

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Letter: New York must continue to improve electric system

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New York must continue to improve electric system

Sunday marked the five-year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy and its devastating impact on New York.

The good news is many improvements have been made to the electricity system. Utilities have spent billions to protect and fortify electricity infrastructure from severe storms. There has been increased stockpiling of key system components, to lessen the time of outages. And communications protocols and practices are also much better.

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However, much of our transmission grid is aging, with 75 percent of it 40 years or older. It has served us well, but large parts need to be replaced, especially with the coming of the smart grid, which enables consumers and businesses to better monitor and control electricity usage.

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New York must not become complacent and needs to continue to make electric system improvements so that we can better face storms and have improved overall service.

Matthew C. Cordaro, Ph.D.

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