

# Freeport electric turbine gets \$2M upgrade

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the redone turbine was fired up.

Funds for repair work to the turbine came from the plant's maintenance account, according to Al Livingston, the Freeport Power and Electric superintendent.

"There is a maintenance schedule for" the LM6000, Livingston said. "Approximately 16,000 hours is when we get the upgrade for this. This will be a lot more efficient and reliable."

Freeport is the largest municipally owned power supplier on Long Island, serving over 45,000 homes. Freeport is the only village on Long Island to own a jet-engine turbine.

"We work around the clock to provide the most efficient power supply to the Northeast grid," Kennedy said. "We have the ability to turn this power plant on and provide power within 30 minutes. We only provide power to the Village of Freeport in the event of an emergency."

Freeporters, Kennedy noted, benefit from the lowest electric rates on Long Island, which are 30 to 40 percent below what PSEG-LI customers pay.

"The successful \$2 million overhaul and the reinstallation of the LM6000 gas turbine represents hundreds of hours of intensive engineering," Kennedy said, "as well as additional capacity, reliability and efficiency to our residents in Freeport and customers."

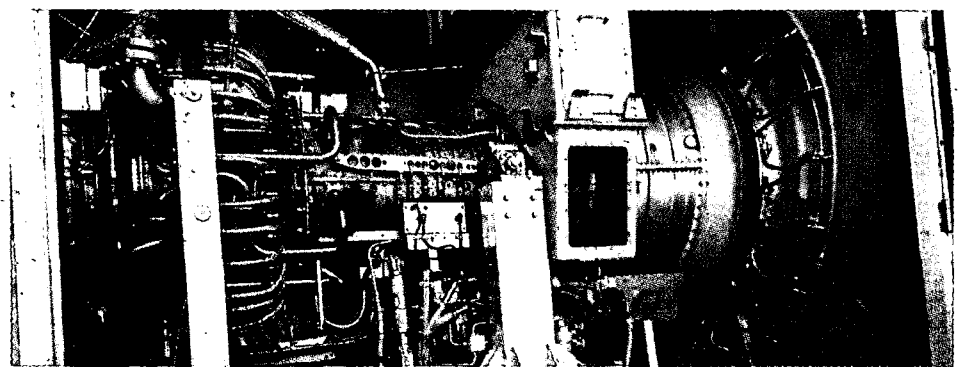


Having its own power plant, Freeport was able to provide electricity to residents within 30 minutes of losing power after Superstorm Sandy struck in October 2012, village officials said.

The redone turbine, Kennedy said, means "we will provide more power as needed .. The grid has gotten larger, and the demand has gotten larger with the commercial businesses and the heat, so it's necessary to upgrade."

Freeport Power and Electric operates two power plants, with 75 megawatts of total electric capacity — enough to light 75,000 homes. It has 62 employees, who maintain seven generating units and 200 miles of electric wires.

*Scott Brinton contributed to this story.*



**FREEPORT POWER AND** Electric Superintendent Al Livingston, center, explained how the gas-fired turbine was revamped to Daniel Layer, Village of Freeport comptroller, right, and Robert Fisenne, Freeport Public Works Department superintendent.

**FREEPORT POWER PLANT** No. 2 helps provide power to 45,000 village residents

## A Hanukkah message by Rabbi Stacy Joy Sokol Congregation B'nai Israel

Hannukah, Hanukah, Hanukkah, Hanuka, Chanukah, Chanuka — Hanukkah is written and pronounced with the guttural letter 'chaf' on the first letter and vowel of its name. Hanukkah can be difficult for Americans to pronounce. I like to spell this Festival of Lights, this Festival of Miracles and Hope like this 'H-A-N-N-U-K-A-H' because the English transliteration from the ancient Hebrew to English is spelled with eight letters. One for each night it will shed our sweet light and remind us of days long ago. Hanukkah (Ma otzur, Rock of Ages) is the Jewish people's holiday in which we are commanded to light the Hanukiah, commonly known as a Menorah, for eight days.

Many years ago, I remember watching a news report about a Jewish Family on Long Island who created their own Hanukkah decorations; big dreidels, menorahs and Stars of David were hand-built of wood and painted by this family. This family decorated their lawn, and their house was also covered with blue-and-white lights. I remember hearing colleagues disapprove, but I thought, How creative, how beautiful and fitting. Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanza are all holidays we celebrate with lights.

This festive season is a special time because God is our light; God is everyone's light. As Americans, we are very blessed to be observing our festival of

lights side by side with our brothers and sisters. For many of us, we never saw a large town menorah. Today, we are so blessed to have one in our community and in communities across the U.S. How fortunate we are to live in this country? How privileged are we to share our light of love and peace with our brothers and sisters? As Jews, we must remember how we have moved from a time of darkness to a time of light.

In 1948, God gave us the greatest gift, the Land of Israel. For close to 70 years, God's light continues to burn. We were taken out of our deepest and darkest of times of persecution and blessed with a home we call our own, Israel. Hanukkah allows us to remember all the miracles God has given us. Lighting the (menorah) Hanukiah, helps us remember how powerful God is.

As we light the Hanukiah, we can think about all the darkness and desecration, which has taken place in our history. We were slaves in Egypt and freed; we have survived so much persecution in the past 3,000 years because God has always been there for us, protecting us with God's light.

The story of Hanukkah is one of the miracles too, just as the Holy Temple was

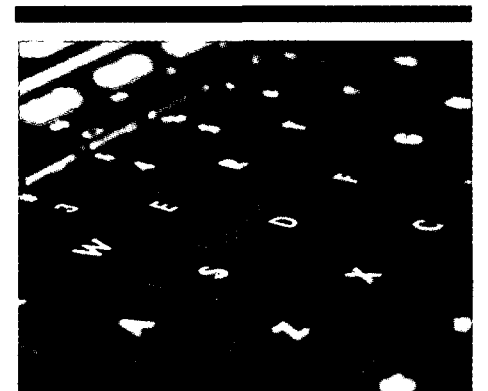
desecrated and when Jews were being killed just for being Jewish, the Maccabees defeated those who wanted to bring us down. The oil, which created light in the Temple, was only supposed to last for one day, and it lasted for eight days instead. On Hanukkah, we pray that God's light will always surround us, even in the most difficult of times. The (menorah) Hanukiah has become an accepted and recognizable symbol for the Jewish people on this joyous holiday. It is the light, which is our symbol of hope and promise; that each night of Hanukkah, as the fire burns, our faith grows stronger.

As the fire burns down, we know that tomorrow, another day of Hanukkah is coming. When our holiday comes to an end, we know next year God will shine on us even brighter. As we celebrate and play dreidel, we look at the letters on the dreidel — nes gadol haya sham — which means a great miracle happened in the Land of Israel, and we are further reminded of God's greatness.

I pray that God will continue to bring joy and happiness to us, to Israel, to the entire world and to humankind. I wish you all a Happy Hanukkah, Chag Sameach, Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanza



**RABBI STACY JOY SOKOL**



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