

**FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

for the

TRI-LAKES RELIABILITY PROJECT



February 17, 2006

LETTERS

Leon Tom Fortune

William Wilkins

Charles Pilger

Joan Dumas

Ralph Collins

Tom Collins

Gerald Gregg

Mayfred Miske

Tim and Donna Carney

Leo J. Grant

John Quinn

Peter Bauer- Resident's Committee to Protect the Adirondacks

Susan Allen – Adirondack Park Agency Reporter

Tim Burpoe

Larry Myers

Larry Peryea

Thomas Cullen

Sylvie Nelson – Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

Ernest Hutchins – 3 letters – 12/8/05, 12/9/05, 12/10/05

Neil Woodworth – Adirondack Mountain Club

David Gibson and Michael DiNunzio – The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks

John Davis – The Adirondack Council

Peter Bauer – Resident's Committee to Protect the Adirondacks



Fortune's True Value Hardware

66 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 876
TUPPER LAKE, N.Y. 12986
PHONE: (518) 359-9471

1/17/06

Leech Fork Power Authority
North Blenheim, NY

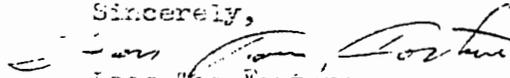
Dear Mr. Ramsey:

My view and that of everyone I've talked to in the communities involved - is that the Power Authority should proceed with the construction of the 40KV line in the quickest and least expensive manner possible.

We have suffered inconvenience and economic loss long enough.

The loud-mouth environmental bastards from North Creek & elsewhere, who are not directly affected, should have no input in the matter. These irrational people have already wasted millions of taxpayer dollars without doing anything significant for the environment.

Sincerely,



Leon Tom Fortune



December 23, 2005

William Wilkins
9641 State Hwy. 3
Childwold, NY 12922

Re: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Dear William Wilkins:

On June 10, 2005, the New York Power Authority held an Open House presentation on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project in Tupper Lake. Whether you attended or reviewed the information at one of several Tri-Lakes locations or on the Internet, we appreciate the time and effort you took to participate and learn more about the Project. Along with comments from many individuals, we received one from you, summarized below, to which we would like to respond.

Summarized Comment:

Concerned about ROW access for snowmobiles and ATVs. What measures will be taken to keep the snowmobiles and ATVs off the ROW.

Response:

National Grid discourages the use of its power line routes, not only in New York but throughout its entire system, for non-utility uses including recreational vehicles such as snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles (ATV). While power line routes appear to be compatible for snowmobile/ATA traffic, they are not, due to important considerations of reliable electric service, differing maintenance requirements, limited property uses on easement parcels, and the health and safety of National Grid workers and the public. National Grid is aware of the dialogue by property owners, snowmobile/ATV users, local municipalities and the agencies governing the use of other Adirondack Park lands.

A copy of the DEIS and the application to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) will be shortly available

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for review at the locations listed below. If you would like a copy, at cost, of the 5-volume set or a CD version, please contact me, Steve Ramsey, Community Affairs Manager, New York Power Authority, Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center, 1378 State Route 30, North Blenheim NY 12131. You can also reach me at 1-800-724-0309 or steve.ramsey@nypa.gov.

-continued-

William Wilkins

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December 23, 2005

Since June, NYPA, along with its consultants, have been performing public outreach, and extensive environmental and engineering studies to identify a proposed preferred route and a proposed alternate route, that could be constructed, within a timeframe and at an economic cost, to help alleviate the severe electric reliability needs in the Tri-Lakes Region.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority

/SR
Attachment

List of Locations for APA Application and DEIS:

MUNICIPALITIES

Town of Colton
94 Main Street
Colton, NY 13625
Attn: Henry Ford, Supervisor

Town of Piercefield
P.O. Box 155
Piercefield, NY 12973
Attn: Kevin Buckley, Supervisor

Town of Parishville
P.O. Box 155
Parishville, NY 13672
Attn: Julie Bump, Supervisor

Town of Clifton
P.O. Box 684
7171 State Highway 3
Cranberry Lake NY 12927
Attn: Robert Snider, Supervisor

Village of Tupper Lake
53 Park Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Mickey DesMarais, Mayor

Town of Tupper Lake
120 Demars Blvd.
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Gregory LaFrance, Supervisor

Village of Saranac Lake
3 Main Street Suite 1
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
Attn: John Sweeney, Village Manager

Town of Harrietstown
30 Main Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
Attn: Larry Miller, Supervisor

Town of Saint Armand
P.O. Box 338
2703 NYS Route 3

Bloomingtondale, NY 12913
Attn: Joyce Morency, Supervisor

Town of North Elba
301 Main Street
Lake Placid, NY 12946
Attn: Shirley Seney, Supervisor

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Attn: Therese Patnode

Goff Nelson Library
41 Lake Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Linda Auclair

Genetta -for the file

Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center
1378 State Route 30
North Blenheim NY 12131



December 23, 2005

Charles Pilger
Danwilde81@hotmail.com

To: Charles Pilger

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Summarized Comment:

Concerned about overhead power lines disrupting the wilderness. Utilize solar panels as an option when the grid is down. Concern about effects of electromagnetic fields from the power line. Would like more information on energy conservation measures.

Response:

You should be aware that the proposed preferred route and the proposed alternate route are not located on or adjacent to your property. The sub-alternative route which was near your property was researched will not be submitted in the APA permit application.

We understand your concerns about the compatibility of power lines and wilderness areas. The proposed line is of a size that is currently used in this and other areas of the Adirondack Park. Where existing services are on an overhead line and it is feasible, we are proposing to combine services on one pole. These types of measures, plus the continued guidance of the APA and DEC will minimize, and in many places address, the concerns you have expressed. The use of solar panels is not feasible from an engineering and economic perspective as a substitute for the new 46 kV line.

National Grid has obtained independent evaluation of the line for electric and magnetic fields. Electric and magnetic fields calculated for the proposed project are within established New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) guidelines.

A good place to start for more information on energy conservations measures is to visit the

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website for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority at www.nyserda.org.

-continued-

Charles Pilger

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Since June, NYPA, along with its consultants, have been performing public outreach, and extensive environmental and engineering studies to identify a proposed preferred route and a proposed alternate route, that could be constructed, within a timeframe and at an economic cost, to help alleviate the severe electric reliability needs in the Tri-Lakes Region.

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Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority

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Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center
1378 State Route 30
North Blenheim NY 12131



December 23, 2005

Ralph Collins
2007 County Route 17
Hermon, NY 13652

Re: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Dear Ralph Collins:

On June 10, 2005, the New York Power Authority held an Open House presentation on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project in Tupper Lake. Whether you attended or reviewed the information at one of several Tri-Lakes locations or on the Internet, we appreciate the time and effort you took to participate and learn more about the Project. Along with comments from many individuals, we received one from you, summarized below, to which we would like to respond.

Summarized Comment:

Fifteen customers at Shurtleff's Clearing interested in power. Build a distribution line off the proposed transmission line. 46Kv line should be built along the road right-of way for maintenance purposes.

Response:

At this time we are not planning any additional substations, or distribution expansions that would tap the new line. Customers will not be able to connect directly to the 46 kV line as it is not National Grid's standard distribution voltage. Distribution voltages for residential services are supplied from distribution lines sized under 15 kV. Residents desiring service would have to apply to National Grid for service under its retail tariff. The rules in the retail tariff would apply.

12/23/2005

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-continued-

Ralph Collins

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December 23, 2005

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If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority

/SR
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December 23, 2005

Joan Dumas
PO Box 40
Childwold NY 12922

Re: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Dear Joan Dumas:

On June 10, 2005, the New York Power Authority held an Open House presentation on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project in Tupper Lake. Whether you attended or reviewed the information at one of several Tri-Lakes locations or on the Internet, we appreciate the time and effort you took to participate and learn more about the Project. Along with comments from many individuals, we received one from you, summarized below, to which we would like to respond.

Summarized Comment:

I would like to see Rte 3 followed-not 75 ft easement.

Response:

A variety of options were investigated as part of the siting review to determine the proposed preferred route for the new line. The DEIS includes a discussion of a proposed preferred route, a proposed alternate route and also identify route alternatives that were reviewed but discarded along with the rationale for their elimination.

Some of the proposed preferred route and the proposed alternate route are already cleared to the 75 foot easement required for the new line—37 ½ feet on each side of the poles. Some areas will require some additional selective clearing to ensure reliability. Industry standards for a 46kV line require the clearing of trees within 37 ½ feet on either side of the line so that tree limbs do not interfere

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with reliability.

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Joan Dumas

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December 23, 2005

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December 23, 2005

Tom Collins
235 Pumphouse Road
Mexico NY 13114

Re: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Dear Tom Collins:

On June 10, 2005, the New York Power Authority held an Open House presentation on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project in Tupper Lake. Whether you attended or reviewed the information at one of several Tri-Lakes locations or on the Internet, we appreciate the time and effort you took to participate and learn more about the Project. Along with comments from many individuals, we received one from you, summarized below, to which we would like to respond.

Summarized Comment:

He owns property along Rte 3 from Newton Falls, known as Shurtleff's Clearing. This small community of seasonal homes does not have access to the power grid. He would like distribution "under-built" on the transmission line. He thinks that the line should go where it is going to be most reliable. He said we should use "scenic areas" rather than "going through the woods" to avoid "scenic areas."

Response:

At this time we are not planning any additional substations, or distribution expansions that would tap the new line. Customers will not be able to connect directly to the 46 kV line as it is not National Grid's standard distribution voltage. Distribution voltages for residential services are supplied from distribution lines sized under 15 kV. Residents desiring service would have to apply to National Grid for service under its retail tariff. The rules in the retail tariff would apply.

