



COMMUNITY

2010 Christmas Message: Have Patience and Hope

Continued from page 7

People should have patience, hope and more important, a strengthening of their faith in God. "Nothing happens here with God knowing it," he said, "and our faith can help us handle these conflicts: the economy, war and tensions among people. We must have patience and continue our prayer which is the only thing that will give us hope for the future."

Let this glorious holiday be an assurance to all of us that Christmas is a time of good will toward all men. Remember the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us everyone." Merry Christmas.

Peggy Godfrey is a freelance writer, a community activist, and former educator.

CRIME

Message from the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Police Chief

Armed Bank Robbery in Hastings Friday, December 17, 2010

By David Bloomer

On Friday, December 17th, 2010 at about 8:46am, the Hastings on Hudson Police Department received a call reporting that the Chase Bank at 565 Warburton Ave was being robbed. A second caller stated that the male robbing the bank was armed with what appeared to be an assault rifle.

The Hastings on Hudson Police Department responded and secured a perimeter and searched the immediate area. Additional units from the Village of Dobbs Ferry Police Dept, the Westchester County Police Department, the Metro North Police Department and the F.B.I. responded to assist.

The suspect fled out of the bank and west on Spring St. He was last seen near the intersection of Spring and the Steinschneider Parking Lot. The suspect is described as a male black, wearing a camouflage jacket, ski mask, goggles and had what appeared to be an assault rifle.



No injuries were reported, and the suspect fled with approximately \$18,000 in cash.

A search of the area was conducted with canine units from the Westchester County Police Department and Metro North Police Department. The Westchester County Police also provided their aviation

unit. The searches were negative.

At this time the investigation is continuing with the F.B.I., and anyone with information is asked to call the Hastings on Hudson Police Department at (914) 478-2344.

David Bloomer is the Chief of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Police Department.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New Power Station Slated for Yonkers

By Abby Luby



Yonkers city administrators have given the nod for the construction of a new power converter station that will transmit 1,000-megawatts of electricity from Canada to New York City. The site of the proposed station is near the MetroNorth rail lines and Kawasaki Rail Car, Inc. on Wells Avenue.

The converter station is part of the Champlain-Hudson Power Express (CHPE) – a \$4 billion project that will run a 355 mile, direct-current transmission line from Canada to New York City. Most of the cable will be run under the Hudson River.

The project is fully funded by the Toronto-based Transmission Developers Inc. (TDI). The Yonkers converter station will cost up to \$200 million and will house semiconductor arc valves, transformers and other equipment. The 23,000-square foot station will be an LEED-certified "green building" with an "environmentally responsible design." A separate building will contain administrative offices and a security checkpoint. The office will house some 12 to 15 legal, accounting and administrative staff to manage business operations. Permanent security and plant personnel will be on site as well. The project could create approximately 140 construction jobs. Groundbreaking for the station is planned for the fall of 2011.

TDI is heavily funded by private investors such as the New York investment magnate BlackRock and other

deep pocketed firms. The total project, which will carry up to 2,000 megawatts of hydroelectric and wind energy to the metropolitan area, is expected to be completed in 2015.

Last week the Yonkers IDA unanimously passed a resolution to negotiate an economic incentive package with TDI. "A final resolution will be voted on in the spring," said Ellen Lynch, president and CEO of the IDA. "A public hearing will be scheduled in the next couple of months."

According to a statement issued by the Yonkers IDA, the plant is expected to generate significant new revenue for Yonkers through a long-term full property tax agreement. An incentive plan could include a full tax agreement, a mortgage recording tax exemption and a sales and use tax exemption. Following a public hearing, a final resolution on the project must come back to the Yonkers IDA board for approval.

In a prepared statement Mayor Phil Amicone, who is also the chairman of the IDA, said "We will work with CHPE and TDI to create a fair agreement so this project can move forward."

Donald Jessome, president and CEO of TDI said both Lynch and Amicone "have been very positive about the project and we are currently working with Amicone on a community benefits package." Jessome refused to elaborate on the details of the package.

Jessome also said that TDI expects to pay "a multiple of millions of dollars a year in property taxes to the city of Yonkers."

Continued on page 9

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Continued from page 8

TDI will be leasing the property from Joe Cotter, owner of i.park. "We will have a 40 year lease with an option to extend it for another 40 years," said Jessome.

