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ELECTRIC
DISTRICT HEAT
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HEAT WAVE CAUSES POWER CONCERNS

The heat and humidity all across New York State has been brutal this summer and is predicted to continue with more of the same for the remainder of this week.

“The Board of Public Utilities has received no formal requests for reduction in voltage or to sell additional energy, but is prepared to do so today, should state energy regulators ask,” according to Sue Jones, BPU Communications Coordinator.

“Tuesday,” Jones explained, “BPU customers used a peak of 88.307 megawatts between 1:00 and 2:00 PM and had pre-scheduled sales of 40 megawatts of its generation on the energy market. The power used by local BPU customers is comprised of purchased hydropower, augmented by steam generation produced by the utility’s gas turbine, heat recovery steam generator and coal-fired boilers. The utility sells only its own generated power.”

She went on to say, “The BPU will be diligent today to requests for assistance from the rest of New York State. The first indication of needed assistance comes in a request for a reduction in voltage, to which the BPU responds by slightly increasing its native generation.”

“The second indication that help is needed on the grid would come from Niagara Mohawk – the BPU transmission owner – asking the local utility for whatever additional generation it is capable of producing,” she continued.

“Area residents are asked to be considerate in their electrical usage while this heat wave continues,” Jones went on. “While we have no local electrical supply emergency, that situation can change quickly. Local residents are asked however, to turn off unnecessary lighting and electrical devices when they are not needed. The BPU is monitoring the situation closely and will inform residents should more strict conservation measures be necessary.”