



**Public Service
Commission**

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PSC Adopts Draft Scope for Environmental Reviews for Data Centers and Large Electric Loads

*Environmental Reviews Directed by Governor Hochul's Data Center Moratorium Executive Order
Addresses Unprecedented Growth of Large Load Customers Interconnecting to the Electric Grid*

Public Comments on Draft Scope Due on October 20

ALBANY — The Public Service Commission (PSC or Commission) today formally issued a positive declaration of potential environmental impacts associated with its review of data center and other large load interconnections under its Energize NY Development Proceeding. Pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the positive declaration is the first procedural step necessary for the development of a draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), and it is accompanied by a Draft Scope of the GEIS that was issued for public comment today. Following a public comment period ending on October 20, the Commission will be able to consider what, if any, revisions are needed to the Draft Scope and then accept a Final Scope. The Final Scope will define the issues to be addressed in the GEIS.

The Energize NY Development initiative was announced by Governor Hochul during the State of the State address on January 13, 2026, to modernize the interconnection process for large energy users connecting to the electric grid. By ensuring that data centers pay their fair share, Energize NY Development will protect ratepayers from additional pressure on their utility bills. Relatedly, Governor Hochul issued Executive Order 62 on July 14, 2026, directing the Department of Public Service to undertake a GEIS review process with respect to data centers, and directing agencies to pause the issuance of permits for data centers until the environmental review is completed.

The Draft Scope of the GEIS adopted today by the Commission will evaluate potential impacts that may result from the construction and operation of data centers and other large loads and the potential implementation of proposed large load interconnection reforms, including the development and promulgation of interconnection processes and cost allocation standards for data centers and large load customers in the State.

The Draft Scope identifies the potential impacts to be evaluated, including but not limited to impacts on air; water; groundwater; human health; disadvantaged communities; agricultural resources;

aesthetic resources; plants and animals; noise, odor and light; open space; and community character.

Today's decision may be obtained by going to the Commission Documents section of the Commission's Web site at www.dps.ny.gov and entering Case Number 26-E-0045 in the input box labeled "Search for Case/Matter Number". Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission documents may also be obtained from the Commission's Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 ([518-474-2500](tel:518-474-2500)). If you have difficulty understanding English, please call us at [1-800-342-3377](tel:1-800-342-3377) for free language assistance services regarding this press release.

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