

STATE OF NEW YORK

# Public Service Commission

William M. Flynn, Chairman

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05076/04T1687

## **PSC Approves Certificate for Electric Transmission Facility in the Towns of Hempstead, Oyster Bay, and Huntington**

Albany, NY—11/22/05—The New York State Public Service Commission today voted to issue a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) to the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) to construct and operate a 345-kilovolt (kV) underground electric transmission facility, the Newbridge Road Connector, in the Towns of Hempstead, Oyster Bay, and Huntington. The facility would transmit the electricity LIPA obtains from the Neptune Regional Transmission System (RTS) throughout the company's Long Island network.

"Today's approval of LIPA's transmission facility will address the growing demand for energy on Long Island," said Commission Chairman William M. Flynn. "This facility will expand LIPA's transmission capacity, help to integrate Long Island with other electric systems and energy markets in other regions, improve the deliverability of electricity to Nassau and Suffolk counties, and contribute to overall system reliability."

The Newbridge Road Connector consists of a four-mile 345 kV underground solid dielectric cable transmission circuit in the Town of Hempstead between the East Garden City Substation and the Newbridge Road Substation, and a 9.1-mile 345 kV underground cable transmission circuit from the Newbridge Road Substation to the Ruland Road Substation in the Town of Huntington. The transmission facility will initially be operated at 138 kV until substation improvements are made to allow it to operate at 345 kV.

The Commission voted to approve the terms of a Joint Proposal recommending certification of the underground transmission facility that was supported by LIPA, the New York State Department of Transportation, and Department of Public Service staff. Public statement hearings were held earlier this year. The Joint Proposal evaluated the factors relevant to the transmission facility, including the need for the facility, and its compatibility with the environment. The route and configuration of the transmission facility makes extensive use of existing rights-of-way in order to avoid or minimize disturbances to residential and commercial properties in densely populated areas. The Certificate requires LIPA to file an environmental management and construction plan (EM&CP) that details further steps to mitigate the impact of construction to town residents adjacent to the route of the transmission facility.

Following a thorough environmental and technical review of the Joint Proposal, the Commission determined that the facility is necessary to transmit and distribute electricity on Long Island from the Neptune RTS, and other generation sources, and that the facility conforms to the long-range plans for the expansion of the electricity power grid for Long Island, the State, and the electric power systems interconnected with New York. Without the Newbridge Road connector, the power available from Neptune RTS could be bottlenecked and it may not be available to serve local and statewide capacity requirements.

The Commission will issue a written Certificate detailing today's decision. The decision in Commission Case 04-T-1687, when available, can be obtained from the Commission's [www.dps.state.ny.us](http://www.dps.state.ny.us) Web site, by accessing the Commission Documents section of the homepage. Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission orders can also be obtained from the File Room, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500).