
 July 19
 September 13
 November 8



The December 2006, bloodmobile brought 25 pints!

The Red Cross also trains BPU employees each year in CPR and First Aid.

