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Town Supervisor

TOWN OF COLONIE

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Town of Colonie Announces Renewable Energy Project Over 50% of Town Power Needs to be Met with NY Hydropower

(Newtonville, NY) – Colonie Town Supervisor Paula A. Mahan will join hydropower officials at a press event on Tuesday, July 9 at 1:00 pm at the Schuylerville Hydroelectric Facility in Schuylerville, NY, to announce the Town's entrance into a renewable energy agreement that will substantially underwrite the Town's energy costs through the purchase of locally-produced hydroelectric power.

Under an innovative mechanism known as remote net metering, Colonie has agreed to a 20-year power purchase agreement with Gravity Renewables, Inc. for power produced at a Schuylerville hydroelectric facility owned and operated by Brookfield Renewable.

Through the agreement, Colonie will receive credits for power generated at the Schuylerville facility. The net effect will be a reduction and stabilization of the Town's power costs while offsetting over 50 percent of its electric load with climate-friendly renewable power.

The arrangement was facilitated by the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA), a New York not-for-profit aggregation program serving nearly 300 local governments and public agencies with their energy procurement needs. In 2014, MEGA selected Gravity Renewables through a competitive process to be the preferred provider of energy from small hydroelectric sites.

As the MEGA hydropower program expands to include five projects, it becomes increasingly clear that each transaction tells its own story. Located 37 miles from Colonie, Schuylerville hydroelectric is a 1.7 megawatt facility originally commissioned in 1919. Its history and success are tied to its relationship with the community and regional economy. Nearing its 100th birthday in 2019, the facility's long-term viability is significantly strengthened through this partnership.

“This renewable energy agreement is the right thing to do at every level, said Supervisor Mahan. “It will offset 50 percent of our carbon footprint and greatly reduce our energy bills. Plus, our purchase of local hydropower is great for the environment and our regional economy.”

Said Ted Rose, Gravity Renewables CEO, "Colonie's commitment to this project demonstrates its commitment to encouraging reinvestment in the region's aging hydroelectric infrastructure, ensuring that sustainable hydropower can continue to contribute to the local economy and environment for decades to come."

Directions to the plant from NYS Route 32/Horicon Avenue in Schuylerville are attached. Those attending are advised to wear sturdy footwear.

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About Gravity Renewables

Gravity Renewables is a leading national owner, operator and developer of small hydroelectric power plants. Small hydropower provides predictable, reliable, affordable clean energy that's locally produced. By making a long-term commitment to these neighborhood facilities, Gravity restores and conserves important historical sites, employs local operators and promotes educational and recreational opportunities in the communities it serves. Gravity currently has more than 60 MW of hydroelectric projects operating and under development across the country. For more information, please visit www.gravityrenewables.com or call 303.440.3378. Follow Gravity Renewables on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

About MEGA

Formally established in 2001, but initiated in 1998, the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) is a Local Development Corporation that serves local governments and affiliated entities by group purchasing of electricity, natural gas and other energy products and services. It presently serves more than 30 county governments and more than 250 municipalities, including many school districts. MEGA is an aggregator of electricity, natural gas and renewable power. MEGA's primary objective is to achieve the most competitive prices for electricity and natural gas for its members in order to minimize the cost of energy. Learn more at www.megaenergy.org.

About Brookfield Renewable

Brookfield Renewable owns and operates one of the largest pure-play renewable power platforms in the world. Its New York hydro portfolio is comprised of 74 facilities which generate 710 MW of clean, reliable energy, enough to power 430,000 homes across the State. For more information, please visit www.brookfieldrenewable.com

About the Town of Colonie

The Town of Colonie is a welcoming, vibrant community of 82,000 residents. The Town provides an outstanding quality of life and has been recognized as one of the safest towns in the nation. With an abundance of beautiful parks and recreational facilities, including a 36-hole golf course and a scenic bike trail along the Mohawk River, Colonie residents also benefit from excellent Town services and one of the lowest tax rates in the region. For more information. Please visit www.colonie.org