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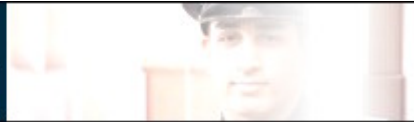


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News

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Allegany County considering energy curtailment proposal

By BRIAN QUINN/Daily Reporter

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BELMONT — Allegany County may participate in a voluntary, five-year plan to cut back energy use at in the event of a crisis.

The proposal, which still needs legislative approval, was explained to the Public Works Committee this week by Stacey George, senior program representative for Energy Curtailment Specialists, Inc. (ECS).

"We ask all our customers to cut back on usage during times of crisis," George said. "What makes a crisis is when the New York State ISO (Independent System Operator) sees that the grid is starting to overload. We are a third-party aggregator for the New York State ISO."

ECS pays its customers for the amount of energy they cut back during a crisis. The county will be reimbursed for the kilowatts taken off the grid and for the fuel the generators would use. The reported revenue projections are from \$2,415 to \$4,446 for the county to run its generators two to six hours a year.

"If you cannot participate, we will not penalize you," George said. "We cap it at four hours of curtailment a day. We can't ask you to use your generator more than four hours a day."

"It's never going to be last-minute," George added. "You're always going to have at least 21 hours of notification. You'll have time to put a plan together."

John Mancuso, County Department of Public Works first deputy superintendent, said the county has three

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generators in the County Jail and one in the County Office Building. He said energy would probably be cut back at both the office building and jail. He said the specifics of the plan would be worked out after the legislature agrees to participate.

"I don't know if it would be (both buildings) at the same time," Mancuso said. "Once it's approved, we would come up with a plan. We don't anticipate a crisis, but you never know."

ECS would use an interval monitoring system to track how much energy usage a customer cuts back when needed.

"That's how we make sure that they take off as much (energy) as they say they're going to," George said. "This piece of equipment measures your peak usage throughout the day every 15 minutes."

The county can opt out of the program by sending ECS a letter 25 days in advance, George said.

Also, the county is expected to earn about \$40,000 from the sale of 553 trees on the Helmer Lot in the town of Grove.

The committee this week approved a bid of \$46,631 submitted by Baldwin Forest Products. The other bid, of \$33,923, was submitted by R.T. Chamberlain Logging. The bids had been opened last week. The money will go into the county's general fund.

"That was about what we were hoping for," Joe Orosz, district manager for the County Soil and Water Conservation District, said of the sale price. "We were hoping for more, but with timber prices being down right now, that's about what we estimated. It's hard to tell why they bid the way they did."

Orosz said the contract for the sale was drawn up and just needed committee approval.

"That amounts to 109.3 thousand feet," he said of the Helmer Lot timber sale. The county previously received \$5,000 for a softwood timber sale on the Pine Lot and \$2,125 for the sale of white ash on the Dixon Lot.

"With this sale, plus the two previous ones, that puts us up to \$47,756. Sales are going pretty well right now," Orosz said.

Committee members agreed it would be best to block the roads leading to the county-owned forests to vehicle access, perhaps by dropping a tree across the road. Snowmobile trails would be unaffected. Orosz said he didn't know exactly when the roads would be blocked.

"It'll be awhile before we have another sale," Orosz added. "We've been having a sale every year for the last 10 years on forests. We don't want vehicle traffic to go through the forests. Foot traffic is fine."