



Department of Public Service
Office of Renewable Energy Siting
and Electric Transmission

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Governor

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October 23, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

Kevin M. Bernstein, Esq.
Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC
One Lincoln Center
Syracuse, New York 13202-1355
kbernstein@bsk.com

Re: Case 26-T-0456 - Application of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid for an Amendment to a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Authorizing the Removal and Replacement of Six Poles along the 345 kV Independence-Clay Transmission Line in the Towns of Scriba, Volney, Palermo, and Schroepfel in Oswego County and the Town of Clay in Onondaga County.

APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE AMENDMENT AND EM&CP CHANGE

Dear Kevin Bernstein,

A Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need was issued by the New York State Public Service Commission on August 20, 1993, in Case 92-T-0014 ("Certificate"). The Certificate authorizes Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid ("National Grid" or the "Company") to construct and operate a 345 kilovolt ("kV") transmission facility along a 28.9-mile corridor between the Independence Substation and the Scriba and Clay Substations (the "Project" or "Facility"). The Project passes through the Towns of Scriba, Volney, Palermo, and Schroepfel in Oswego County and the Town of Clay in Onondaga County. Pursuant to Certificate Condition 8, the transmission line is supported by wood pole H-frame structures, except in the immediate vicinity of the proposed substations.

On June 26, 2026, National Grid filed an Application for Amendment ("Amendment Application"), pursuant to 16 NYCRR § 1100-11.2(a)(3) with the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission ("ORES" or the "Office"). The Amendment Application requests modifications to Certificate Condition 8 in order to allow for the replacement of wood pole structures with steel structures along the entirety of the Project route, as deemed necessary by National Grid. Pursuant to PSL § 3-c(2)(d) all certificates of environmental compatibility and public need issued by the Commission pursuant to Article VII shall be considered for all legal purposes to be Permits issued by the Office.

According to the Amendment Application, the existing 345 kV Independence – Clay #26 transmission line is located within a 300- to 500-foot-wide right-of-way (“ROW”) which accommodates up to five transmission facilities and consists of a combination of easement and fee-owned property rights. National Grid has indicated that all replacement structures and associated work areas will be located within the existing ROW, and that all necessary ROW agreements and landowner permissions have been obtained.

On August 25, 2026, the Office issued notice of its determination pursuant to 16 NYCRR § 1100-11.2(c), that the proposed modification to the Certificate is not expected to result in any material increase in identified adverse environmental impacts or public health or safety impacts, will not result any significant adverse impacts not previously addressed by the Certificate, and will not require a substantial change to an existing certificate standard or condition. Therefore, the Office determined that proposed changes to the Certificate constitute a Minor Amendment.

Pursuant to 16 NYCRR § 1100-11.2(c), upon issuance of a determination that a proposed Certificate amendment is minor, the Office shall issue a final siting permit within sixty (60) days. The requested amendment is hereby granted and Certificate (now Permit) Condition 8 is revised as follows:

Except where this Opinion and Order requires otherwise, the terms of the Stipulation and the environmental protection measures contained in the Application and in related papers, statements and interrogatory responses made by the Applicant and received into evidence in this proceeding shall be applied during preparation of the EM&CP and during construction, operation and maintenance of the certified facility, except that steel structures may be installed along the entirety of the Project route. From the Independence Station to Scriba Station and from Scriba Station to the second existing structures south of Burt Miner Road, the applicant shall use unpainted galvanized structures with grey insulators.

Furthermore, upon approval of the Certificate Amendment and issuance of a siting permit herein, the Environmental Management and Construction Plan (“EM&CP”) change procedures established in Certificate Condition 12(b) are hereby supplanted with the EM&CP Amendment procedures for siting permits under 16 NYCRR § 1100-11.1.

The Amendment Application also includes a corresponding request for changes to the Project’s EM&CP, which was previously approved by the Public Service Commission as part of the Certificate Order. ORES treats the proposed EM&CP Amendment as requested pursuant to 16 NYCRR § 1100-11.1, the regulations in effect as of the date of the approval of the Certificate Amendment. The proposed EM&CP Amendment involves the replacement of six (6) wood H-frame structures with six (6) steel pole H-frame structures along the Facility route. The proposed structure replacements are needed to address deteriorating conditions of certain existing wooden H-frame structures.

The Office has considered the EM&CP Amendment and determined that the proposed changes are not likely to result in any material increase in previously identified adverse environmental impacts. Pursuant to 16 NYCRR § 1100-11.1(b), the Office has determined that the proposed EM&CP Amendment constitutes a minor change and is approved.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeremy Flaum, Utility Supervisor, at (518) 486-2219 or jeremy.flaum@dps.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Zehr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Zehr
Interim Executive Director
Deputy Director - Transmission
Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission

cc: Service List