



PO Box 700  
Jamestown, NY 14702-0700

ELECTRIC  
DISTRICT HEAT  
WATER  
WASTEWATER  
SOLID WASTE

## **NEWS RELEASE: For immediate release**

### **BPU UTILIZING METHANE TO PRODUCE ELECTRICITY AT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

The Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has been utilizing innovative processes for many years to reduce air pollutants and to conserve energy. One example of this is at the BPU Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Town of Poland. A byproduct of treating wastewater (sewage) is methane gas. Normally this gas would be flared off, or burned to the atmosphere, with all this energy being wasted.

In 1986, the BPU installed boilers and electric generators to use this wasted energy. During the winter months, the methane gas is burned in the boilers to produce heat for the buildings and also to keep the treatment processes warm. When less heat is needed in the warmer months, the methane is diverted to an engine which drives a generator to produce electricity for the treatment plant.

Over the last six years, the BPU has used waste methane gas to generate over 2.5 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, avoiding approximately \$105,000 in electricity costs and conserving the equivalent of over \$260,000 in natural gas costs. To produce this same amount of electric energy, the Samuel A. Carlson power plant would have to burn 3,700 tons of coal and would have emitted approximately 60 tons of SO<sub>2</sub> and 8.75 tons of NO<sub>x</sub> into the environment.

There have been two semi overhauls on one of the two generators. In 1997, the BPU spent \$47,250 on a complete overhaul. Again in 2003, \$19,350 was spent for a "top end" overhaul. This year, a new boiler was purchased for just over \$16,000.

The BPU continually strives to find new methods to conserve energy and to reduce air emissions, not only as sound business practices, but also as sound environmental stewardship.