

# INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF SEA CLIFF

## Mayor

Elena Villafane, Esq.

## Trustees

Nicholas Pinto  
Mark Sobel  
James Versocki  
George Williams



## Village Administrator

Bruce P. Kennedy

## Village Clerk

Sarah Beaudin

## Village Justice

Robin S. Maynard

## Counsel

Brian S. Stolar, Esq.

March 7, 2025

Hon. Michelle L. Phillips  
Secretary to the Commission  
New York State Public Service Commission  
Three Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223-1350

## Re: Case 24-T-0446, Petition of New York Transco LLC and New York Power Authority

Dear Commissioners:

As Mayor of the Village of Sea Cliff, I am writing to express significant concerns regarding Case 24-T-0446 and the proposed underground transmission project affecting Long Island Sound, Hempstead Harbor, and multiple municipalities along the north shore of Nassau County.

Our immediate primary concerns include:

- 1. Environmental and Health Impacts from Dredging:** The dredging activities proposed in Long Island Sound and Hempstead Harbor will likely disturb contaminated sediments containing heavy metals and other hazardous materials, remnants of historical industrial activities. The resulting suspended sediments will negatively impact water clarity, pose health risks to recreational users, and generate noxious odors adversely affecting residents' quality of life. Sea Cliff Beach and the Sea Cliff Yacht Club are vital community institutions with thousands of members and visitors every summer. Closing these facilities due to adverse health impacts is simply not acceptable.
- 2. Economic Impact on Local Businesses:** Construction disruptions will negatively impact local businesses, particularly those reliant on tourism, recreation, or marine activities. The Sea Cliff Yacht Club annually hosts the Around Long Island Regatta, New York State's premier sailing race, as well as the Western District Regatta, a prestigious Junior Sailing competition attracting sailors aged 12-17 from across the western Sound region. These events significantly contribute to our local economy by attracting numerous visitors each year. Disruptions or cancellations of these regattas due to construction would severely impact our local economy and community spirit. We request detailed economic impact assessments and mitigation strategies.
- 3. Impact of Roadway Construction:** The extensive excavation required to install transmission cables along many miles of local roadways will cause severe disruption to communities already burdened by

inadequate major thoroughfares. This construction will exacerbate traffic congestion, restrict accessibility, and diminish residents' quality of life. We demand a detailed construction plan clearly outlining timelines, traffic mitigation measures, and anticipated community impacts.

4. **Quality and Longevity of Road Repairs:** It is well-documented that roadways disturbed by underground utility projects frequently deteriorate shortly after repairs. We demand that New York Transco LLC provide a 20-year road bond to all affected municipalities to ensure roads are properly maintained and repaired long after construction activities conclude.
5. **Electromagnetic Interference (EMI):** Our community is already impacted by EMI emissions from existing substations in Glenwood Landing. We require detailed information about additional substations, expansions to existing facilities, specific locations, and comparative EMI measurements before and after project completion.
6. **Impact on Local Wildlife and Marine Ecology:** We are concerned about potential harm to marine habitats, fish populations, migratory birds, and local biodiversity resulting from dredging and construction activities.
7. **Noise Pollution and Community Disruption:** Potential increased noise from prolonged construction activities, especially during nighttime or early-morning hours, will significantly disrupt residents' quality of life. We require detailed noise mitigation plans.
8. **Flooding, Stormwater Management, and Geological Stability:** Excavations and disturbances to Hempstead Harbor and existing infrastructure could adversely affect stormwater management and increase flood risks, especially considering Sea Cliff's unique topography and proximity to waterways. The cliffs along Hempstead Harbor have recently experienced significant erosion, slides, and structural failures, costing millions of dollars for the Village and private property owners to remediate and stabilize. We insist that New York Transco LLC provide comprehensive plans addressing how they will ensure the geological stability of the cliffs and surrounding areas throughout construction and thereafter.
9. **Transparency and Community Engagement:** We demand regular community updates, transparent communication channels, public hearings, open forums, and dedicated contacts to ensure community questions and feedback are addressed throughout the project's lifecycle.
10. **Emergency Response and Access:** We emphasize concerns regarding how roadway closures or construction delays could impede emergency response times or restrict access to critical facilities such as hospitals, fire stations, or police precincts. Should this project proceed, we require an emergency contact and a 24-hour emergency number with guaranteed response times.
11. **Historic Preservation and Community Character:** Preserving Sea Cliff's historical landmarks and unique community character must be prioritized during disruptive underground and infrastructure work.

Additionally, we are shocked and concerned that essential utilities such as electricity continue to be permitted to operate on a profit model such as "return on equity" which is directly linked to increased project costs.

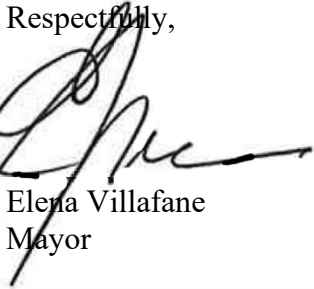
Allowing unchecked corporate incentives to drive up expenses for necessary infrastructure is clearly not in the public's best interest.

We strongly urge the Commission to rigorously scrutinize and control project costs to protect ratepayers from unnecessary financial burdens. We also request detailed projections of the impact this project will have on utility bills annually for the next 20 years.

The Village of Sea Cliff respectfully requests that the PSC fully address these concerns through rigorous assessment, detailed responses, and firm mitigation commitments from New York Transco LLC.

Thank you for your attention to these critical matters. I look forward to your timely and thorough response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Villafane', written over a horizontal line.

Elena Villafane  
Mayor