



PO Box 700
Jamestown, NY 14702-0700

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News Release: For immediate release

BPU FARES WELL DURING RECENT STORM

It is business as usual today after a hectic week at the Board of Public Utilities, according to BPU General Manager, Wally Haase. Last week's wind storm provided a challenge to the utility for 2 ½ days beginning Wednesday morning. Haase estimated close to 500 services were disrupted from a few minutes duration to approximately 8 hours at the longest.

Events became hectic at approximately 7:30 AM on Wednesday, November 12 after high winds had buffeted the area all night long. Crews had been out during the night tending to downed lines and outages resulting from limbs on the lines. Two 3-man crews and two 4-man crews worked all day and into the night dealing with continual isolated outages including many individual home service disruptions and at least five different poles coming down. Crews were dismissed at 2 AM, 3 AM and 5AM on Thursday morning with several returning to work during the day. "Line Department employees did a wonderful job under the very worst circumstances," stated Haase.

BPU customers are beginning to reap the benefits of a significant tree trimming investment. During the past 2 ½ years, the BPU has spent over \$1,000,000 in an aggressive tree trimming program. Utilizing a subcontractor and three crews, the trimming began around high voltage 35kV lines, proceeded to 13,800kV lines, and is now focused on 5,000kV lines. The BPU experienced no problems with the higher voltage lines during the storm. The lower voltage lines are located around and behind individual homes and this is where most of the problems occurred with the recent storm.

Haase calculated it will take about two more years to complete the trimming, now focused on trees in the residential areas and then a less aggressive process will begin again. Trees on individual property will NOT be removed; only those on parkways or terraces that are public property will be trimmed or removed by the BPU. In an outage where a private homeowner's tree brings down a BPU wire, the BPU will free its power line from the tree and the homeowner will be responsible for the tree removal.

Haase encouraged homeowners to continue to plant trees, but to be sure the trees are planted in appropriate areas, not near power lines, and to choose the correct species for the location – such as small crowned trees on the terrace.