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LIC manufacturers cut energy bills through Energy Curtailment Specialists

During the recent energy crunch, involving several days of record-breaking electric demands, manufacturers in the LIC area helped ease strain, lower demand on the electric grid, and avoid further blackouts, by reducing their electric usage as part of **Energy Curtailment Specialists' (ECS)** Operation Save New York demand response program, the largest of its kind in the United States.

The manufacturers shifted schedules to accommodate four to six hour blocks of electric reduction, on Aug. 1, 2 and 3, by stopping lines, discontinuing or lightening electric-intensive processes and reducing air conditioning.

Operation Save New York serves as a type of insurance program for the electric grid. When demand on the grid is forecast to be at or above the available level of supply, members are called on to reduce electric usage. They are paid at the end of the summer and again at the end of the winter for the amount of electricity they commit to the program. If they are not called on, they are still paid.

"If it's a question of being blacked out arbitrarily by the electric company or choosing to be down during a certain period and receiving payment, I think the answer is pretty clear. ECS notifies us of problems with the electric grid in advance, which gives us enough time to shift things around to accommodate our production schedule," said Steve Chen, executive vice president of **Crystal Window & Door Systems**, in Flushing.

Businesses and large electricity users receive payments for being on-call to reduce electric usage if and when needed, year-round. They are usually called on only a few times each year.

"This has been a crazy summer with the heat and transmission problems we've seen. We always hope that problems won't intensify to the point where our program has to be called into action but we are here to help and it's our duty," said Glen Smith, president and CEO of ECS.

Last summer only one shortage event was called, and in the summer of 2004, there were none, so program members were asked to reduce their electricity for one hour, as a drill.

"Without the active involvement of members of Operation Save New York, the problems throughout Queens a few weeks ago would have been even much more devastating and other boroughs would have been hit much harder as well," said Smith.

Longstanding participants in Operation Save New York that are members of the Long Island City Business Development Corp. include **Crystal Window and Door Systems, E.Gluck Corp., Steinway and Sons, Louis Baldinger and Sons, and Mediterranean Gyro Product**

A variety of 1,100 facilities across New York State currently participate, including hotels, hospitals, nursing homes, residential and commercial buildings, schools, stadiums, water districts, and many other types of facilities that use a large amount of electricity.

"It all works out in the end and this is really for the greater good. We don't want to have another nine-day blackout so we do whatever we can to reduce when we're called on," said Robert Noblin, Director of Security and Personnel at E.Gluck Corp.

Operation Save New York reduced electric demand on the grid by about 200 megawatts in New York City and Long Island. Overall, throughout the State of New York, the program took 400 megawatts off the grid. This is enough electricity to power 400,000 homes.

"Our program has been a hot topic lately. People want to help and everyone is always looking for a new way to make money so the program really does make sense," said Smith. Contact Julie Bevilacqua, at 716-570-7241 or jmbev@ecsny.com.