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Board of Public Utilities (BPU) General Manager Walter Haase spoke recently regarding the proposed new Clean Coal power plant at a session of the St. Luke's Episcopal Church adult study group.

"Upgrading the current plant with \$45 million would not be a good use of our customers' money," noted Haase. "Even with \$45 million worth of improvements to the existing plant, the life of the plant would increase only by about ten years."

"A \$45 million investment in the existing plant would not come close to meeting the environmental improvements which will occur with the construction of a new plant," explained Haase. "In addition, such changes to the existing plant would not improve its efficiency."

According to the General Manager, the new plant will be 24 percent more efficient, thereby reducing the amount of coal currently used, to get the same amount of power. The new technology will dramatically reduce the harmful emissions per unit of energy produced,

"Sulfur dioxide emissions will fall by 94 percent," reported Haase, "with cuts in nitrogen dioxide by 86 percent, mercury by 95 percent, particulate matter by 79 percent and carbon dioxide by 20 percent, all per unit of energy produced."

Further, according to Haase, the new plant will be built to add new technologies when they become available and economical.

The international Kyoto Treaty calls for U.S. carbon dioxide emissions to be cut 7 percent by 2012. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) calls for cuts of 10 percent by 2019.

"The new BPU power plant would cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20 percent, surpassing these national and international standards on a per energy output basis," emphasized Haase. "The plant is being designed to use alternative fuels such as biomass. Some examples of biomass are wood, plants, etc. As set out in RGGI, burning biomass could cut our carbon dioxide emissions up to another 25 percent, bringing our total carbon dioxide emissions to 45 percent per unit of energy produced."

The BPU, he said, is exploring with the New York State Energy Research Development Authority, a pilot project whereby emissions are placed in ponds and converted to algae to be burned in the plant.

“We also plan to pursue local wind projects as an energy source as they become available,” noted Haase. “The BPU had contracted to buy 25 percent of the wind power that would have been produced by the failed Ripley wind power project.”

Haase noted that the “Circulating Fluidized Bed”(CFB) technology has been designated a “Clean Coal” technology developed under the Department of Energy’s Clean Coal program and recognized under New York State Clean Coal legislation.

A graduate of the University of Illinois and the Keller Graduate School of Business Management, Haase previously served as Assistant Public Utilities Director for the Rocky Mount, NC, Public Utilities, responsible for the electric and natural gas divisions. Prior to Rocky Mount, Haase served as Electric Superintendent for the St. Charles, Illinois, Municipal Electric Utility.

Haase serves as Northeast Representative on the national board and executive committee of the American Public Power Association. He also serves on the executive board of the New York Public Power Association, an association of municipal utilities in New York State.

Active at the Holy Family Catholic School and the Jamestown Boys and Girls Club, Haase and his wife have three children.

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