We understand your interest about "under-building" the existing distribution lines on the new line. The proposed line is of a size that is currently used in this and other areas of the Adirondack Park. Where existing services are on an overhead line and it is feasible, we are proposing to combine services

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on one pole. These types of measures, plus the continued guidance of the APA and DEC will minimize, and in many places address, the concerns you have expressed about compromising reliability in scenic areas.

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-continued-

Tom Collins

-2-

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Steve Ramsey
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December 23, 2005

Gerald Gregg
8300 State Hwy. 3
Childwold, NY 12922

Re: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Dear Gerald Gregg:

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Summarized Comment:

Would like to have power run to his camp.

Response:

At this time we are not planning any additional substations, or distribution expansions that would tap the new line. Customers will not be able to connect directly to the 46 kV line as it is not National Grid's standard distribution voltage. Distribution voltages for residential services are supplied from distribution lines sized under 15 kV. Residents desiring service would have to apply to National Grid for service under its retail tariff. The rules in the retail tariff would apply.

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Gerald Gregg

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December 23, 2005

Mayfred Miske
4 Oak Street #8
Binghamton NY 13905

Re: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Dear Mayfred Miske:

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version, please contact me, Steve Ramsey, Community Affairs Manager, New York Power Authority, Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center, 1378 State Route 30, North Blenheim NY 12131. You can also reach me at 1-800-724-0309 or steve.ramsey@nypa.gov.

-continued-

Mayfred Miske

-2-

December 23, 2005

Since June, NYPA, along with its consultants, have been performing public outreach, and extensive environmental and engineering studies to identify a proposed preferred route and a proposed alternate route, that could be constructed, within a timeframe and at an economic cost, to help alleviate the severe electric reliability needs in the Tri-Lakes Region.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority

/SR
Attachment

List of Locations for APA Application and DEIS:

MUNICIPALITIES

Town of Colton
94 Main Street
Colton, NY 13625
Attn: Henry Ford, Supervisor

Town of Piercefield
P.O. Box 155
Piercefield, NY 12973
Attn: Kevin Buckley, Supervisor

Town of Parishville
P.O. Box 155
Parishville, NY 13672
Attn: Julie Bump, Supervisor

Town of Clifton
P.O. Box 684
7171 State Highway 3
Cranberry Lake NY 12927
Attn: Robert Snider, Supervisor

Village of Tupper Lake
53 Park Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Mickey DesMarais, Mayor

Town of Tupper Lake
120 Demars Blvd.
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Gregory LaFrance, Supervisor

Village of Saranac Lake
3 Main Street Suite 1
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
Attn: John Sweeney, Village Manager

Town of Harriestown
30 Main Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
Attn: Larry Miller, Supervisor

Town of Saint Armand
P.O. Box 338
2703 NYS Route 3
Bloomingdale, NY 12913
Attn: Joyce Morency, Supervisor

Town of North Elba
301 Main Street
Lake Placid, NY 12946
Attn: Shirley Seney, Supervisor

Village of Lake Placid
301 Main Street
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Attn: Jamie Rogers, Mayor

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Attn: Andrea Arquette, Librarian

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100 Main Street
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Attn: Betsy Whitefield

Lake Placid Public Library
67 Main Street
Lake Placid, NY 12946
Attn: Therese Patnode

Goff Nelson Library
41 Lake Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Linda Auclair



December 23, 2005

Tim and Donna Carney
taipantim@aol.com

To: Tim and Donna Carney:

On June 10, 2005, the New York Power Authority held an Open House presentation on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project in Tupper Lake. Whether you attended or reviewed the information at one of several Tri-Lakes locations or on the Internet, we appreciate the time and effort you took to participate and learn more about the Project. Along with comments from many individuals, we received one from you, summarized below, to which we would like to respond.

In addition, you recently contacted me seeking information if the proposed new line would be on your property. To augment our recent conversation about this, please see, below the Open House Summarized Comment and Response, for our response to your recent question.

Summarized Comment:

Concerned about overhead power lines on property. Prefer underground lines. Will certainly oppose this line if it goes through their property.

Response:

The DEIS evaluated the use of underground installation and it is too expensive.

National Grid has obtained independent evaluation of the line for electric and magnetic fields. Electric and magnetic fields calculated for the proposed project are within established New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) guidelines.

The selection of the proposed preferred route and construction techniques will minimize environmental impacts.

12/23/2005

A copy of the DEIS and the application to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) will be shortly available for review at the locations listed below. If you would like a copy, at cost, of the 5-volume set or a CD version, please contact me, Steve Ramsey, Community Affairs Manager, New York Power Authority, 1-800-724-0309 or steve.ramsey@nypa.gov.

-Continued-

Tim and Donna Carney

-2-

December 22, 2005

Since June, NYPA, along with its consultants, have been performing public outreach, and extensive environmental and engineering studies to identify a proposed preferred route and a proposed alternate route, that could be constructed, within a timeframe and at an economic cost, to help alleviate the severe electric reliability needs in the Tri-Lakes Region.

Response to recent question:

Presently there is an electric distribution line that follows the edge of your property line along State Highway 3. In both the proposed preferred route and proposed alternate route, the project would replace and consolidate that existing line with the new line. The new wooden poles would be located very near to the existing pole locations of the existing line, would be about 10 feet taller than the existing poles and be slightly larger in diameter in order to accommodate the existing and the new lines.

If the proposed preferred route or proposed alternate route is permitted by the Adirondack Park Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, prior to beginning construction, we will need to obtain the necessary property rights for clearing the new right-of-way (ROW) to 75 feet—37 ½ feet on each side of the poles. At that time a representative from National Grid will contact you to discuss compensation for the expanded ROW. The compensation offered will be based upon an appraisal of the land prices in the area using approved methods for valuation most appropriate to the property types and locations.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority

LIST OF LOCATIONS FOR APA APPLICATION AND DEIS:

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94 Main Street
Colton, NY 13625
Attn: Henry Ford, Supervisor

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Attn: Gregory LaFrance, Supervisor

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Attn: Larry Miller, Supervisor

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Attn: Therese Patnode

Goff Nelson Library
41 Lake Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Linda Auclair

Genetta -for the file

Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center
1378 State Route 30
North Blenheim NY 12131



December 23, 2005

Leo J. Grant
dmk117@usadatanet.net

To: Leo J. Grant

On June 10, 2005, the New York Power Authority held an Open House presentation on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project in Tupper Lake. Whether you attended or reviewed the information at one of several Tri-Lakes locations or on the Internet, we appreciate the time and effort you took to participate and learn more about the Project. Along with comments from many individuals, we received one from you, summarized below, to which we would like to respond.

Summarized Comment:

He owns a camp 2 miles off Rte 3 in the Sevey Corners-Cranberry Lake area. He has heard the line will be about 50-100 yards from their camp. Because of the proximity, He expects a distribution line to be put in to serve his camp.

Response:

At this time we are not planning any additional substations, or distribution expansions that would tap the new line. Customers will not be able to connect directly to the 46 kV line as it is not National Grid's standard distribution voltage. Distribution voltages for residential services are supplied from distribution lines sized under 15 kV. Residents desiring service would have to apply to National Grid for service under its retail tariff. The rules in the retail tariff would apply.

A copy of the DEIS and the application to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) will be shortly available for review at the locations listed below. If you would like a copy, at cost, of the 5-volume set or a CD version, please contact me, Steve Ramsey, Community Affairs Manager, New York Power Authority, Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center, 1378 State Route 30, North Blenheim NY 12131. You can also reach me at 1-800-724-0309 or steve.ramsey@nypa.gov.

12/23/2005

Since June, NYPA, along with its consultants, have been performing public outreach, and extensive environmental and engineering studies to identify a proposed preferred route and a proposed alternate route, that could be constructed, within a timeframe and at an economic cost, to help alleviate the severe electric reliability needs in the Tri-Lakes Region.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority
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Saranac Lake, NY 12983

12/23/2005

Attn: John Sweeney, Village Manager

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Goff Nelson Library
41 Lake Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Attn: Linda Auclair

-

Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center
1378 State Route 30
North Blenheim NY 12131



December 20, 2005

John Quinn
155 Raquette River Drive
Tupper Lake, NY 12987

Re: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Dear Mr. Quinn:

On June 10, 2005, the New York Power Authority held an Open House presentation on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project in Tupper Lake. Whether you attended or reviewed the information at one of several Tri-Lakes locations or on the Internet, we appreciate the time and effort you took to participate and learn more about the Project. Along with comments from many individuals, we received one from you, summarized below, to which we would like to respond.

Summarized Comment:

I fully support the project and request a new line be constructed as soon as possible. I request that the route along NYS Route 56 be pursued and that the line be located adjacent to the Highway and not around the Forest Preserve to consolidate aesthetic and open space intrusions. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) should exercise common sense and issue a Temporary Revocable Permit for this to happen or, if necessary, pursue a constitutional amendment.

Response:

A variety of options are being investigated as part of the siting studies to determine a preferred and alternate route for the new line. The DEIS will include a discussion of the preferred and alternate routes and also identify route alternatives that were considered but later discarded along with the rationale for their elimination.

A copy of the DEIS and the application to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) will be shortly available for review at the locations listed below. If you would like a copy, at cost, of the 5-volume set or a CD version, please contact me, Steve Ramsey, Community Affairs Manager, New York Power Authority, Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center, 1378 State Route 30, North Blenheim NY 12131. You can also reach

12/20/2005

Town of North Elba
301 Main Street
Lake Placid, NY 12946
Attn: Shirley Seney, Supervisor

Village of Lake Placid
301 Main Street
Lake Placid, NY 12946
Attn: Jamie Rogers, Mayor

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Goff Nelson Library
41 Lake Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Linda Auclair



December 28, 2005

Peter Bauer
Executive Director
Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks
PO Box 27
7 Ordway Lane
North Creek NY 12853-0027

Re: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Dear Peter Bauer:

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) appreciates the time and effort you took to learn more about the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project (Project) and to make comments. Summarized below are your comments and NYPA's response.

