

News Brief:

PASNY Credit Saves Half-Million in 2006



Each month, residential customers of the Middleborough Gas & Electric Department get back a half penny for every kilowatt hour they use. Like coins in a jar, those half-pennies add up.

The half-cent PASNY credit totaled a clean half million dollars in 2006, distributed to customers through the credit appearing on their bills. This reflects the discount for energy the Department purchases through the Power Authority of the State of New York from the Niagara Falls hydro project.

The project - a series of dams and generating plants along the St. Lawrence river - was federally funded allowing publicly-owned utilities such as MG&E discounted rates for the cheaper electricity produced. MG&E buys the power at standard rates and then receives a discount – a kind of rebate – that is passed back directly to customers. A typical customer using 750 kilowatt hours per month was credited **\$45 total** for 2006.

A classic and renewable method of generation, hydro-power burns no fossil-fuel, yet has powered cities and towns for generations. This project is one of the rare renewable generation efforts that produces electricity at **a lower cost** than standard methods.

Wednesday, March 28, 2007