

Governing Speed

Mechanical waterpower could work at any speed, but an electric generator must rotate at 60 cycles per second. To connect the spinning turbine with its electric generator required a mechanism that could open the turbine gate at the exact moment when it reached the right speed. That machine was called a “governor.”

Key Connection

This governor, made in Troy, New York, by Ludlow Valve Company in 1902 controlled the turbine now on display outside the museum. When the turbine came up to speed, the rotating flyballs activated a lever opening a gate to engage the generator.

LaChute Hydro

LaChute Hydro went on line in 1988, with “upper” and “lower” power plants operating as “run of the river” facilities, located at “C” and “F” dams, respectively. The turbine at the lower falls is driven by water discharged from the upper power station. The company normally draws most of the outflow from Lake George, but leaves enough water in the river to support fish habitat and to allow fish to pass downstream around the dams and turbines. In 2006, LaChute Hydro installed a new Francis turbine at the lower power station.”

12-foot Diameter Penstock

Construction of an iron penstock capable of carrying the contents of an entire creek called for boilermaker's skill on a huge scale: riveting massive sheets of rolled iron together in smooth, gentle curves to reduce turbulence in the flowing water.

Panoramic View of Ticonderoga

This second panoramic view of Ticonderoga, drawn in 1891, served as a guide for many of the mill models now on display in the Museum. But we cannot trust the picture completely. Since the Glens Falls Pulp Mill at “C” Dam (#25) was never built, we have no way of knowing what else might be wrong with this picture!