TDI will actually run two submarine or underground cable systems that will each have the ability to transmit 1,000 megawatts. Several regulatory requirements are already underway such as filing an environmental impact statement with the Department of Energy and an application has been submitted to the New York State Public Service Commission. Lynch said that TDI will also have to comply with codes stipulated by the Yonkers Building and Planning departments.

Although the converter station is being hailed as renewable energy that could eventually drop electricity rates, the environmental group Riverkeeper has some concerns. In an August, 2010 letter to the U.S. Department of Energy (http://www.riverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/Riverkeeper-CvrLtr-Scoping-Comment-DOE-Docket-PP-362-August2_2010.pdf), Riverkeeper said that burying a high voltage cable in the bed of the Hudson River could disturb sensitive fish and wildlife habitat. Of particular concern are the high levels of contaminated sediment that would be unsettled when digging up the river bed to bury the cable.

"We are very concerned about what will happen with contaminants that are mobilized when they are installing the cable," said Riverkeeper staff attorney

Josh Verleun, the lead for the CHPE project for Riverkeeper. "There has never been a submarine cable project that has been installed in a river such as the Hudson with this quantity of contaminated sediments."

Riverkeeper cited such contaminants such as PCBs, (Polychlorinated biphenyls), heavy metals (copper, cadmium, etc.), hydrocarbons, petroleum, and radionuclides that attach to the sediment such as strontium-90 and cesium-137. Riverkeeper stated that they were concerned that the contaminated sediments could have an adversarial effect on aquatic organisms and local drinking water supplies. They also asked the DE to look at the impact of ambient heat that could encourage leaching of contaminants from the sediment, and whether the heat will affect aquatic life living in the soft sea bottom. The electro- electro-magnetic fields that will be generated by the cable can also negatively effects aquatic species, said Riverkeeper.

If the project passes muster with all federal and environmental agencies, Jessome said the overall economic benefit to New Yorkers would be a significantly lower cost in power.

"Through our property taxes and jobs, residents of the City of Yonkers will also benefit," he said.

Abby Luby is a Westchester based, freelance journalist who writes about current, local news, environmental issues, art, entertainment and food. She teaches writing and literature at Marist College.

ENERGY MATTERS

Ravishing the Waterways:
DEC vs The Power Companies

By Roger Witherspoon



Hope Creek Salem Nuclear Plant

In an unprecedented move, the environmental agencies of New Jersey and New York have begun forcing scores of their largest water users to either retrofit their plants with modern cooling systems which won't kill billions of fish annually or cease operating.

Environmental analysts in the two states have found that these facilities kill more than 20 billion juvenile and mature fish annually in New York and another nine billion in New Jersey. These operations have had a negative impact on a variety of fish, including the endangered Atlantic Sturgeon which returns to the Hudson River to spawn and sea turtles in the Delaware River which were sucked into the cooling systems at the Salem Nuclear Generating Station.

Even more alarming is the finding by the National Marine Fisheries Service (<http://www.rogerwitherspoon.com/docs/nmfs-eisfor1p23-10-10.pdf>) that the "once through cooling systems" are vacuuming up trillions of newly hatched fish – those under a half inches in length – and destroying them in their heat exchangers. The NMFS directly challenged the finding by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the damage to the aquatic environment is "moderate", and asserted there is "strong evidence" that the decline in fish stocks along the

entire northeast Atlantic seaboard is due more to the destruction of baby fish than to over fishing of adults.

The scale of the destruction can be seen in the NRC's environmental assessment of the twin Indian Point nuclear plants in Buchanan, 30 miles north of Manhattan in the heart of the Hudson River tidal estuary. In determining that the overall impact on essential fish habitat is "small to moderate" the agency noted approvingly that new screens installed in front of the 40-foot-wide intake pipes in 1984 had reduced the destruction of baby fish between 1984 and 1991 by 187 Billion per year to its present rate of just 300 Billion newly hatched fish. (<http://www.rogerwitherspoon.com/docs/nrc-finalipieis-part2-12-10.pdf>)

"The NMFS does not reach all of the same conclusions as the NRC with respect to adverse effects that relicensing IP2 and IP3 would have on the fishery resources and their habitats," Peter Colosi, the agency's assistant northeast regional administrator, wrote in an acerbic analysis of the impacts of the Hudson River nuclear plants.

"Given the immense natural productive potential of the Hudson River Estuary," Colosi continued, "and taking consideration the staggering numbers of

Continued on page 10