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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 26, 2012

Legislator Rob Calarco Tours State-of-the-art Energy Innovation on Long Island



Top Left: Leg. Rob Calarco (center); Ross Ain, president of Caithness Long Island (right); and Harry Davitian, president of Entek Power Services tour the Caithness Power Plant.

Top Right: Leg. Rob Calarco (left) gets an inside view of the high-tech power plant with Caithness Long Island president Ross Ain.

Bottom: Leg. Rob Calarco (right center) joined Deputy Presiding Officer Wayne Horsley (left center), fellow legislators, and Brookhaven National Laboratory staff to tour the Long Island Solar Farm.

Patchogue, LI—Tuesday, January 24: Legislator Rob Calarco spent a productive day touring two of the region’s state-of-the-art energy facilities: Caithness Long Island Energy Center, located in Yaphank and the Long Island Solar Farm, located at the Brookhaven National Laboratory Complex in Upton. Despite their differences, both power plants represent high-tech advancements in power production.

The Caithness Power Plant, which went online in August 2009, is a new-generation 350-megawatt baseload plant that utilizes a gas-and-steam combined-cycle technology. Because of its advanced technology, the Caithness plant uses 34 percent less fuel (the plant rarely uses its oil backup) than older plants while creating the same amount of electricity. For these reasons, the Caithness Plant is not only the most cost-efficient but also the cleanest power plant on Long Island.

The Long Island Solar Farm is a 32-watt plant built through a collaboration of BP Solar, the Long Island Power Authority, and the Department of Energy. The plant, currently the largest plant of its kind in the Eastern U.S., began delivering power to the LIPA grid in 2011 and generates enough renewable energy to power approximately 4,500 homes. The plant also is being used to research further solar power efficiencies and improvements in storage capacity, distribution, and solar panel design.

“Both of these plants are arguably crown jewels for our region. Caithness is a true powerhouse and it’s clean. The Solar Farm is the first step to where we want to be in the future environmentally. However, this form of renewable energy has a way to go before it becomes entirely viable. When I toured these plants, I saw the innovation we need for the future. If we want to move forward, compete as a region, create jobs and a sustainable way of life, we have to have self-sufficient, safe, clean, and cost-effective power,” said Leg. Calarco.