Summarized Comments:

Letter sent to NYPA representative, S. Ramsey, dated July 25, 2005. Concerns were: Stated preference for a route from Stark Reservoir to Tupper Lake pending more information; Stated review needed for Constitutional issues related to Route 56; Suggested energy conservation as an alternative to a new line, and Suggested putting line underground in certain areas.

Response:

The proposed preferred route (Preferred Route) is from Stark Reservoir to Tupper Lake. After scrutinizing several routing options, it has been determined that the most expeditious and efficient way to build the project is the Preferred Route. The Preferred Route by-passes Forest Preserve land and, therefore, avoids state constitutional issues.

Presently, the Tri-Lakes Region electric system has reached its capacity limits, severely compromising the reliability of the system. During the past few winters, a combination of energy efficiency measures, plus the addition of local generation, changes to the configuration of the electric system, public appeals to reduce electricity use during peak demand times and new equipment to help boost voltage levels have helped to maximize the capability of the local electric system during periods of extreme cold, staving off the need for rolling blackouts. However, these measures provide only interim relief and are inadequate to meet the Region's needs for reliable electric service over the longer term.

-continued-

Peter Bauer

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December 28, 2005

Using industry forecasting methods, National Grid's own customer forecasts and NYPA customer forecasts, and National Grid estimates, the new line and voltage support actions (Static Var Compensators-SVCs), will give reliable service for about 25 to 30 years.

NYPA selected a 46 kilovolt (kV) line because it complements the area's current electric system and would be sufficient to serve the forecasted load with smaller right-of-way requirements. A larger line, such as a 115 kV line, could carry more load, but would be more expensive and require a significantly wider right-of-way.

For maintenance and economic reasons, the project will be virtually all above ground. If there is a crossing of the South Branch of the Grass River, it will be underground.

Soon, a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the application to the Adirondack Park Agency will be available for review at the locations listed on the attached sheet. If you would like a copy, at cost, of the 5-volume set or a CD version, please contact me, Steve Ramsey, Community Affairs Manager, New York Power Authority, Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center, 1378 State Route 30, North Blenheim NY 12131. You can also reach me at 1-800-724-0309 or steve.ramsey@nypa.gov.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority

/SR
Attachment

List of Locations for APA Application and DEIS:

MUNICIPALITIES

Town of Colton
94 Main Street
Colton, NY 13625
Attn: Henry Ford, Supervisor

Town of Piercefield
P.O. Box 155
Piercefield, NY 12973
Attn: Kevin Buckley, Supervisor

Town of Parishville
P.O. Box 155
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Attn: Julie Bump, Supervisor

Town of Clifton
P.O. Box 684
7171 State Highway 3
Cranberry Lake NY 12927
Attn: Robert Snider, Supervisor

Village of Tupper Lake
53 Park Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Mickey DesMarais, Mayor

Town of Tupper Lake
120 Demars Blvd.
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Gregory LaFrance, Supervisor

Village of Saranac Lake
3 Main Street Suite 1
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
Attn: John Sweeney, Village Manager

Town of Harrietstown
30 Main Street
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Town of Saint Armand
P.O. Box 338
2703 NYS Route 3
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Attn: Therese Patnode

Goff Nelson Library
41 Lake Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Linda Auclair

Rodriguez, Genetta

From: Ramsey, Stephen
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2006 11:32 AM
To: Suloway, John; Cullen, Connie; Alkiewicz, Edward; Talgo, Arnie
Cc: Rodriguez, Genetta
Subject: FW: Tri-Lakes Electric Reliability Project

FYI

Genetta - please include in the file.

Stephen M. Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
(518) 287-6380
(518) 287-6381 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: APAREPORT@aol.com [mailto:APAREPORT@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2006 9:29 PM
To: Ramsey, Stephen
Subject: Re: Tri-Lakes Electric Reliability Project

Dear Steve,

Thank you very much for this information. I look forward to seeing the feasibility study when completed, and meanwhile I am tracking this project in my newsletter as it winds through the APA process.

Regards,

Susan Allen
Adirondack Park Agency Reporter



December 20, 2005
Susan Allen
apareport@aol.com

To: Susan Allen

On June 10, 2005, you attended the Open House presentation on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project, held by the New York Power Authority (NYPA), in Tupper Lake. We appreciate the time and effort you took to participate in this forum. Along with comments from many individuals, we received one from you, summarized below, to which we would now like to respond.

Summary of Comment

Interested in previous proposals for biomass (Diamond Energy, Novegas), why they were not undertaken, and future biomass project(s) for this system. Information on Request For Proposals (RFP) and data on wood supply for it would be helpful.

Response:

NYPA does not have any information about past biomass proposals from Diamond Energy, Novegas or any other source.

NYPA and the Village of Tupper Lake are investigating the feasibility of a biomass generator to produce electricity. NYPA hired a contractor in late October 2005 to perform a feasibility study, the Tupper Lake Wood Utilization Cogeneration Project Feasibility Study. The scope of work for this study includes Electric and Thermal Load Analysis, Wood Resource Assessment, Evaluation of Wood Conversion and Prime Mover Technologies, Preliminary Plant Design including Environmental Assessment, Economic Evaluation and Final Report. It is expected the feasibility study will be completed within a year. This study will begin to address the fundamental questions associated with a biomass generator including timing, size, and source of fuel.

A copy of the DEIS and the application to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) will be shortly available for review at the locations listed below. If you would like a copy, at cost, of the 5-volume set or a CD version, please contact me, Steve Ramsey, Community Affairs Manager, New York Power Authority, 1-800-724-0309 or steve.ramsey@nypa.gov.

12/20/2005

-Continued-

Susan Allen

-2-

December 20, 2005

Since June, NYPA, along with its consultants, have been performing public outreach, and extensive environmental and engineering studies to identify a proposed preferred route and a proposed alternate route, that could be constructed, within a timeframe and at an economic cost, to help alleviate the severe electric reliability needs in the Tri-Lakes Region.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority

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Town of Colton
94 Main Street
Colton, NY 13625
Attn: Henry Ford, Supervisor

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Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Linda Auclair

Thanks.

Stephen M. Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
(518) 287-6380
(518) 287-6381 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ramsey, Stephen
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2005 3:46 PM
To: 'kidburps@adelphia.net'
Subject: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center
1378 State Route 30
North Blenheim NY 12131



December 19, 2005

Tim Burpoe
kidburps@adelphia.net

To: Tim Burpoe

On June 10, 2005, the New York Power Authority held an Open House presentation on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project in Tupper Lake. Whether you attended or reviewed the information at one of several Tri-Lakes locations or on the Internet, we appreciate the time and effort you took to participate and learn more about the Project. Along with comments from many individuals, we received one from you, summarized below, to which we would like to respond.

Summarized Comment:

I would like to see the Route 56 corridor shown as an "option" even if it is not a viable option, but demonstrating that it is/or has been considered.

Of course you realize the precedent has already been set with the Verizon line in this location.

Response:

The Route 56 corridor was included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) as an option

12/20/2005

that was reviewed for this project. A copy of the DEIS and the application to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) will be shortly available for review at the locations listed below. If you would like a copy, at cost, of the 5-volume set or a CD version, please contact me, Steve Ramsey, Community Affairs Manager, New York Power Authority, 1-800-724-0309 or steve.ramsey@nypa.gov.

Since June, NYPA, along with its consultants, have been performing public outreach, and extensive environmental and engineering studies to identify a proposed preferred route and a proposed alternate route, that could be constructed, within a timeframe and at an economic cost, to help alleviate the severe electric reliability needs in the Tri-Lakes Region.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority

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December 20, 2005

Larry Myers
7923B State Hwy 3
Cranberry Lake, NY 12927

Dear Mr. Myers:

On June 10, 2005, the New York Power Authority held an Open House presentation on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project in Tupper Lake. Whether you attended or reviewed the information at one of several Tri-Lakes locations or on the Internet, we appreciate the time and effort you took to participate and learn more about the Project. Along with comments from many individuals, we received one from you, summarized below, to which we would like to respond.

Summarized Comment:

The property owner does not have electric power – we are off the grid.
Between N13 – N14 – North 3 – 1 mile off Rt. 3 south of the study route

Response:

At this time we are not planning any additional substations, or distribution expansions that would tap the new line. Customers will not be able to connect directly to the 46 kV line as it is not National Grid's standard distribution voltage. Distribution voltages for residential services are supplied from distribution lines sized under 15 kV. Residents desiring service would have to apply to National Grid for service under its retail tariff. The rules in the retail tariff would apply.

A copy of the DEIS and the application to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) will be shortly available for review at the locations listed below. If you would like a copy, at cost, of the 5-volume set or a CD version, please contact me, Steve Ramsey, Community Affairs Manager, New York Power Authority, 1-800-724-0309 or steve.ramsey@nypa.gov.

