



New York State Rural Electric  
Cooperative Association, Inc.



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**NEW YORK STATE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION  
REACTS TO NYPA'S NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING TO  
INCREASE ELECTRIC RATES**

The New York Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NYSRECA) joins with the New York Association of Public Power (NYAPP) in voicing our concern and alarm with the action taken today by the Board of Trustees of the New York Power Authority (NYPA). NYPA issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would almost triple the rates NYPA charges to NYSRECA and NYAPP members for renewable hydropower from the Niagara Power Project. The rates charged to NYSRECA and NYAPP members are to be set at the "lowest rates reasonably possible" under federal and state law.

NYPA's Notice allows public comment on NYPA's Rate Modification Plan, which increases current rates for power from \$12.88/megawatt hour over four years to \$33.05/megawatt hour. NYSRECA notes that NYPA's Plan also includes a change in the rate-setting method that has been in place for decades and is set forth in NYPA's power supply contracts. The increased costs would be passed on to NYSRECA's cooperative members, whose residents and businesses are already struggling with affordability.

Governor Hochul has stressed the importance of energy affordability during the State's transition to a clean energy future. As the Governor said on February 15, 2024, "Energy affordability continues to be a top priority in my clean energy agenda." NYPA's plan to increase the rates it charges NYSRECA's members marks a sharp departure from the goal of affordability and hinders NYSRECA members' ability to contribute to NYPA's mission in the clean energy transition.

NYSRECA members represent NY's non-profit rural electric cooperatives that have supported New York's large scale renewable hydropower resources for decades. As a group overall, NYSRECA's members supply about 87% clean

renewable energy from NYPA to its members/consumers, far exceeding the State's climate law requirements. NYSRECA members' purchases of hydropower from the Niagara Power Project are provided by the federal Niagara Redevelopment Act which states that the hydropower be sold at the "lowest rates reasonably possible" to eligible buyers, including NYSRECA's members.

### **About NYSRECA**

NYSRECA members are four small non-profit electric distribution cooperatives serving retail members in some of the most rural low-density areas in New York State. NYSRECA was formed to help advance the interests of the members of rural electric cooperatives and to advocate for adequate, reliable, and reasonably-priced electric power supply.