

The New York State Canal Corporation has responsibility for operating, maintaining, improving and promoting New York State's 524-mile network of four connected Canals – the Erie, Champlain, Cayuga-Seneca, and Champlain Canals – the third generation of a Canal System which has been in continuous operation for 194 years. The largest state-run inland waterway system in the United States, today's New York State Canal System traces its roots to the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. The Canal Corporation employs approximately 417 people at the various facilities.

The Canal Corporation, which was originally created as a subsidiary of the Department of Transportation, then moved to the New York State Thruway Authority in 1992, was continued and reconstituted as a subsidiary corporation of the New York Power Authority (NYPA) in 2016.

## **NEW YORK CANAL CORPORATION MAJOR UNITS**

### **OPERATIONS**

Operation and maintenance of the Canal System is the responsibility of Canal Operations. The 524-mile-long Canal System includes 57 locks, 23 guard gates, 20 moveable bridges, 2 guard locks and other Canal structures and adjacent property. The Regional Manager oversees Canal Operations with oversight from NYPA Operations.

Canal Operations is divided into the Waterways Maintenance Division, the Engineering Services Division and Administrative and Technical Services. The Waterways Maintenance Division is divided into two regions (Eastern and Western), with each region being comprised of four sections and two floating plants. The Engineering Services Division includes three functional areas – Design, Construction Management, and Asset Management & Inspection.

Administrative Services and Technical Services both provide the support necessary to facilitate the achievement of the Canal Corporation's strategic mission by working with all Canal Corporation Departments. Administrative Services includes a number of back-office support functions such as purchasing, budget, office services, crisis management coordination and compliance reporting. Technical Services also includes back-office support functions such as real property and, as shared services with NYPA, IT and records management.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

As a shared service with NYPA, Human Resources is responsible for employee relations, contract negotiations, benefits, recruitment/position management, salary calculations,

and managing leaves for all Canal employees. Human Resources staff provide guidance to managers to ensure compliance Civil Service rules and the applicable labor contracts.

### **REIMAGINE THE CANALS (RTC)**

In 2019, Governor Cuomo announced an initiative to reimagine the Erie Canal system for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Led by NYPA and supported by Canal staff, RTC is a true collaborative effort between agencies.

Today's Canal has also become a world-class recreationway, with communities all along the corridor utilizing the Canal as a gathering place, and a lifeline for economic resurgence. It is a critically important part of the State's tourism industry, with nearly \$380 million in tourism spending generated annually at businesses in communities from the Hudson River to Lake Erie. RTC will continue to move the Canals forward as an economic engine by transforming the Canal System into a world-class tourism destination.

The continued economic impact of the Canal is also made possible by the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) grant program. Part of the Governor's Regional Economic Development Councils initiative, the CFA was created to streamline and expedite the grant application process, marking a fundamental shift in the way state resources are allocated, ensuring less bureaucracy and greater efficiency to fulfill local economic development needs.

RTC will also have oversight of the Corporation's trail and marketing programs, as well as managing and promoting the Canalway Trail and the Empire State Trail. These marketing efforts include several ongoing projects and initiatives designed to highlight the Canal System as a year-round, world-class destination, and to maximize the Canal's benefit to communities throughout the corridor. These include direct advertising, promotions, events, and recreational activities.