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November 6, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary
Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

**Reference: Case 13-E-0488 - In the Matter of Alternating Current Transmission
Upgrades – Comparative Proceeding and Cases 12-T-0502 et al.
Initial Comments on the Trial Staff Report and Motion
Comments on Proposed Public Policy Transmission Needs/Public
Policy Requirements, SAPA Notice I.D. No. PSC-40-15-00011-P**

Dear Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess:

The Town of Clinton is a Party to the AC Transmission Lines proceedings and wish to offer my comments concerning the proceedings that are under way. Having been involved since November 2013, I have observed the ever changing modified Article 7 process being employed by the Public Service Commission (PSC). The requirements given to the developers have also been changing over time. In the Governor's State of the State speech in January 2014, the developers were requested to remain within the existing Right-of-Way (ROW) for the two transmission lines going through the Town of Clinton in Dutchess County. Some of the early developers previously wanted to have a new ROW situated beside the existing ROW's that were 165 feet wide (acquired by the use of Eminent Domain) and causing great impact on the adjacent property owners. The next constructional issue was the excessive height of the proposed new towers. Again through much interaction with the developers, we as a member of the Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition (HVSEC) have gotten the towers reduced in height. There seems to be agreement between the PSC and HVSEC that there are no reliability needs for additional transmission lines. At the PSC Technical Meeting held in July 2015, there was agreement again with the PSC and the HVSEC on the visual and environmental issues that were previously discussed. At the PSC Technical Meeting held in September 2015, there was discussion on the need for additional electrical power for New York City and the question arose whether there is really congestion in the Mid-Hudson Valley. There was significant disagreement between the PSC presentation and the two HVSEC presentations. The HVSEC two presentations clearly showed there is no need for additional power and in the future we'll have too much power. The PSC's presentation was weak with little

demonstrated factual support for the additional AC Transmission Lines. The extra power needed in New York City amounts to a few hours on a few hot days during the summer today. With the addition of more solar generation coming from home and commercial installations and the extra Mid-Hudson Valley new natural gas operated generation facilities, this extra power will not be needed from the AC Transmission Lines. The additional efforts to reduce electricity needs by using LED bulbs, energy-efficient appliances, and overall conservation measures, the extra power will also not be needed. In order for the PSC to continue building more power lines, the Public Policy Requirement has been invoked to arbitrarily allow the process to move forward in spite of the objections of the residents. Another less costly proposal has been prepared by a developer to reconductor the existing 345 KV dual tower power lines with more current carrying lines to carry the requested original 1,000 MW to New York City. Somehow it always gets dismissed in favor of building new towers which are going to be a blight on the landscape for up to 100 hundred years even if not needed in the near future. This summarizes the construction process.

The overall process had and continues to have many changes over the years. The requirements imposed on the developers seem to be constantly changing and sometimes quickly for no obvious reason. The lack of transparency for some of the PSC actions and in the New York State Independent System Operators (NYISO) reports make it most difficult to comment on their analyses. This modified Article 7 process seems to be changing on the fly as the process moves forward so there are many surprises and wasted efforts by the residents and developers to present their information to the PSC and ultimately to the Governor's Office. It seems the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) should have been done before the AC Transmission study was undertaken so there would be a sound New York Statewide solution to the electrical energy generation and transmission with the inclusion of the solarization activities being done within the State.

This AC Transmission Line project has been seriously affecting the residents along the existing and proposed lines for over two years without any completion occurring for another three or more years. These residents cannot sell their properties for a reasonable price due to the uncertainty of the power line construction. This is a financial problem for them as they lose money on the sale and must continue to pay the FERC 6% congestion tax and the ever increasing Central Hudson rates which increase 5 % each in 2016 and 2017 and who knows how much more over the future years. With the added cost to rate payers for the \$1.3 billion bond plus the bond interest for the construction of the "must need" new transmission lines will just cause more businesses and residents to quickly leave New York State due to the high cost of electricity instead of attracting businesses. The Governor and the PSC must wake up and realize this particular burden on us and the imposition on us is without any discernable benefit to this community is unacceptable. We have become increasingly more frustrated with State government that has no discernable energy policy and no plan to make a new, dynamic energy grid while this State continues to use old solutions for new problems. My community and the HVSEC have been actively involved in arguing this point. Let's bring this to a conclusion that benefits all stakeholders and push forward on REV to provide direction.

Sincerely,

Raymon Oberly
Town Supervisor

Cc: Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York State
Hon. Audrey Zibelman, Chair, NYS Public Service Commission
Hon. Richard L. Kaufmann, Chairman of Energy & Finance for New York
Hon. Charles I. Schumer, United States Senator
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senator
Hon. Chris Gibson, United States Congressman
Hon. Sue Serino, New York State Senator
Hon. Didi Barrett, New York State Assemblymember
Hon. Marcus Molinaro, Dutchess County Executive
Hon. Joel Tyner, Dutchess County Legislator
Clinton Town Board Members
Clinton Town Clerk
Members of TACC (Towns And County Coalition)