



# Public Service Commission

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Rory M. Christian, Chair

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## **RAPID Act Regulations Set to Lower Costs and Accelerate Grid Modernization in New York**

### **New Transmission Regulations Slash Permitting Time in Half**

#### **New Regulations Reflect Thousands of Stakeholder Comments and Maintain Critical Environmental and Community Protections**

**ALBANY** — The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today took action to accelerate electric grid modernization in New York, with an eye toward lowering costs. The approval came after an extensive public comment effort.

The Commission approved regulations for adoption by the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) regarding the environmental review, permitting, and siting of major renewable energy facilities and major electric transmission facilities under the Renewable Action Project Interconnection and Deployment (RAPID) Act. The new regulations incorporate extensive feedback from a wide range of voices, including consumers, developers, environmental organizations, municipalities, and other state agencies. ORES released the initial set of draft RAPID Act regulations in December 2024 and conducted a detailed public comment process including 20 in-person public comment hearings at 11 locations around the state, and two virtual public comment hearings. During this initial rulemaking process, ORES extended the public comment period in response to local governments' and other stakeholders' comments seeking more time to review and comment on the proposed regulations.

In October 2025, ORES issued revised regulations for public comment. Many of the revisions were directly informed by the input from commenters and lessons learned from the existing ORES permitting process. Together, this combination of stakeholder input and agency expertise allowed ORES to further streamline permitting while ensuring that projects are carefully reviewed and balanced with critical environmental and community considerations.

"The approved RAPID Act regulations will enable ORES to refine its permitting practices and enable the development of new renewable generation and transmission projects that create new clean energy, strengthen grid reliability, and support new good-paying jobs," **said Commission Chair Rory M. Christian**. "These regulations will be essential to the state's need to integrate new, clean generation and replace our existing aging infrastructure to meet rising electric demand."

Due to the more than 2,000 public comments received on the proposed regulations and draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement, ORES substantially revised certain provisions of the proposed regulations. Key areas addressed in the revised rules include:

- revised pre-application procedures;
- revised alternative route scoping procedures for major electric transmission facilities;
- revised procedures for upgrades and new work for major electric transmission facilities located substantially within existing electric transmission rights-of-way;
- increased stakeholder engagement, including with local governments;
- and revised noise standards for both major renewable energy and major electric transmission facilities.

The new transmission regulations reduce the time to issue a permit by up to 50 percent.

Enacted in April 2024, the RAPID Act consolidates the environmental review, permitting, and siting of major renewable energy facilities and major electric transmission facilities under the purview of ORES. Among other things, the RAPID Act authorizes ORES, in consultation with the Department of Public Service (DPS), the staff arm of the Commission, and subject to approval by the Commission, to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the new siting permit program for major electric transmission facilities established by the RAPID Act. The ORES permit review process balances environmental protection and the need for fast decision making, while continuing to be responsive to community feedback. The new regulations provide increased predictability to applicants and other stakeholders, regarding both timeline and substantive expectations, starting at pre-application and going all the way through to the Environmental Management and Construction Plans phase.

Since 2021, New York State has approved 35 large-scale solar and wind projects, including 29 permitted by ORES, which was created to accelerate permitting for renewable energy generation, and four approved by the NYS Siting Board under Public Service Law Article 10, the statute that governed solar and wind projects over 25-megawatts prior to the creation of ORES. The 35 permitted facilities represent 4.4 gigawatts of new clean, renewable energy. ORES will continue to work closely with relevant state agencies, including the Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Transportation, Department of State, Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's State Historic Preservation Office, and other offices within DPS in the permitting of new renewable generation and transmission facilities under the RAPID Act.

Today's decision may be obtained by going to the Commission Documents section of the Commission's Web site at [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov) and entering Case Number 24-M-0433 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). If you have difficulty understanding English, please call us at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this press release.