

STATE OF NEW YORK

# Public Service Commission

William M. Flynn, Chairman

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## **PSC Chairman Flynn Announces New York Telecommunications Reliability Advisory Council Executive Board**

Albany, NY – 6/14/05 – New York State Public Service Commission Chairman William M. Flynn today announced the Executive Board of the New York Telecommunications Reliability Advisory Council (NYTRAC) - a panel of public- and private-sector telecommunications experts who will work to ensure an industry-wide exchange of information on emerging technologies and strategies that can strengthen New York State's telecommunications network.

"New York's Telecommunications Reliability Advisory Council will play an important role in identifying opportunities to improve the overall reliability of the state's world-class telecommunications network," Chairman Flynn said. "The tragedy of September 11, and the interruptions caused by the August 14, 2003 blackout underscored the fact that New York's telecommunications infrastructure is critical to our economy and to the health and safety of our citizens. New York State has long recognized the importance of a strong telecommunications network, and NYTRAC will serve as a forum for addressing reliability issues and ensuring that this state remains a national leader in providing reliable telecommunications service."

The NYTRAC concept was initiated by Chairman Flynn in July of 2004. At that time, he envisioned that NYTRAC would assess the state's telecommunications network and provide a forum for representatives from the public and private sectors to foster strong relationships between key industry participants and to develop new strategies to enhance network reliability.

The Executive Board will provide leadership to guide NYTRAC's process as it considers how to maintain and improve the reliability of the state's telecommunications network for the benefit of its public and private users. NYTRAC will provide advice and recommendations on the status of the network in today's rapidly changing, increasingly competitive, and technologically-sophisticated telecommunications environment.

Chairman Flynn also announced that he and Frederic Salerno will serve as co-chairs of the NYTRAC Executive Board. Mr. Salerno most recently served as Vice-Chairman and Chief Financial Officer of Verizon Communications, Inc. Mr. Salerno retired from Verizon in 2002 after a long and distinguished career in the telecommunications industry in New York. He currently serves on the board of directors for the following companies: Akamai Technologies; Bear Stearns Company, Inc.; Consolidated Edison, Inc.; Gabelli Asset Management Co.; Popular, Inc.; and, Viacom, Inc. In 1997, Governor Pataki appointed Mr. Salerno to serve on the State's International Business Development Council.

Public Service Commission Chairman and NYTRAC Co-Chair William M. Flynn said, "As we worked to assemble an Executive Board, we made sure to select members from diverse backgrounds and with a wide range of experience in issues related to the telecommunications field. NYTRAC is the centerpiece of a larger effort at the Commission to ensure that our telecommunications networks remain the finest and most reliable in the world, and each member of the Executive Committee has demonstrated a strong and shared commitment to this vital goal."

NYTRAC Co-Chairman Frederic Salerno said, "New York State has always been blessed with the most reliable telecommunications network in the world. This has given us a competitive edge in attracting and retaining the most intensive concentration of Fortune 500 companies anywhere. This group of telecommunications experts will make recommendations that will allow New York to retain that status as it deals with technological innovations and redundancies."

Other members of the NYTRAC Executive Board include:

- Richard Alteri, President and CEO of the Cable Telecommunications Association of New York, Inc. Mr. Alteri also serves on the Steering Committee of the New York State Business Council, and as a member of the National Broadband Tax Institute. He has been appointed to several advisory committees, by various Governors of New York, that have studied tax, telecommunications, and regulatory issues.
- Robert Atkinson, is a former executive at Teleport, a facilities-based telecommunications provider in the New York Metropolitan area. He served as Deputy Chief of the FCC's Common Carrier Bureau and he is currently the Director of Columbia University's Institute for Tele-Information.
- Peter Cherasia, Chief Information Officer and Director of e-Commerce, Bear Stearns & Co. Inc. Mr. Cherasia is responsible for all aspects of information and trading technology at the worldwide securities firm.
- Sharon Dawes, Director of the Center for Technology in Government at the University at Albany. She recently directed a National Science Foundation Study of the response to 9/11 and the World Trade Center Disaster from a comprehensive first-hand perspective.

- Jeannie Diefenderfer, Senior Vice President, Network Services at Verizon Communications. She currently serves as the company's Network Reliability and Interoperability Council representative. Ms. Diefenderfer is involved in dealing with Verizon's enterprise customers and has extensive experience in working with the financial community.
- Henry ("Hank") Levine, partner in the firm of Levine, Blaszak, Block & Boothby, LLP, where he specializes in representation of large telecommunications users and companies built on new and emerging technologies. He also represents the Securities Industry Association (SIA).
- Gino Menchini, Commissioner of New York City's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, is responsible for utility reliability in the metropolitan area. Mr. Menchini also represents all other relevant City agencies and ensures a common focus for the City's interests.
- Michael Morrissey, Vice President of Law and Government Affairs, AT&T. Mr. Morrissey was a founding member of the New York City Mutual Aid and Restoration Consortium.
- Dan Mullin, Executive Director, State Public Policy for Verizon Wireless. Mr. Mullin played an active role in the Public Service Commission's inquiry into the effects of the 2003 blackout.
- William Pelegrin, Director of the New York State Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure. Mr. Pelegrin also chairs the New York State Public/Private Sector Cyber Security Workgroup, a group charged with assessing and enhancing the state of cyber-readiness of critical assets.