EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Pictured with KyuJung Whang are Lanny Joyce and Brian Wanck

January 2016
Over the last year, **Brain Wanck** has been working on getting a higher value for the excess electricity generated by the Central Energy Plant, which is exported outside Cornell to the regional electricity grid. That effort came to a successful completion this fall! There can be “extra” electricity at times when the campus’s total electricity generation from our hydroplant, our steam turbine electric generators and our combustion turbine electric generators is larger than the electrical load on campus. This often happens at night and on the weekends during colder weather.

The price Cornell has been paid since 2010 has been determined by an agreement and rate tariff that assumed Cornell was eligible for full market participation in the wholesale electric market. Brian was tasked to work together with our utility, New York State Electric and Gas, and the wholesale market manager, the New York State Independent System Operator to see if we could get a higher value for exported electricity as part of the Utilities and Energy Management’s efforts to both reduce cost and increase revenue from operations.

Brian worked for months with both NYSEG and NYISO and our energy attorney Couch White, to get an answer on our eligibility. He led countless conference phone calls with NYS Public Service Commission, and NYSEG. He led efforts by our attorney creating letters and emails that formally documented the problem, outlined our desires, and secured an outcome. He remained calm and professional in very frustrating circumstances and in the end won over NYS Public Service Commission to get them to act when NYSEG would not.

Brian received an in-depth understanding of the public service law related to customers like Cornell which have significant internal generation that at times can be exported to the grid. What they learned was that Cornell is unique in NYSEG’s systems. He had to get NYS Independent Systems Operators to write NYSEG a letter informing them that Cornell must be treated in a way that changes our export rate to a value which is based on average hourly price in our electricity zone, which is a significant increase over the lowest hourly price we received.

NYSEG agreed to pay us from November, 2016 forward, which will increase our revenue for exported electricity by approximately $300,000 per year!

In addition, Brian is continuing to work on our physical electrical distribution system in the Central Energy Plant to enable even higher value for net generated electricity and is participating in the development of new statewide regulatory changes as part of the Renew Energy Vision effort being led by the Public Service Commission.

**Congratulations Brian! Energy and Sustainability**

**Nominated by: Lanny Joyce**