STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service Commission held in the City of New York on November 19, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Rory M. Christian, Chair
James S. Alesi
David J. Valesky
John B. Maggiore
Uchenna S. Bright
Denise M. Sheehan
Radina R. Valova

CASE 25-T-0184 - Petition of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid for Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, Pursuant to Article VII of the Public Service Law, for the Reconstruction of Approximately 60.9 miles of 115kV Transmission Line Running from the Black River Substation in the Town of LeRay, Jefferson County, to the Clay Substation, in the Town of Clay, Onondaga County, and the Construction of a New Staplin Creek Substation in the Town of Rutland, Jefferson County.

ORDER APPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN FOR THE BLACK RIVER-CLAY 115kV TRANSMISSION REBUILD SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

(Issued and Effective November 20, 2026)

BY THE COMMISSION:

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Public Service Commission (Commission) issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) on July 17, 2026 (Certificate Order) to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid (National Grid or

Certificate Holder).[1] The Certificate Order authorizes National Grid to rebuild approximately 60.9 miles of 115kV transmission line spanning from the Black River Substation in the Town of LeRay, Jefferson County, to the Clay Substation, in the Town of Clay, Onondaga County, and the construction of a new Staplin Creek Substation in the Town of Rutland, Jefferson County, pursuant to the requirements of Article VII of the Public Service Law (PSL) (the Project or Facility). The Project, which is part of National Grid's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) Phase 2 transmission infrastructure upgrades, is needed to increase the amount of energy that can be transmitted by the National Grid's 115 kV network in order to support new renewable generation and to support system reliability through the refurbishment or replacement of aging facilities.

The Certificate Order contains several requirements for the Environmental Management and Construction Plan (EM&CP). The EM&CP, which may be phased or segmented based on Project construction sequencing, must detail the Project's design, construction and maintenance plans, and environmental controls in accordance with the EM&CP Specifications set forth in Appendix E to the Certificate. Additionally, Appendix D to the Certificate – the conditions of the Certificate – includes requirements for the content of the EM&CP. National Grid filed its proposed EM&CP for the transmission line portion of the Black River-Clay 115kV Transmission Rebuild Project (Transmission Line EM&CP) on July 31, 2026, and revised the EM&CP on October 27, 2026. The Transmission Line EM&CP involves the rebuild of approximately 60.9 miles of 115 kV transmission line. The Facility runs from the Black River Substation in the

[1] Case 25-T-0184, Order Adopting Terms of a Joint Proposal (issued July 17, 2026) (Certificate Order).

Town of LeRay, Jefferson County, to the Clay Substation, in the Town of Clay, Onondaga County. This Order approves the Transmission Line EM&CP so that National Grid may begin reconstruction of the transmission line pursuant to the Certificate and the conditions of this Order.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Certificate Holder filed its proposed Transmission Line EM&CP on July 31, 2026. Subsequently, on August 21, 2026, in accordance with Certificate Conditions 26 and 27, National Grid filed affidavits of service that attested that: (i) a full hard copy of the EM&CP was hand delivered to Department of Public Service (DPS) staff; (ii) complete hard copies of the EM&CP were mailed to those public libraries that requested a hard copy; and (iii) electronic copies were provided to those public libraries that requested one. In addition, National Grid mailed the EM&CP Filing Notice to abutting landowners and parties, as the Certificate requires. On August 21, 2026, National Grid provided affidavits of publication that the Filing Notice was published in the *Palladium Times*, *Watertown Daily Times*, and *The Post Standard* on July 30, 2026.

No public comments regarding the Transmission Line EM&CP were received. DPS staff and the Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) provided informal comments and recommendations following receipt and review of the July 31, 2026 Transmission Line EM&CP filing.

THE EM&CP

National Grid's proposed Transmission Line EM&CP, as filed on July 31, 2026, and supplemented on October 27, 2026, includes both typical and site-specific techniques, procedures, and requirements to be followed during the construction of the

Project to ensure environmental impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation. The EM&CP identified and defined the scope of work, including but not limited to, construction access and traffic controls; transmission line electrical and civil design details; stormwater management and erosion controls; threatened and endangered species, wetlands, archaeological resources; and National Grid's organizational framework to ensure implementation of the EM&CP. The standards for the EM&CP are described in the Joint Proposal and its appendices, particularly the Certificate Conditions (Appendix D of the Certificate), and the EM&CP Specifications (Appendix E of the Certificate).

DPS Staff

Following the review of the Transmission Line EM&CP filed on July 31, 2026, DPS staff provided comments concerning road use permits and approvals, construction and grading plan details, property rights, off right-of-way (ROW) access, ROW encroachment, and spills and spills reporting. On October 27, 2026, National Grid supplemented the EM&CP to address these comments, resolving DPS staff's comments.

NYSDEC

Following its review of the Transmission Line EM&CP filed on October 28, 2026, NYSDEC provided informal comments concerning the Project's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, threatened and endangered species, grading, dewatering, invasive species-, and site-specific stormwater features. NYSDEC confirmed that the EM&CP supplement filed on October 27, 2026, adequately addressed and resolved their comments.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

National Grid filed the Transmission Line EM&CP on July 31, 2026, and supplemented the EM&CP on October 27, 2026. Based upon their review, DPS staff advise that the Transmission Line EM&CP, as filed and supplemented, incorporates and resolves DPS staff and NYSDEC's comments and recommendations. Additionally, DPS staff advise that the Transmission Line EM&CP complies with the applicable Certificate Conditions and adheres to the EM&CP Specifications included as Attachments C and D to the Certificate, respectively.

The Commission hereby finds that based on a review of all documents filed and supplemented, the Certificate Holder has adequately addressed the concerns raised by both DPS staff and NYSDEC, and therefore, the Transmission Line EM&CP for the Project is approved.

The Commission orders:

1. The Environmental Management and Construction Plan for the transmission line portion of the Black River-Clay 115kV Transmission Rebuild Project (Transmission Line EM&CP), as submitted by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid (National Grid) on July 31, 2026, and supplemented on October 27, 2026, is approved for the construction of the transmission line portion of the Project, subject to Ordering Clause 2 of this Order.

2. National Grid shall not commence construction until it has received a "Notice to Proceed with Construction" letter sent by the Executive Director of the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission, or their designee.

3. This proceeding is continued.

By the Commission,

(SIGNED) MICHELLE L. PHILLIPS
Secretary