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John B. Rhodes, Chair

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## **First Transmission Project Moves Forward Under Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act**

***Demonstrates Governor Cuomo's Leadership to Accelerate Development of Transmission Systems Needed to Integrate Renewable Energy Sources into State's Power System***

***Transmission Project Benefits Northern New York's Economy and Will Unlock Between 950 to 1,050 MW of Clean Energy***

***Northern New York Project Will Help Avoid 1.16 Million Tons of CO2 Emissions Annually and Save \$447 Million in Annual Congestion Costs in Northern New York***

**ALBANY** — The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today adopted criteria for identifying transmission projects that are needed urgently to meet the nation-leading renewable energy goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). As part of today's action, the Commission also identified the New York Power Authority's (NYPA) proposed Northern New York project as a high-priority project and referred it to NYPA for development and construction in accordance with the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Protection Act of 2020).

"New York's nation-leading CLCPA legislation calls for transformational quantities of renewable energy, which in turn requires smart new transmission to connect that power to customers," **said Commission Chair John B. Rhodes**. "Today, we have adopted well-designed new rules to specifically expedite bulk transmission investments that unbundle existing and new renewables. We also have designated the first investment under these new rules, NYPA's Northern New York project, to complete a critical link in our upstate grid and unbundle at least 950 to 1,050 MW of renewable energy sources."

The Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Protection Act calls on the Commission and NYPA to work together when the Commission determines that there is a need for expeditious action to solve a transmission need. Once such an urgent need is established, the Act authorizes NYPA to bring to bear its significant development capabilities and statewide transmission experience to ensure timely construction of the transmission solution.

NYPA has already identified a multi-faceted project that meets the criteria. The project now moving forward, known as the Northern New York Project, includes completion of the second phase of NYPA's 86-mile Smart Path Moses-Adirondack rebuild, rebuilding approximately 45 miles of transmission eastward from Massena to the Town of Clinton, rebuilding approximately 55 miles of transmission

southward from Croghan to Marcy, as well as rebuilding and expanding several substations along the impacted transmission corridor.

In addition to unbottling existing renewable energy in the region, NYPA estimates the Northern New York project will result in significant production cost savings, emissions reductions, and decreases in congestion. NYPA calculates that the project would result in production cost savings of approximately \$99 million per year, resulting in a project value of approximately \$1.05 billion over a 20-year period. The project is estimated to result in more than 1.16 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided annually on a statewide basis, and an annual reduction of approximately 160 tons of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from downstate emissions sources, providing a significant air quality benefit to New York City residents. Finally, NYPA estimates the project would result in more than \$447 million in annual congestion savings in Northern New York.

Environmental and clean energy groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Alliance for Clean Energy New York strongly support efforts to identify and advance transmission projects that are needed in the near term to meet the CLCPA targets.

To build on the region's potential, the North Country Chamber of Commerce believes renewable suppliers must have transmission access to markets. The Chamber states its strong and wholehearted support for the NYPA proposal for a major upgrade of its transmission capacity across the North Country, and notes that these projects would benefit existing and planned renewable energy facilities.

NYPA owns and operates approximately one third of New York's high voltage power lines. These lines transmit power from NYPA's three large hydroelectric generation facilities and independent wind power generation facilities, connecting nearly 7,000 megawatts of renewable energy to New York State's power grid. This includes connecting more than 6,300 megawatts of hydroelectric power and about 700 megawatts, or more than a third, of New York State generated wind energy to the grid. NYPA is the largest state public power organization in the nation, operating more than 1,400 circuit miles of transmission lines and 16 generating facilities.

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 20-E-0197 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.