



Contact Tobias Sellier, Senior Director of Media Relations and Communications at TSellier@PublicPower.org or 202-467-2927

New York Power Authority chair receives American Public Power Association's public official award

Orlando, Florida, June 22, 2021 — John R. Koelmel, chair of New York Power Authority in White Plains, New York, received the Spence Vanderlinden Public Official Award during the American Public Power Association's National Conference in Orlando, Florida. The award recognizes elected or appointed local officials who have contributed to the goals of the American Public Power Association (APPA).

John enabled New York Power Authority (NYPA) to realize significant operational achievements in 2020, in line with APPA's goals, as the organization responded to the safety and health needs of employees and customers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. NYPA's board took a critical step, led by John, approving a relief program for economic development, waiving applicable energy and demand rate increases. Working with APPA, John led NYPA's assistance deployment to Puerto Rico to help restore power after an earthquake in January 2020. John and NYPA are also advocates for adopting new technologies to improve customer service. One example is NYPA's e-mobility programs, through which it completed the largest public electric vehicle fast-charging station in the Northeast at JFK International Airport.

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The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.

www.PublicPower.org
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2451 Crystal Drive
Suite 1000
Arlington, VA 22202-4804

202-467-2900