12/20/2005

-Continued-

Mr. Larry Myers

-2-

December 20, 2005

Since June, NYPA, along with its consultants, have been performing public outreach, and extensive environmental and engineering studies to identify a proposed preferred route and a proposed alternate route, that could be constructed, within a timeframe and at an economic cost, to help alleviate the severe electric reliability needs in the Tri-Lakes Region.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority

LIST OF LOCATIONS FOR APA APPLICATION AND DEIS:

MUNICIPALITIES

Town of Colton
94 Main Street
Colton, NY 13625
Attn: Henry Ford, Supervisor

Town of Piercefield
P.O. Box 155
Piercefield, NY 12973
Attn: Kevin Buckley, Supervisor

Town of Parishville
P.O. Box 155
Parishville, NY 13672
Attn: Julie Bump, Supervisor

Town of Clifton
P.O. Box 684
7171 State Highway 3
Cranberry Lake NY 12927
Attn: Robert Snider, Supervisor

Village of Tupper Lake
53 Park Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Mickey DesMarais, Mayor

Town of Tupper Lake
120 Demars Blvd.
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Gregory LaFrance, Supervisor

Village of Saranac Lake
3 Main Street Suite 1
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Attn: John Sweeney, Village Manager

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30 Main Street
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Town of Saint Armand
P.O. Box 338
2703 NYS Route 3

Bloomingtondale, NY 12913
Attn: Joyce Morency, Supervisor

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301 Main Street
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Attn: Shirley Seney, Supervisor

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67 Main Street
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Attn: Therese Patnode

Goff Nelson Library
41 Lake Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Linda Auclair

Genetta- for the file

Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center
1378 State Route 30
North Blenheim NY 12131



December 20, 2005

Larry Peryea
P.O. Box 744
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Re: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Dear Mr. Peryea:

On June 10, 2005, the New York Power Authority held an Open House presentation on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project in Tupper Lake. Whether you attended or reviewed the information at one of several Tri-Lakes locations or on the Internet, we appreciate the time and effort you took to participate and learn more about the Project. Along with comments from many individuals, we received one from you, summarized below, to which we would like to respond.

Summarized Comment:

What effect will this have on the power available for Lake Placid, and how far into the future for the Olympic area have you looked?

Response:

Under "worse case" loading conditions, with the new line and the two static var compensators (SVCs) installed, the current line from Malone will have the capability to support 150 megawatts (MW) of load and the new line (originating from either Stark Falls Reservoir or Newton Falls) can support about 35 MW of load.

In comparison, currently under "worse case" loading conditions, the line from Malone can only support 103 MW, of which 24 MW is used to support Tupper Lake loads.

When the new line and SVCs are complete, Tupper Lake's load will be removed from the Malone line, so Tupper Lake's peak load of 27 MW can now be served by the 35 MW line from the new line. The new line will have 8 MW (35 MW minus 27 MW equals 8 MW) available to Tupper Lake, if locally-controlled conditions warrant its use. The Malone line will then have 47 MW (150 MW minus 103 MW equals 47 MW) available to Lake Placid and the National Grid native load, if locally-controlled conditions warrant its use.

12/20/2005

-continued-

Mr. Larry Peryea

-2-

December 20, 2005

Using industry forecasting methods, its own customer forecasts and NYPA customer forecasts, National Grid estimates—absent any new large electric users which could shorten the forecast or other future improvements to the electric system (i.e. use of more local generation, load transfers, demand side management, etc.) which could lengthen the forecast—the new line and voltage support actions (two SVCs), to give reliable service for about 25 to 30 years.

A copy of the DEIS and the application to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) will be shortly available for review at the locations listed below. If you would like a copy, at cost, of the 5-volume set or a CD version, please contact me, Steve Ramsey, Community Affairs Manager, New York Power Authority, Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center, 1378 State Route 30, North Blenheim NY 12131. You can also reach me at 1-800-724-0309 or steve.ramsey@nypa.gov.

Since June, NYPA, along with its consultants, have been performing public outreach, and extensive environmental and engineering studies to identify a proposed preferred route and a proposed alternate route, that could be constructed, within a timeframe and at an economic cost, to help alleviate the severe electric reliability needs in the Tri-Lakes Region.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority

/SR
Attachment

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Lake Placid, NY 12946
Attn: Therese Patnode

Goff Nelson Library
41 Lake Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Attn: Linda Auclair

Rodriguez, Genetta

From: Ramsey, Stephen
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2005 9:13 AM
To: Rodriguez, Genetta
Subject: Tri-Lakes Electric Reliability Project

Genetta - for the file

Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center
1378 State Route 30
North Blenheim NY 12131



December 23, 2005

Thomas P. Cullen
103 Pam Court
Bohemia, NY 11716

Re: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Dear Thomas P. Cullen:

On June 10, 2005, the New York Power Authority held an Open House presentation on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project in Tupper Lake. Whether you attended or reviewed the information at one of several Tri-Lakes locations or on the Internet, we appreciate the time and effort you took to participate and learn more about the Project. Along with comments from many individuals, we received one from you, summarized below, to which we would like to respond.

Summarized Comment:

- . Opposes current electric rates.

Response:

Here is information on current and future electric rates for the Tri-Lakes Region. The cost for delivering electricity (not the electricity itself) to the Tri-Lakes Region's National Grid customers is essentially frozen under National Grid's current rate plan, approved by the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) and effective to December 31, 2011. The cost of electricity itself for these National Grid customers, under the National Grid's current rate plan approved by the PSC and effective to December 31, 2011, is subject to change due to variations in the market price for electricity. Because of these changes in market prices, these customers might experience changes in their electricity bills whether or not this Project is built. None of the costs of the Project will be borne by the National Grid customers until after the Project is conveyed to that company on or about January 1, 2012.

As the PSC has jurisdiction over National Grid and 2012 is in the future, along with ever-changing economic and energy conditions, it is difficult to predict what the impact on National Grid's customers' rates will be. As the portion of the cost of the Project assigned to National Grid is small compared to its overall cost of service in New York, it is not expected to have a significant impact on

consumers' rates. National Grid will include the Project in its capital expansion forecast for 2012. The PSC will review the Project then and determine whether it may be included in rates.

-continued-

Thomas P. Cullen

-2-

Decmeber 23, 2005

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If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority

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Attn: Linda Auclair

THOMAS P. CULLEN

103 Pam Court
Bohemia, New York 11716

P. O. Box 29
Childwold, New York 2922

1.518.287.6381

FAX

3 January 2005

To: Mr. Steve Ramsey, Community Relations Manager

Re: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

Accompanying this fax cover letter please find attached a more in-depth outlook on my opposition to this project, as expressed to the APA on 12 December 2005. Everyone opposes the exorbitant electric rates imposed on rural customers by Niagara Mohawk. In fact some of my electric bills on my empty cabin in the Adirondack winter surpass my summer electric bills for my primary home on Long Island, New York.

I also have strong environmental opposition to the project, as it would denigrate my wetland properties, which were illegally surveyed last year. Please see my FLEP and letter to Mr. Quinn.

In summary, the plan has nothing to offer me, hence I must oppose it.

Thank you for your time.



APA Form (1st Public Notice Letter)
May 2004



**MAJOR PROJECT PUBLIC NOTICE
APPLICATION RECEIVED
APA PROJECT No. 2005-325**

Date: December 1, 2005

The purpose of this Notice is to inform you that the permit application described below was received by the Adirondack Park Agency and to solicit any written comments you may have regarding it at this time. When the application has been deemed complete by the Agency, another notice with a more detailed project description will be provided to you, and you will have another opportunity to provide written comment relevant to the Agency's review.

This notice is being sent to adjoining landowners to the project site to the extent they were identified in the application; the Chairman of the County Planning Board; Chairman of the Regional Planning Board, if any; the chief elected officer, clerk and planning board chairman, if any, of the town or village where the project is located; and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

It is not necessary to respond to the letter unless you want to do so. If you wish to provide written comments, mail them to John L. Quinn, the assigned APA Environmental Program Specialist.

PROJECT SPONSOR, LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Agency received an application on November 30, 2005 from New York Power Authority for a project proposed in the Towns of Colton, Parishville, & Piercefild, St. Lawrence County, on or near NYS Routes 3 & 56 and River Road. The attached map shows the approximate location of the project site. The Agency is currently reviewing the application for completeness.

The project is briefly described as follows:

Tri-lakes Reliability Project: proposed 46.5 kV overload electric power transmission line construction involving wetlands including construction of two substations and access roads. Proposed route is 26 miles long and begins in Parishville (Stark Falls) at a proposed new 115/46.5 kV substation that will interconnect with the existing 115 kV system and ends at existing Piercefild substation where a new regulator station is to be constructed. Most of the new transmission line route will parallel an existing elective distribution line (the distribution line will be attached to the same new utility poles which will bear the transmission line).

12/1/05
Date

MARK E. SENGENBERGER
Mark E. Sengenberger
Deputy Director (Regulatory Programs)

MES:JLQ:tjd

cc: New York Power Authority, John Suloway
Niagara Mohawk, Mike King

P.O. Box 99 • NYS Route 86 • Ray Brook, NY 12977 • 518 871-4050 • 518 891-3938 fax • www.apa.state.ny.us

Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center
1378 State Route 30
North Blenheim NY 12131



December 23, 2005

Thomas P. Cullen
103 Pam Court
Bobemia, NY 11716

Re: Tri-Lakes Reliability Project

Dear Thomas P. Cullen:

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Summarized Comment:

- Opposes current electric rates.

Response:

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As the PSC has jurisdiction over National Grid and 2012 is in the future, along with ever-changing economic and energy conditions, it is difficult to predict what the impact on National Grid's customers' rates will be. As the portion of the cost of the Project assigned to National Grid is small compared to its overall cost of service in New York, it is not expected to have a significant impact on consumers' rates. National Grid will include the Project in its capital expansion forecast for 2012. The PSC will review the Project then and determine whether it may be included in rates.

