

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

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COMMISSION CONSIDERS CREATING EQUIPMENT STOCKPILE

— Proactive Steps Being Taken to Prepare for Future Natural Disasters —

Albany, NY—02/13/13—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today commenced a proceeding to advance recommendations made by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s NYS2100 Commission to establish a stockpile of critically needed equipment and supplies for the mutual use of the State’s largest electric and gas utilities during future natural disasters.

In his 2013 State of the State Address, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo described the equipment and material dilemma and called for the development of a program to stockpile long-term capital assets and critical equipment and to make the stockpiled assets and equipment available for the mutual use of all New York utilities. Such a stockpile could be accessed during the recovery from major storms and emergency events to help expedite the restoration process. The recommendation was also part of the Governor’s NYS2100 Commission report.

“Superstorm Sandy caused unprecedented damage to the energy system infrastructure of New York State,” said Chairman Garry Brown. “Governor Cuomo is rightfully concerned that the need for critical assets and equipment will only become greater as extreme weather events become both more frequent and severe than experienced in the past. We must take action now to prepare for what might lie ahead.”

The Commission’s action today will assist in and accelerate the sharing of key pieces of equipment during major emergency events. It will examine the current equipment inventory and materials handling process of the major utilities in New York and will examine the opportunities

available to implement through joint utility action more efficient storage, delivery, and distribution procedures.

The proceeding will examine current mutual aid equipment and materials practices of all major utilities and develop a process to allow for a regional or statewide stockpile of capital assets and critical equipment and for the subsequent sharing of these assets.

As a first step, the Commission directed the six major investor-owned electric utilities, along with the three major investor-owned natural gas utilities, to file current equipment inventory and material handling procedures by April 15, 2013. The utilities will also submit an inventory, by category, of equipment used during the recovery from Sandy and identify the timing, extent and nature of any shortages that occurred, by the same date.

The Commission also directed the utilities to participate in a collaborative process with the Long Island Power Authority, the New York Power Authority, and the New York Independent System Operator to review the feasibility, the benefits, and the costs of implementing a statewide mutual aid stockpile and equipment-sharing program, and to report back by June 3, 2013.

The Commission's decision today, when issued, 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 13-M-0047 in the input box labeled "Search for Case/Matter Number". Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission orders 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.