



PO Box 700
Jamestown, NY 14702-0700

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NEWS RELEASE: For immediate release:
CONTACT: Rebecca Robbins
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DAVID LEATHERS NAMED BPU GENERAL MANAGER

Local resident David L. Leathers has been named General Manager by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), effective March 18, 2008. He has held the post as Interim General Manager since May 11, 2007, and also has headed the Electric Division.

Leathers came to the BPU in December, 2005, as a Deputy General Manager, responsible for business development, key projects management and implementation of strategic plans for all five divisions of the local utility.

Leathers has been the project leader for the BPU's proposed power plant project.

A native of Jamestown, Leathers graduated from Jamestown High School in 1981 and attained a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1985. Leathers also earned a Master of Science in Manufacturing Management from the General Motors Institute in Flint, Michigan in 1995.

Immediately after graduation from the University at Buffalo, Leathers became a Product Assurance Engineer for the Naval Underwater Systems Center in Newport, Rhode Island, where he was responsible for all production testing, failure analysis and design-related projects for the MK 48 Torpedo Warhead Program.

Leathers returned to the area in 1989 as an employee of Cummins Engine Company in Lakewood, where he held several leadership positions. As a Supplier Quality Assurance Engineer from 1989 to 1992, he worked with electrical and inter-plant component suppliers on the Cummins 20-Step Quality Improvement (certification) Process. As Program Manager of the \$12 million Camshaft Consolidation project from 1992 to 1993, he was responsible for the successful multi-site consolidation effort at the Jamestown Engine Plant. As Team Manager of the Crankshaft Line from 1993 to 1995 he provided leadership in Shop Operations functional excellence. From 1995 to 1997, Leathers also served as a Team Manager in Shop Operations responsible for Team-Based Work System implementation on several production lines.

Leathers joined Valeo, Inc. – U.S. Truck Division, Jamestown, NY, in 1997 as a Production Manager. He took over responsibility for all manufacturing operations as the Plant Manager later that same year, helping to manage the Division through sales growth from \$77 million in 1997 to \$144 million in 1999. In 2001, his responsibilities were increased to include those of Site Director overseeing all U.S. Truck Division activities.

Leathers assumed the position of General Manager of Valeo, Inc. in September, 2002, overseeing all activities of the \$110 million U.S. Truck Division. He coordinated management team activities for finance, information technology, human resources, quality, sales, engineering, program management, manufacturing, logistics, advanced development and purchasing.

A board member of the Manufacturing Association of the Southern Tier (MAST) Leathers has also participated in the Chautauqua Leadership Network and is a former member of the YMCA Board of Directors. The new General Manager is a coach for the Chautauqua County Youth Hockey Association Lakers and the Jamestown High School Varsity Hockey Team. Mr. Leathers and his wife Shelly, are members of St. James Roman Catholic Church and have two children, Eric and Alyssa.

Jamestown Mayor and BPU Board President Sam Teresi said, "We welcome Dave on board as a valued member of the BPU team. He has our full confidence as we look forward to a myriad of future projects in all five divisions of the utility."

"The Board is extremely pleased that Dave Leathers is our new General Manager," remarked BPU Chair John Zabrodsky. "Dave's unanimous selection as well as his standing with the greater community will allow the BPU to maintain the momentum built over the past ten months."

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