-continued-

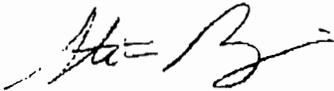
Thomas P. Cullen**-2-****December 23, 2005**

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If you have any further questions, please contact me

Sincerely,



Steve Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
New York Power Authority

/SR
Attachment

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Attn: Linda Auclair

THOMAS P. CULLEN

103 Pam Cour
Bohemia, New York 11716

P O. Box 29
Childwold, New York 12922

12 December 2005

Mr. John L. Quinn
Environmental Program Specialist
Adirondack Park Agency
PO Box 99
NYS Route 86
Ray Brook, NY 12977

Re: APA Project # 2005-325

Dear Mr. Quinn:

I am writing to express my objection and dismay at your consideration of the above captioned project to run power lines through the sensitive wetlands on my property in Piercefield, New York.

Earlier this year Niagara Mohawk and the New York Power Authority ignored my refusal of permission to survey my land, and deliberately trespassed on my property and surveyed my wetlands. After I discovered their markers they apologized and reiterated that the power running through my land to serve the citizens of Tupper Lake, NY will not alleviate the exorbitant electric rates that my neighbors and I pay. The citizens of Tupper Lake already pay extremely low municipal power rates.

I am enrolled in the New York State Forest Land Enhancement Program sponsored by NYSDEC which deems these wetlands a most valuable part of my property. I am enclosing pertinent parts of my FLEPA as well as my forester's name to show you the proposed impacted areas.

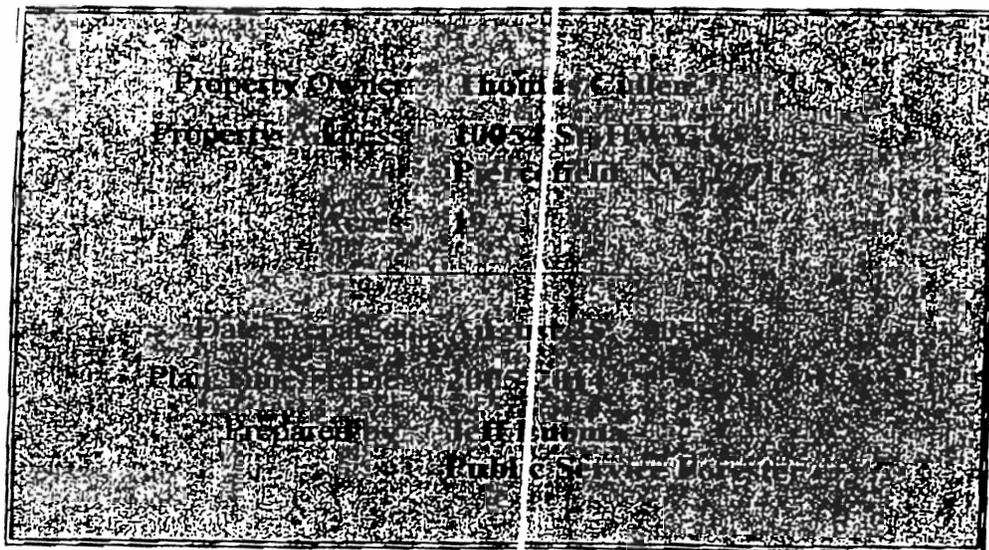
Mr. Quinn, please mandate these power companies to cease and desist from trespassing upon my land to supply cheap electricity to distant Tupper Lake. Please help me.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Cullen
103 Pam Cour
Bohemia, NY 11716

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN



FLEP



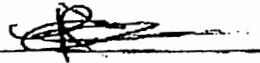
FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN - BASIC INFORMATION

This forest management plan is developed under the 2002 Federal and State forest stewardship guidelines.

Date Prepared: August 25, 2005
Plan Time Frame: 2005-2014
Property Owner(s): Thomas C. Cullen
Address: 103 Pam Court
 Bohemia, New York 11716
Telephone: 613.750.3227
Email: tc_two@yahoo.com
Property Address: 10054 State Highway 3, New York 12938
 (Piercefield Township, St. Lawrence County)
Legal description or Directions to Site: Property is accessed from along State Highway 3 several miles southeast of Childwold. There is a driveway 0.5 miles north of the Gale cemetery on the west side of the road.
Property Code: 195.000-6-7.2
Prepared By: Jeff Luoma - Public Service Forester
Company/Institution: NY Dept. of Env. Conservation - Forest Land Enhancement Program
Preparer Address: 6739 US Highway 11
 Potsdam, New York 13676
Preparer Telephone: 315.265.3090
Preparer Email: jwluoma@gw.dec.state.ny.us

APPROVALS

As owner, I agree that this management plan reflects my goals and intentions for the management of this property.

Landowner Signature  Date 09 23 05

Preparer Signature  Date 9-20-05

LANDOWNER ASSESSMENT and GOALS

Description of resources and interest level of landowner (T.I.M.E.)

Tom is an interested and energetic landowner with some disposable income and time to apply toward land and forest improvement. He is interested in increasing biodiversity on his property and maintaining and improving the health of the forest and land. Tom has owned the parcel for over four years and he is anticipating long-term ownership of the property. He is planning on continuing improvements for access and wildlife/tree diversity in particular. Tom is currently staging the move to eventually reside on the property on a more permanent basis within several years.

Landowner Goals for Property:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Wildlife</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the diversity of flora and fauna locally. • Maintain the meadow around the residence. • Encourage various fruiting and flowering flora. • Create habitats for a variety of woodland fauna. |
| <i>Ecology</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore/improve the ecosystem health of the property. • Protect riparian and wet areas. • Discourage or eliminate invasive non-native species. |
| <i>Recreation Access</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create access corridors for both tractor/ATV and walking. • Create a minimally drivable road to southwest corner for neighbor. |
| <i>Timber</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create stands that can support occasional timber extraction for personal use. |
| <i>Other</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a vista from upper-central portion of property. |

Goal Comments: Several of the goals are supportive and interrelated. All are reasonably attainable providing due diligence to control the beech.

Tom walking along Highway J at a relatively diverse and nicely wooded section of his property. (Aug. 2005)



The full text can be found at the following webpage:

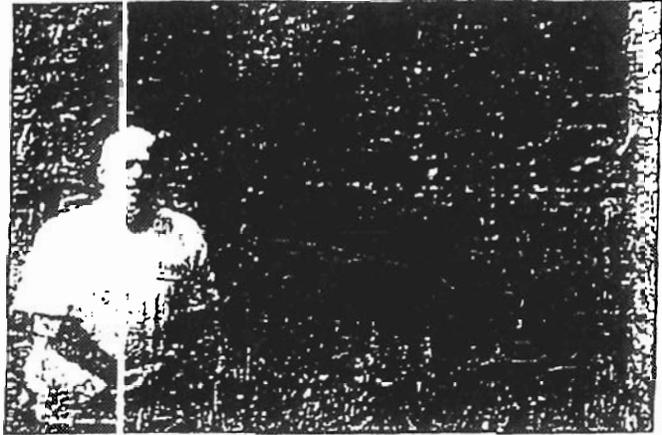
Attracting Woodland Wildlife: A Primer Gary R. Goff
www.dnr.com/el.edu/ext/forestrypage/pubs/forbrbwh/by%20topic/attracting%20woodland%20and%20wildlife%20goff.htm

WATER QUALITY

Water quality is the degree to which fresh water has the properties necessary for its intended use, be it wildlife habitat, recreation, drinking, irrigation, or industry. Water is considered polluted if any human or natural disturbance causes it to become unsuitable for its intended uses. Available fresh water is scarcer every year, and ensuring adequate supplies of good water has become the number one focus for many forest management programs worldwide. It's important to remember that water quality issues are often a case of cumulative effects. When one landowner misuses their land, it creates erosion problems, the next landowner absorbs that problem easily, but if the next landowners do the same over a period of time, the problems unfold.

Species of fish, mussels, salamanders, and other aquatic life require clean water in lakes and streams to survive. Many of these species are endangered specifically due to the reduced water quality. Most problems occur simply from cutting trees, but associated activities resulting in spilled hazardous waste. Forest activities that typically worsen water

- building roads and log landings, skid trails, and landing timber.
- leaving equipment in or near rivers, streams, and lakes.
- using pesticides, or herbicides.
- not replanting/reseeding, or other activities involved.



Tom next to the small 'pond' near the highway. (Aug 2005)

Any of these activities should cause a landowner to stop for a moment and think about how it may affect water. While these are not the only activities that can reduce water quality, improvements in these areas will most likely yield the greatest results.

There are a number of ways to control water quality. Possibly the most effective way is to mandate that *best management practices* (BMPs) are applied on all harvest activities on your land. BMPs are the "optimal operating methods and practices for preventing or reducing water pollution, and protecting wetlands" (Sect. 208 of the U.S. Water Pollution Control Act - 1972). By minimizing soil disturbance and trying to keep a vegetative cover on sites susceptible to erosion, BMPs help protect water quality.

Specific BMP examples depend on the situation, but commonly include installing water bars and culverts, seeding skid trails and landings, pre-harvest planning, and restricting timber harvesting when soils are wet. Scheduling logging operations in wet areas when the *soils are solidly frozen* is a very effective strategy to minimize disturbance when harvesting. Stream crossings should be generally avoided, and temporary bridges should be installed if crossing is absolutely necessary. In addition, all forest operations should be overseen to prevent or *immediately clean up pollution* such as leaking fuel, hydraulic oil, or other hazardous chemicals. Applying a *no-harvest strip* along streams, wetlands, and lakes is an excellent way to

conserve water quality. These 'forested riparian zones' can significantly decrease sediment and nutrient runoff in overland flow and ground water. Since trees are especially effective at stabilizing soils and taking up water and nutrients, clearcuts should be avoided on steep slopes. Wherever soil erosion is a threat, silvicultural treatments that maintain an adequate number of trees at all times should be encouraged. Finally, good judgment as soon as a problem is noted cannot be overstated, as many sedimentation and erosion problems occur when new problems aren't addressed. Re-routing that skid trail out of the truck or 'freezing a trail in' can go a long way to alleviate problems.

