COMMISSION UPDATED ON UTILITY SECURITY MATTERS
— Strides Made to Safeguard Transmission, Distribution Systems —

Albany, NY—01/19/12—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today received an oral report from Department of Public Service staff on recent utility security oversight work and the accomplishments energy utilities have made to protect transmission and distribution systems.

For the past 10 years, the Commission’s focus in this regard has been on the protection of the critical infrastructure assets owned and operated by each company. The day-to-day sharing of information between the utility security departments and Department staff regarding vulnerabilities, governmental and industry security initiatives at all levels, and developments in new security technologies, has now evolved into an active collaboration.

Department staff noted its confidence that ongoing utility security planning processes would continue to serve as both an up-to-date self-assessment tool for the utilities and as a means to ensure internal company compliance with the utilities’ own security standards and the Commission’s expectations.

Commission expectations included ensuring company policies focused on identifying critical assets, and ensuring such policies were guided by rigorous risk and vulnerability assessments. Utilities are expected to deploy the current generation of security technologies that offer the most significant benefits to protect critical infrastructure.
Through the collaborative work of the utilities and Department staff, the utilities have committed to ensuring that security and critical infrastructure protection responsibilities remain a central focus in company operations. In addition, Department staff will continue to work with the utilities to ensure the focus remains in place.