

NEW BPU POWER PLANT
WILL KEEP, CREAT JOBS

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To the Readers' Forum:

I attended the BPU informational meeting at Lincoln School on February 1, regarding the proposed new power plant. I found the information presented to be understandable and factual and I would like to go on record as supporting the project.

I have reviewed my electric bills since 1992 and I have found that the most I paid in a given year was \$931 and the least \$531. In 2004, it was \$552. Obviously, the differences were weather related. We have not had an increase in rates in 12 years and the asked for increase amounts to less than inflation at about 1 ³/₄ percent per year. This increase, when in effect, will cover us for several years into the future including covering expenses related to the new plant. The average customer now pays about \$35 per month. In 2015, the average customer will pay about \$75 compared to \$145 a month if we used Niagara Mohawk and this is assuming that NiMo will not have any increases. What a deal considering the time value of money.

We are all concerned with the cost of any project but the numbers have been carefully looked at internally by the BPU and by an independent party. Why do some think they can come up with their own set of numbers when they know virtually nothing about the technicalities of power generation and the multitude of regulations governing them?

At the meeting there was naturally some opposition. Everyone has the right to his or her own opinion. However, when those same people show up at every meeting and disagree, I think this is non-productive and disruptive.

I look at the project this way. If we do nothing, the environmentalists will shut us down or increase environmental charges which will price us up with Niagara Mohawk. Secondly, if we retool the existing plant, which does not appear feasible because of space constraints, it will only be a bandaid which will result in the same scenario. So in my opinion, we build the new plant, which will not only keep rates reasonable, but also will maintain many local jobs for the long term and create several hundred jobs during the construction phase.

Let's go with it!

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