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is the variety of life and the natural processes that organisms use to live. The concept can include diversity of all kinds of species, genetic variety, and even different ecosystems. Species diversity encompasses the diversity of plants, animals, fungi, insects, slime molds, etc., and is what most people think of when discussing biodiversity.

The level of biodiversity on the earth is indeed being threatened by human causes -- mostly by the rampant loss of living space for other species, along with increasing global warming. The current rate of species extinction is now roughly *1,000 times the natural background rate*. This is an especially disturbing statistic, since once a species is gone, it is truly gone forever. In the classic novel, *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold writes that "the first rule of intelligent tinkering is to keep all the parts." Through the wholesale elimination of species throughout the world, we are essentially "burning our libraries before we have read all the books." In the northeast U.S., biodiversity is threatened by ever-increasing forest fragmentation from people dividing up the landscape for housing, global warming, pollution issues, and introduced exotic species problems.

Much is not known about the many, many species that are diminishing and disappearing. We don't know what part they play in keeping their natural systems together, what chemicals they may produce that can help humankind, or what value they have as a part of the workings and design of

the earth. Aside from what we may learn from these species, there is also the thought which acknowledges that species have come about from millions of years of natural change and adaptation, and that for humans to manipulate the earth simply for short-sighted gain with the tradeoff of losing one out of ten or even more species worldwide is a tragic and ineradicable mistake. Also, many people consider most other plants and animals to have an inherent value and 'right' to share the earth with us. Extinction is a road from which there is no turning back, and one on which humans have currently set themselves to live in a poorer and lonelier world.

A healthy and biodiverse area can provide benefits to people by keeping management options available. There are more opportunities for economic, ecologic, aesthetic, and recreational benefits. Despite all of its benefits, conserving biodiversity is a difficult task with our current economic and political system. In a nutshell, there is no easy way to put a price tag on what a healthy and biodiverse system gives us. This means our business models ignore it and good management is often too complex and in too long of a time frame to become a political issue. There have been studies to try to estimate what healthy and diverse ecosystems give the world, but putting a price on worldwide clean water and air, healthy forests, stable animal populations, disease and pest control, available fish, etc. is all but impossible. The numbers quickly run into the *many trillions of dollars* per year. Good forest management combined with a wide vision can help alleviate species loss and contribute small but very important elements to healthy ecosystems.

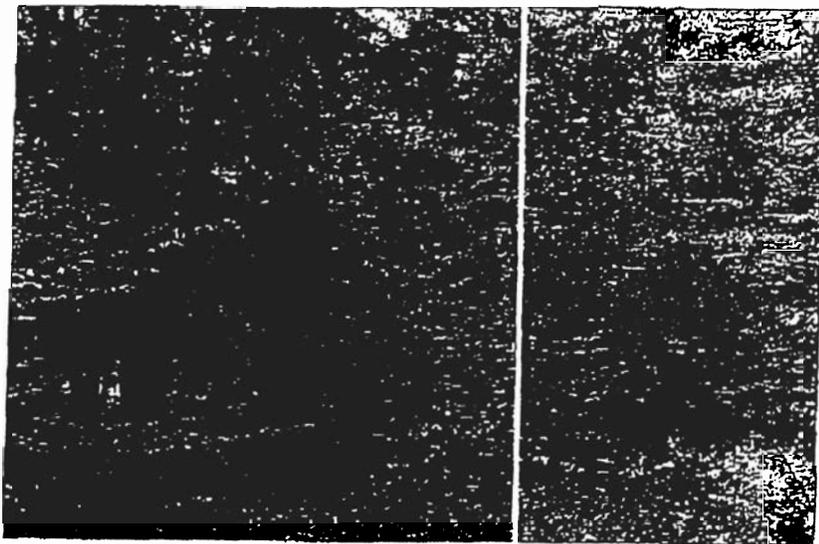
Things that land managers/landowners can do to increase and maintain biodiversity:

- Take inventory of current species to identify threatened species: One cannot protect a species unless one knows if and where it exists.
- Identify several appropriate management units: If a rare species is found in ten areas within a property, a manager might designate five of those areas to help sustain that species.
- Promote diversity in planted stands: This can be done by planting several different species or even

'STAND 2' - WET FOREST

CONDITIONS

- Land Area:* 1.5 acres
Land Use History: Some hemlock was left after the last harvest several decades ago. These wetter areas were also not harvested as heavily as the dry forest.
- Forest Type:*
Existing (Approx. Age) - Hemlock-Hardwoods (21-80):
Hemlock, sugar maple, yellow birch
Potential - Hemlock-Hardwoods
Successional Trend: Toward more hemlock and more shade-tolerant and existing species such as yellow birch and sugar maple.
- Site Class:* 1
Forest Health: Good
Deer Impact Level: Moderate to High
Stocking level: Well-stocked
Size Class: Variable - sapling to sawtimber with mostly small sawlog
Timber Quality: Medium
Habitat and Wildlife Uses: High - the water access, different food sources, varied cover, and local diversity make this a high-use area for wildlife. Very useful for increasing local diversity of riparian and wetland species. Local water and food source for fauna.
- Recreational Opportunities:* Beautiful part of the property for nature viewing.
Timber Production Potential: Medium
Other Use Potential: Natural water filtration and channels.
Water Quality Issues: High potential for disturbance. The access road to the residence drains into the lower main portion.
Important Natural Features: Main water source for local fauna.



Wet forest with many niches and wildlife uses

'STAND 2' - WET FOREST

MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Landowner's Objectives:*
 - Manage for diversity.
 - Protect ecological function of water drainage.
- Recommended Prescription and Details:*
 - Do not disturb wet areas with construction or heavy equipment.
 - Make sure there are no run-off negative impacts from the driveway.
 - No timber harvest aside from an occasional tree unless a particular species such as hemlock or maple begins to take over.
 - Assess drainage patterns from road run-off during heavy rain to understand where road runoff may go or if additional ditch-outs or a culvert are needed.
 - Cut any intrusive beech.
 - Longer term consideration: Create a non-intrusive gazebo or shelter for wildlife viewing and relaxation.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

- Yearly* • Monitor for stream channel changes, erosion, or blown down trees that may unduly increase erosion.
- 2005* • Assess road runoff.
- 2006* • Assess road runoff.
- 2007* • Install ditch-outs or culvert if appropriate.
- 2008*
- 2009*
- 2010*
- 2011*
- 2012*
- 2013*
- 2014*



SARANAC LAKE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Website: www.saranaclake.com
Email: BestTown@saranaclake.com

December 7, 2005

Stephen M. Ramsey, Regional Manager & Community Relations
New York Power Authority
1378 State Route 30
North Blenheim, NY 12131

Dear Stephen,

It was a pleasure meeting you and Arnie Talgo earlier today as I enjoyed learning about the electric transmission line project into Tupper Lake.

As you know, the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce is an organization that works to foster a positive business environment in our region. It is in that respect that I would like to support your company's efforts to build a new electric transmission line into Tupper Lake.

Our organization works closely with the Tupper Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and we understand the challenges faced by that region's businesses during electrical power shortages. This situation contributes to major loss of revenues which, in turn, means a declined economy of the area.

Having reliable power is at the basis of the business community. Efforts to bring reliable power to rural America have been ongoing since the 1930s. In the 21st Century, it is that much more crucial that small communities such as Tupper Lake can depend on power – something most of us take for granted.

Please know that your efforts are needed and feel free to contact us if you need additional input or efforts to ensure that this project finally becomes reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvie".

Sylvie D. Nelson
Executive Director

TRI-LAKES OUTREACH & ENERGY \$MART PARK COLLABORATIVE MEETING NOTES

On Tuesday, December 6, Arnie Talgo and Steve Ramsey attended the Energy \$mart Park Collaborative meeting in Ray Brook, NY. About 28 in attendance—while mostly NGOs—it included NYSERDA (1- Albany- 2--North Country and Capitol Region Energy Smart Representatives) and Paige Graening of US Grid and John Solomon from NYSEG—the Chairman of the APA—Ross Whaley.

The purpose of the Energy \$mart Initiative is to address energy-related issues in the Adirondack Park with a focus on energy conservation and sustainable energy technology. The group is in the early stages of establishment and is looking for feedback on how they can have an impact on energy-related issues in the park. Of note, several elected officials, including the new leadership in the Village of Tupper Lake voiced their support for the proposed 46kv line and other initiatives under the Tri-Lakes Electric Reliability Project – there was a great deal of support for the project expressed by several of the participants. As a next step, the group plans to do a similar Energy Expo to the one we hosted in September. The event will be planned for sometime in the early spring, 2006. Overall, it was well worth our time to participate in this meeting and it will be in the future as many of the participants in this group will have some kind of voice in our Tri-Lakes Project plans.

Following the meeting, Arnie Talgo and Steve Ramey then met with Paige Graening (National Grid) and J.R. Risely, President of the North Country Association of Towns and Villages (AATV) to discuss the status on the Tri-Lakes Project. Risely is on our contact list and an excellent contact for us with the several town and village officials in the Tri-Lakes area. Paige Granening who is a counsel for National Grid has been involved in the Tri-Lakes Project and is getting acquainted with the Tri-Lakes area – Paige will be a great asset for this project as it moves forward.

