

# Utility Oversight and Regulation

"The Commission continues its thoughtful and well-reasoned approval process regarding clean energy projects and related transmission lines to meet the important deadlines set forth by the Climate Act."

- Commission
Chair Rory M.
Christian

For more information about the PSC and DPS, scan below using your phone's camera



visit dps.ny.gov call 1-800-342-3377

#### **NYS Public Service Commission**

The Commission (PSC) regulates electric, gas, steam, telecommunications, and water utilities

and oversees the cable industry. The PSC is charged with setting rates and ensuring that New York's utilities



provide adequate service. The PSC also has jurisdiction over the siting of major electric and gas transmission facilities and makes the final decision regarding all applications.

#### NYS Department of Public Service

The Department (DPS) is the staff arm of the PSC and has a broad mandate to ensure access to safe, reliable utility service at just and reasonable rates.

One of the agency's responsibilities is to participate in transmission line proceedings, including those connected to off-shore wind





- ◆ conduct in-depth analysis of the environmental, safety, and engineering issues of a proposed project.
- ◆consider the need for the transmission facility, as well as the project's effects on local residents.



### Transmission Department of Public Service Planning in NYS

The PSC has authority to approve electric transmission facilities designed to integrate wind, solar and hydropower projects into the State's energy supply.

These projects will help reduce reliance on fossil fuels, lower carbon emissions, and address transmission bottlenecks that limit delivery of renewable energy across New York.

For more information about the electric transmission projects, scan below using your phone's camera



visit dps.ny.gov call 1-800-342-3377 New York's Climate Act established aggressive targets to build a clean, resilient, and affordable energy system. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is committed to balancing the state's climate goals with its mandate to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable utility service.

#### Siting of Transmission Facilities

Article VII of the NYS Public Service Law requires a full review of the need for and environmental impact of the siting, design, construction, and operation of major transmission facilities in New York. Major electric lines are defined as:

- •125 kilovolts (kV) or more extending 1 mile or longer
- •100 kV or more extending at least 10 miles

#### Application

Article VII applications must contain a description of the facilities and the proposed location, a discussion of the need for the facility, an environmental assessment, and a comparison of reasonable alternatives.

#### Review Process

The review process begins when an application is deemed to comply with these requirements.

Article VII establishes an open forum in which state agencies, local municipalities, interest groups, and community residents can participate in the review process.

An Intervenor Fee must accompany applications for projects of 125kV or more. The funds are used to help municipalities and other parties in the proceeding defray costs incurred during the review process.

#### **PSC** Decision

The PSC considers the views of all parties, including the public. It may adopt or reject the proposal in whole or part, or may make modifications.



## PSC and Public Involvement

Article VII of
the NYS Public
Service Law
requires a full
review of the need
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siting, design,
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operation of major
transmission
facilities in NY.

While the PSC makes the final decision regarding applications, Article VII establishes the forum in which the public can participate in the review process with state agencies, local municipalities, and environmental, planning, and other interest groups.

For more information about public involvement in PSC proceedings, scan below using your phone's camera



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#### Public Involvement in Transmission Facilities

Article VII provides opportunities for stakeholders having an interest in a project to participate in the review of an application. The proposed location, appearance, cost, and construction and maintenance practices, as well as the need for the facility, are all subject to review.

Throughout the Article VII process, applicants are strongly encouraged to communicate with the public early in planning phase and to develop a public involvement program for all subsequent project phases.

#### Participate in the PSC's Article VII Process

There are several ways to be involved in the process, such as:

- Request Party Status: Being a party enables an individual or group to contribute to the record by conducting discovery, submitting testimony and other formal written comments, and participating in evidentiary hearings and events in the case.
- Join the Service List: Monitor the proceeding by subscribing to the service list to receive documents issued in the case, such as orders, notices, and rulings.
- Monitor the PSC's Website: Interested persons may view PSC's website to check on the status of a case. All public case documents filed in the case and written comments submitted by the public are posted in the case webpage.
- Provide Comments: There are opportunities to comment on an application. All comments become part of the record considered by the PSC when deciding on the case.
  - Via Public Statement Hearings: Individuals can deliver an oral or written statement of personal views and concerns about the proposed project.
- The New York State
  Public Service Commission
  Wants to Hear From You
  - Via Written Comment: Comments may be sent by mail or entered directly into the case via <a href="www.dps.ny.gov">www.dps.ny.gov</a> using the Search option on the homepage.
  - Toll-Free Opinion Line: Individuals may call the PSC's toll-free Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. Comments are not transcribed but are summarized and reported to the PSC for its consideration.