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**ELECTRIC  
DISTRICT HEAT  
WATER  
WASTEWATER  
SOLID WASTE**

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**Jamestown Board of Public Utilities Highlights Requirements  
for Electric Service Upgrades, Improvements or Increased Electric Capacity**

Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) electric customers considering an electric service upgrade, improvement or increased capacity for any reason are required to complete BPU forms before making the change. Information from the forms is used to help prevent electric outages and to confirm that certain weatherization requirements are met in advance of initiating an electric heat installation.

The first form must be completed in order that the BPU will be notified and can react by making infrastructure changes to accommodate the extra "load" of electricity in one particular city neighborhood at any particular time.

"If too much "load" is called for in a certain location at one time," explains General Manager David Leathers, "electric outages that affect large numbers of customers may take place. The information provided by the required form helps the BPU plan in advance to balance the amount of electricity needed throughout our service territory with adequate equipment. As we enter the time period of dark winter nights, when more customers are home using more electricity, this system load support is especially important."

The BPU experiences its highest residential electric customer use on winter evenings.

The second form states that a BPU electric customer who is planning to install electric heat must follow the legal requirements to do so. These requirements include that the building meets certain insulation standards including the installation of energy saving devices such as wall and attic insulation, storm windows and storm doors.

When thinking about heating with electricity or natural gas, says Leathers, it is important to fully investigate options prior to making an investment decision.

Through the end of 2010, there are a number of incentives available to help residential customers manage heating needs. The BPU offers subsidized home energy audits and a \$1,000 rebate to customers who weatherize their homes as a result of audit suggestions. Also, National Fuel offers large rebates on high efficiency gas-fired furnaces and boilers. The Federal government offers a 30 percent tax credit toward the installation of a high efficiency gas-fired heating device or the installation of energy saving materials like wall and attic insulation.

The BPU also offers "Energy Depot for Homes" as a link on the web site at [www.jamestownbpu.com](http://www.jamestownbpu.com). Energy Depot provides opportunities for two types of on-line

home energy audits. The link also hosts a library of articles about home energy, an energy calculator and a comparison tool about various heating systems and products. This information should be used to help customers make sure they are making good energy efficiency decisions.

BPU Energy Efficiency Coordinator, Daniel Reynolds, is available to discuss uses of electricity in lighting and heating, as well as to answer questions about the BPU's Energy Efficiency programs. Reynolds may be reached at 661-1646 and [dreynolds@jamestownbpu.com](mailto:dreynolds@jamestownbpu.com).

BPU Customer Service, located at 92 Steele Street, is open from 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. weekdays. Required forms for updating, improving or increasing electric capacity are available in Customer Service and may also be downloaded from the BPU web site at [www.jamestownbpu.com](http://www.jamestownbpu.com).