On Wednesday, December 7, Ramsey and Talgo met with Sylvie Nelson, Executive Director of the Saranac Lake Chamber of Commerce to explain the Tri-Lakes Project. This was the first meeting with Sylvie on this project. We also explained the role of NYPA. As a result, Sylvie has sent us a letter of support from the Saranac Lake Chamber for the Tri-Lakes Project – just received a copy in the mail earlier today and will send to the files for the record – great news!

Talgo and Ramsey then met with Terry Martino, Executive Director of the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) to update her on the status of the Tri-Lakes Project. As you know, ANCA has already publicly expressed their support of the Tri-Lakes Project—and has been consistently most helpful in our outreach efforts. We also reviewed our database contact list with Terry and compared to ANCA's list in an effort to have an effective list for use in our outreach efforts.

A copy of the Saranac Lake Chamber letter of support will be sent to Genetta for the files. Overall, we left each of these meetings with a good sense that there is a lot of support for the Tri-Lakes Project. We need to continue be proactive with our communication on this project – many of those we met with really appreciate the open communication.

Stephen M. Ramsey
Community Relations Manager
(518) 287-6380
(518) 287-6381 (fax)

ERNEST HUTCHINS LETTERS

Comment 1 from December 8, 2005 Letter:

No one from the Power Authority has ever talked to me about this Project. How much of the property do they intend to take? What is the environmental impact with a high voltage line? This line prevents me from selling lots on the Raquette River Road. Will I be compensated for this loss and the loss of trees?

Response 1:

In a December 23, 2005 letter, the Authority responded to Mr. Hutchins questions. The Authority stated that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”) discussed the effects of the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project (“Project”) on adjacent properties. The DEIS is available for review at several public locations throughout the area involving the Project, on the Authority’s website, and, in hard copy, at cost, upon request. It was also available at the January 11, 2006 SEQRA public hearing in Tupper Lake, conducted by the Authority, which Mr. Hutchins attended. Authority representatives also orally answered questions posed by Mr. Hutchins on January 11, 2006.

Presently, an electric distribution line traverses Mr. Hutchins’ property, following his property line along Raquette River Road. That line is “offset” from the road because it is not directly adjacent to Raquette River Road. The proposed preferred route for the Project would replace and consolidate that existing distribution line with the new transmission line. The new wooden poles would be located very near to the existing pole locations of the existing distribution line. These new poles would be about 10 feet taller than the existing poles and be slightly larger in diameter to accommodate the existing distribution line and the new transmission lines.

If the proposed preferred route is permitted by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), before the beginning of construction of the new transmission line, National Grid must obtain the necessary property rights for clearing the new right-of-way (ROW) to 75 feet—37 1/2 feet on each side of the poles. At that time, a representative from National Grid will contact Mr. Hutchins to discuss compensation for the expanded ROW. The compensation offered will be based upon an evaluation of the land prices in the area using approved methods for valuation most appropriate to the property types and locations.

With regard to Mr. Hutchins’ concern about the voltage of the new transmission line, using most industry-wide definitions, the proposed 46kV line is not considered high voltage. Although the new transmission line does

have a higher voltage than the existing line that is on Mr. Hutchins property, National Grid has obtained an independent evaluation of the transmission line for electric and magnetic fields. Electric and magnetic fields calculated for the new transmission line are within established New York State Public Service Commission guidelines.

Comment 2 from December 9, 2005 Letter:

The N.Y. State Power Authority and National Grid allow their right-of-way to be used for ATV (all- terrain vehicles) abuse.

Response 2:

National Grid discourages the use of its power line routes, not only in New York, but throughout its entire system, for non-utility uses and does not authorize any individuals to use motorized wheeled recreational vehicles such as all-terrain vehicles (ATV) on its ROWs. While power lines routes might appear to be compatible with ATV traffic, they are not. Many important considerations including reliability of electric service, differing maintenance requirements of a transmission line, liability issues, limitation of allowable uses on transmission line easements over private parcels, and the health and safety of the public and National Grid workers militate against ATV use on transmission line ROWs. National Grid will work with Mr. Hutchins to try to prevent any unauthorized ATV use. Such efforts may include the posting of signs and installation of barriers if deemed appropriate, necessary, and effective. However, in acquiring property rights to build, operate, and maintain the new transmission line, National Grid may be constrained in its ability to limit or prevent a particular use. National Grid welcomes the efforts of the underlying landowner to post the property and to work with local law enforcement to prevent an unwanted use or a trespass.

National Grid is aware of the dialogue among property owners, ATV users, local municipalities and the agencies governing the use of Adirondack Park lands for ATV use.

Comment 3 from December 10, 2005 Letter:

Send me a detailed description of the intentions of the N.Y. State Power Authority and National Grid with regard to what they intend to do on my property, what trees they intend to take, and what right-of-way they are taking. Send me the legal documents that give the N.Y. State Power Authority and National Grid the legal right to upgrade this transmission line and make changes to the right-of-way.

Response 3:

If the APA and DEC permit the Preferred Route, National Grid will prepare a detailed construction plan with drawings. This detailed plan will show what land will be necessary for the expansion of the ROW. A National Grid real estate representative will contact individual landowners to discuss these plans, prior to the construction, to solicit their input. With this procedure in place, we hope resolutions to landowners concerns will be reached. The Public Authorities Law, Power Authority Act describes the powers of the Authority. The Authority and National Grid have condemnation powers (Public Authorities Law, Article 5, Title 1, § 1007 [1]-[4] and Transportation Corporation Law § 11, respectively). We have the above-mentioned procedure in place so we can work with landowners on resolutions without using these powers.



Conservation
Education
Recreation
Since 1922

January 31, 2006

Stephen Ramsey
New York Power Authority
Blenheim Gilboa Visitors Center
1378 State Route 30
North Blenheim, New York 12131

RE: Tri-Lakes Electric Reliability Project DEIS

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

On behalf of the Adirondack Mountain Club, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Tri-Lakes Electric Reliability Project.

Headquarters
814 Goggins Road
Lake George, NY
12945-4117
Phone: 518-668-4447
Fax: 518-668-3746
e-mail: adkinfo@adk.org
Web site: www.adk.org

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) represents over 30,000 hikers, cross-country skiers and paddlers. ADK is dedicated to the protection and responsible use of New York State's Forest Preserve and other wild lands and waters.

North Country Operations
P.O. Box 867
Lake Placid, NY
12946-0867
Reservations: 518-523-3441
Office: 518-523-3480
Fax: 518-523-3916

ADK is concerned about the impact of the preferred alternative on any future westward expansion of the Raquette Boreal Wild Forest. The preferred alternative outlined in the DEIS would head south on Route 56 until reaching the Raquette Boreal Wild Forest and then head west in order to avoid the Forest Preserve. The route would then head east again following Route 56 and then Route 3 to connect with the existing substation in Piercefield.

According to the DEIS a new right of way (ROW) would be necessary in order to bypass the Forest Preserve. The new ROW would pass north of Crooked Lake for just over two miles to the western boundary of the Forest Preserve. At the western end of the Forest Preserve the preferred route would turn southeast and then east on a new ROW for approximately 4 miles before returning to Route 56. The DEIS points out that 3.3 of these four miles is along an old logging road.

Albany Office
301 Hamilton Street
Albany, NY
12210-1738
Phone: 518-449-3870
Fax: 518-449-3875

ADK is concerned that the creation of approximately 6 miles of new ROW would prevent a continuous westward expansion of the Raquette Boreal Wild Forest. According to the DEIS the total amount of clearing for the proposed ROW is 75 feet wide. In this case, a total of approximately 3 miles of forested land would have to be cleared to a 75 foot width in order to meet this requirement. Even the 3.3 miles along an old logging road would require additional clearing to meet the 75 foot ROW requirement. This route would require 105.8 acres of cleared upland.



Additionally, the alternative route outlined in the DEIS, beginning in Newton Falls and ending at the existing Piercefield substation, would also require a significant amount of new ROW construction in order to accommodate the new transmission line. This alternative route would require 153 acres of cleared upland in close proximity to sections of the Oswegatchie River and the South Branch of the Grass River.

NYPA should pursue a preferred alternative that would follow Route 56 from Stark Reservoir until it meets with Route 3 and ends at the Piercefield substation.

Although the transmission line would cross Forest Preserve lands, it would be along an existing state highway with an existing ROW on the perimeter of the Raquette Boreal Wild Forest. Therefore, much less clearing would be required. Future maintenance of the transmission line would be simplified by location within the Route 56 highway right of way.

However, adoption of a constitutional amendment permitting the construction of the transmission line through the Forest Preserve in the existing Route 56 right of way would be required by law.

We believe that this proposed alternative would minimize the environmental impact of the proposed transmission line, and would not impair a potential expansion of the Raquette Boreal Wild Forest.

NYPA should also explore alternate designs for the transmission line as it travels along Route 56 through the Forest Preserve. The DEIS states that the Route 56 ROW is 55.5 feet wide. It has come to our attention that a proposed 138-kV line proposed in Alaska only required a 50 foot ROW for single pole structures (NuVista Light & Power Company - Donlin Creek Mine, Final Report, June 11, 2004). Therefore, a new design would not require clearing outside of the existing highway right of way.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Neil F. Woodworth
Executive Director



Since 1901

The Association for the Protection of The Adirondacks

897 St. Davids Lane • Niskayuna, New York 12309
Phone: (518) 377-1452 • Fax: (518) 393-0526
www.protectadks.org

January 31, 2006

Steve Ramsey
New York Power Authority
Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center
1378 State Route 30
North Blenheim NY 12131

Re. Tri-Lakes Reliability Project, Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Steve:

After careful review of the Draft EIS and discussions with NYPA, DEC and others, we offer the following comments on the Draft EIS. We are concerned for the health and safety of those residents who are now subject to an unreliable power supply in Tupper Lake and other places in the Tri-Lakes region, and that is why we have devoted our time and attention to this important proposal by the Power Authority. We are also very concerned with the protection and ecological integrity of the Adirondack Park region, its constitutional safeguards pertaining to the NYS Forest Preserve, and to the energy futures of this unique region which relate directly to issues of environment, community and sustainability of human communities in the Park.

