



Note from the Director – Karren Bee-Donohoe

Executive Order 88 continues to be a focus for OCF. Between now and June 30th SUNY's Operations & Maintenance Plan, which will guide SUNY Facilities departments through the 2030, must be submitted. A multidisciplinary team is being formed to ensure this plan functions for the campuses and helps SUNY achieve the overall goal of reducing energy usage by 2020. This team will consist of facilities managers, business officers, chief information officers, and government relations professionals.

Start-Up NY is also getting a lot of attention as campuses are identifying land or space that could be used by companies starting a new business or expanding an existing business. OCF is part of a diverse team at System Administration providing review and comment on the campus plans. As specific business plans begin to develop, OCF will be available to help campuses with proper reporting in PSI and other facilities related questions.

Data collection is another hot area. Creating a comprehensive database of all State-Owned assets is a statewide priority. SUNY entered this process with the Building Characterizes Inventory (BCI), which serves as an excellent base of existing information. The data has been expanded to include additional data that hadn't been collected previously by SUNY; collection of data on land holdings may be coming in the future.

- Karren Bee-Donohoe, Director

Community College Update – by Rebecca Goldstein

The 2014-15 Executive Budget incorporated a portion of the community college capital that was requested by SUNY, including:

- 50 new critical maintenance or rehabilitation projects for 20 colleges totaling \$32.15 million in state funding.
- Reappropriation for projects that have not yet been completed, totaling \$504.3 million in state funding.
- The potential for capital grants through a fourth round of SUNY 2020 and continuation of the local Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) program.

Thirteen strategic initiative projects for nine colleges totaling \$57.3 million in state support were not included in this year's Executive Budget. The language changes requested for three appropriation line items for two colleges, totaling \$13.0 million in state support were also not included.

SUNY continues to impress upon State leaders the importance of long-range capital planning. Capital is needed not only to maintain safe facilities but to accomplish the academic mission of SUNY and the community colleges. Chancellor Zimpher recently testified at the Higher Education Joint Budget Hearing to encourage restoration of SUNY's overall budget request. The Chancellor was

joined at the hearing by three campus Presidents including Rockland Community College President Cliff Wood who served as a passionate advocate for the colleges. Community colleges and sponsors are encouraged to discuss budget restoration with state legislators emphasizing:

- The sponsor's commitment of 50% funding in support of each project;
- The importance of capital projects to the college, particularly academics;
- The negative consequences of non-funding; and
- The applicability, or lack thereof, of REDC grant opportunities.

Residence Hall Program Update – by David Ferrari

As a result of significant restructuring of the program last year, the Residence Hall Program has the capital planning and bonding capacity it needs to allow campuses to move forward with their essential projects. This year the Office for Capital Facilities will focus on continuous improvement by finalizing the new program's more intricate details and enhancing existing processes.

The development and implementation of the new program has been a collaborative effort by the Office for Capital Facilities, the University Controller's Office, the Budget Office, and SUNY General Counsel. Going forward these offices will continue that collaboration to ensure efficient management of the program.

The Governor's 2014-15 Executive Budget offered no surprises for the Residence Hall Program; SUNY received all of the Res Hall capital and operating support that was requested. Assuming the legislature approves the Governor's Budget the program will be able to base its capital planning solely on the affordability and necessity of projects.

Spring is Coming, Be Aware of Ticks and Lyme Disease - by Barbara Boyle

Yes, spring will come to New York State, and with it come ticks carrying Lyme Disease. If you work or spend time in wooded or grassy areas, you should be aware of the risk of Lyme disease transmitted through tick bites. Avoid Lyme disease by preventing tick bites, removing embedded ticks right away using the proper technique, and, finally, seeing a doctor if any symptoms develop.

Most ticks favor a moist, shaded environment, especially areas with leaf litter and low-lying vegetation. For working or spending time outdoors, make these precautions part of your routine: 1) Wear light-colored clothes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, socks and a hat. 2) Tuck or tape pant legs into socks or boots and tuck shirts into

LYME DISEASE ALERT

DO A THOROUGH BODY CHECK FOR TICKS AFTER BEING OUTDOORS.



How To Remove A Tick

- Using tweezers, grasp tick near the mouth parts, as close to skin as possible.
- Pull tick in a steady, upward motion away from skin.
- DO NOT use kerosene, matches, or petroleum jelly to remove tick.
- Disinfect site with soap and water, rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide.
- Record date and location of tick bite. If rash or flu-like symptoms appear contact your health care provider immediately.

DISEASE RISK IS REDUCED IF TICK IS REMOVED WITHIN 36 HOURS.

New York State Department of Health

pants to help keep ticks on the outside of clothing. 3) Use insect repellent containing DEET or Permethrin on clothes ([additional info available online](#)). 4) Check clothes and any exposed skin frequently for ticks.

The chance of infection is greatly reduced if you remove ticks within the first 24 to 36 hours. Be aware of early Lyme disease symptoms that may appear three to thirty days after a tick bite. The most common symptom is a rash at the infection site which appears either as a red “bull’s-eye” or expanding red area. If a rash or other early symptoms develop, seek medical attention immediately. Other early symptoms may include swelling of the lymph nodes (glands) near the tick bite, headache, joint pain, chills, fever or fatigue. Advanced symptoms can include severe headaches, arthritis, cardiac abnormalities and central nervous system involvement.

This information was adapted from the OSHA Quick Card on Lyme Disease and NYS Department of Health guidance.

Why are electricity prices so high? - by Kathleen Slusher

An increase in demand has driven up the market price to record highs for the natural gas, which is used for both heating and generating electricity. The New York wholesale market tariffs give no incentive for electricity generators to hedge or keep fuel costs low. Many of the electricity generators in New York purchase their natural gas on a daily basis through a very volatile daily commodity market. The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) tariff allows them to pass-through natural gas costs directly to the electricity users.

In January, electricity wholesale market prices were extremely high due to increased fuel costs. Cold weather caused the market price of natural gas to exceed \$100 per MMBtu; a record high since the entrance of shale gas into the market place in 2008. The

NYS market authority, NYISO, asked permission from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to lift the \$1000 per megawatt ceiling on the day head market price of electricity in order to allow electricity generators to recoup their fuel expenses. That ceiling has been lifted, with no limit, until February 28, 2014. Wholesale market operators in Pennsylvania and Ohio have lifted electricity price ceilings during this period as well.

Other recent events have also directly affected electricity prices in New York. One of the Indian Point Reactors in Westchester County was unexpectedly shut down due to water level monitoring, a reactor in Oswego is operating at 50%, ice jams in the Buffalo area have all contributed to the rise in electricity prices.

When an extreme cold front covers such a large portion of the US, it creates a massive temporary demand on the supply and the delivery pipeline. The ability to supply natural gas to certain geographical areas is a problem, which puts stress on the market. In addition, pipeline and pumping equipment failures are caused by the extreme temperatures. The ideal capacity of the pipeline is calculated using an average daily demand. It is not designed to handle the unusually high demand caused by January’s polar vortex. Our dependence on natural gas for electricity generation will continue to drive up electricity prices until the pipeline and storage capacity for natural gas is increased to accommodate seasonal demand.