Constitutional Issues:

The Association remains convinced that the New York Power Authority and National Grid lack the constitutional authority to build and operate a major 46-kV power line on Forest Preserve lands abutting State Route 56 in the Adirondack Park. Our firm and reasoned conviction remains that such use of the Forest Preserve would abrogate specific provisions of Article XIV of the NYS Constitution. It stands to reason that state authorities and governments should not run roads and power lines through "forever wild" lands without proper authorization in the form of an amendment from the Legislature and the voting public.

We are pleased that the New York Power Authority apparently agrees with us, but we question the failure of this DEIS to forthrightly state the constitutional case at hand. The laws of 1924 that authorized the state commission of highways to "occupy a right of way over such state lands in the forest preserve as are necessary to construct, maintain or reconstruct the state and county highways which have been heretofore improved in order that the forest preserve of the state shall be made more accessible," can not be relied upon in this case, although we understand that efforts were made to do so earlier in the routing process. That statute was deemed unconstitutional by the Attorney General a decade or so later, and it clearly is unconstitutional. The "now or hereafter acquired" clause of the

Thank you for considering the Association in your Estate Planning

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Forest Preserve law of 1885 tells us that the lands under State Route 56, which may have been acquired in 1882, nonetheless became part of the Adirondack Forest Preserve in 1885 and subject to the NYS Constitution in 1895.

It certainly would be helpful in this DEIS and for future environmental reviews in either Adirondack or Catskill Parks to have the constitutional issues surrounding a crossing of Forest Preserve by a major utility line fairly and expansively discussed. Surely, there is a written DEC opinion that NYPA relied upon in its decision-making. The current DEIS fails to include it or any mention of it. It merely states that "DEC expressed concern that siting along this route might require a constitutional amendment." This "concern" then caused NYPA to consider Route 56 as infeasible due to its "susceptibility to potential delays as a result of Forest Preserve issues," hence rejecting it from your list of preferred routing alternatives. We subsequently learned at your November 1, 2005 briefing in Albany that the constitutional concerns centered on the number of trees on the Forest Preserve that would have to be cut outside the DOT Right of Way. As stated at our January 25, 2006 briefing, we were told that Forest Preserve trees 24-37 feet outside the Route 56 ROW would have to be cut for an overhead line, amounting to approximately 4 acres of tree removal. These facts should be brought out in the DEIS.

Preferred Alternative, the Route 56 Bypass

After reading sections of the DEIS and to NYPA presentations, we are forced to conclude that the six mile long loop around the Forest Preserve to the west of Route 56 on lands classified by the Adirondack Park Agency as Resource Management would cause, in our opinion, undue adverse impacts on the natural resources of the Adirondack Park. The permanent clearing of 55 acres of spruce and fir and low-elevation boreal habitat in order to create new 75' power line right of way is very concerning, as is the crossing of 22 forested wetlands by the power line.

While these lands appear separated from the formally identified low-elevation boreal ecosystem by Route 56 to the east, there are features on the western side of the road that closely resemble the low-elevation boreal and which, after further study, could be added to the ecosystem and to the Forest Preserve in the future. Remote, boreal river systems, boggy wetlands, and forests of spruce and fir contain features that are of regional and global significance and that exist only in a few other places in the Northeast. Their unique, irreplaceable features have been well studied and documented since 1972. Regulatory and private nongovernmental agencies should provide strict protection or avoid unnecessary damage wherever possible. The spruce grouse, one of New York's most threatened species, lives in these lowland boreal areas, along with other rare, threatened, and unusual wildlife such as the white-winged crossbill, boreal chickadee, gray jay, and Lincoln's sparrow. Boreal ecosystems and the special wildlife that live in them are vulnerable to the physical damage, noise, and pollution that accompany motorized recreation.

Aside from the initial tree cutting and disturbance along this 6-mile long bypass, the route would be permanently marred by cutting, foot and motorized access, whether authorized

or not. The power line and ROW would be run very near to the famed Seveys Bog, home of the endangered spruce grouse.

We conclude that the proposed six-mile long Route 56 bypass for the power line and ROW pose unacceptable risks to the natural resources of the Adirondack Park which can not be adequately mitigated and which should not be permitted by the Adirondack Park Agency. The DEIS provides a cursory treatment of the physical and ecological impacts of this bypass. Finally, we also ask whether the remoteness of the electric line proposed along this six mile bypass would jeopardize its maintenance and the long-term electric service reliability issues that the project claims to solve.

Furthermore, we conclude that the bypass and new 75 foot ROW was chosen, with all of its obvious and not so obvious impacts, as NYPA's preferred alternative because NYPA is unwilling to prepare for and achieve a constitutional amendment to run the line down Route 56, an existing road and ROW.

The Association's Position on the ROW and Routing

This pole for pole replacement utilizing the existing Route 56 ROW as much as possible is clearly the best choice from environmental, constitutional, and electric reliability standpoints. A constitutional amendment in the form of a land exchange for lands of equal or greater value for addition to the NYS Forest Preserve is needed to run the power line down Route 56. The amendment process should begin immediately in the current session of the NYS Legislature. If NYPA requires about 5 acres of Forest Preserve to run the line here, it should be providing funding for at least 50 acres of Forest Preserve elsewhere. This can be done through the constitutional land exchange and through a direct payment from NYPA for Forest Preserve purchase elsewhere in Franklin or St. Lawrence Counties.

If an amendment to Article 14 is introduced and passed in the current legislative session, it could be reintroduced in the next elected legislature in 2007 and brought to a vote in the fall of 2007. The Association would support a well-worded, carefully constructed land exchange that would result in a net benefit to the public and the NYS Forest Preserve. We can not vouch for others, but we reasonably believe that other organizations will also support such an amendment and exchange. If so, it would receive popular support at the polls. Planning and permitting for the Route 56 45 kV line should begin immediately in parallel with a political process to move forward first passage of an amendment. The Adirondack Park Agency should informally pull together a small meeting of attorneys at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss the constitutional issues surrounding this power line, and the relationship of those issues to the permitting process. The decision to route the line overland or underground should be based mostly on reliability considerations.

Impacts of the Proposed Action on the Use and Conservation of Energy

The power line is supposed to be part of a larger "package" of energy delivery and control facilities, conservation/efficiency programs, and at least one alternative generation system. We learned this from the Governor's press release, and in various

statements made in the DEIS. However, the DEIS doesn't even attempt to deal seriously with these energy use and conservation issues behind the "reliability" project. As it stands, the DEIS really only assesses the power line and some technical control equipment at substations. This amounts to a major segmentation of the larger project, which flies in the face of SEQRA.

This failure to evaluate the larger complex of related projects is extremely important. It may in fact be true that the power line would not be needed, or would be much more reasonable and responsive to current and anticipated challenges if the same or, better yet, more money (about \$29 million) were spent on retrofits of existing homes, a biomass plant in Tupper (\$20-25 million) and on selected, high-valuc conservation/efficiency projects at big energy users like ORDA, municipal facilities, and some businesses.

We have no idea how much power a biomass plant might generate, but Tupper Lake will only gain 10 mega watts from the new power line. Even more savings could be had if all new development in the region were required to at least be built to *Energy Star* standards. And there may be other ways to increase the reliability of the existing system, rather or in addition to another power line.

Induced, and Secondary Development

The DEIS boldly states that the project will have no direct effect on the use and conservation of energy in the region, and have no stimulus on new growth and demand "beyond what is normally projected for this area." We disagree and find a shocking lack of analysis for this conclusion. Lacking such analysis, the reader finds in the DEIS an unstated assumption that the region wants and needs to grow and develop more second homes, businesses, and other energy-consuming infrastructure that the proposed project will accommodate...for a while. It seems to assume that the Adirondack Land Use and Development Plan administered by the Adirondack Park Agency will regulate such development to control any negative effects of growth. So, the new power line would provide about a 37% increase in Tupper Lake's available power (10 more mega watts) and about 30% more in Lake Placid (15 more mega watts).

The DEIS mentions, but blithely ignores, the fact that both Tupper Lake and Lake Placid have moratoria on new electrical uses in home resistance heat (Tupper) and on electric-fired boilers (Placid). So, when the DEIS concludes that it will fulfill the expected demand for power in the Tri-Lakes for 25-30 years, it doesn't appear to factor into the equation the removal of those moratoria, which the municipal customers are aching to do in order to take advantage of the very low rates they pay for power.

The DEIS recognizes that Michael Foxman's proposed project will result in about 700 new residences (estimated to include about 234 full-time new residents) and about 60 hotel units, and that it will attract about 500,000 so-called visitors after the first 4 year. But it doesn't suggest any conservation, efficiency, or regulatory mitigation for such development. The Association believes that this development seems to have been a factor in deciding to move quickly to furnish the Tri-Lakes with added power. Put another way, the proposed Adirondack Club and Resort development would not be possible without this proposal. How much of the new 10 mega watts this proposal total

would require we do not know. For comparison, Tupper Lake's peak winter load is now about 27 mega watts. Since the resort would include ski lifts, snow-making equipment, a hotel, and about 700 new homes, it's reasonable to assume that a significant portion of the new power would be absorbed by the proposed Club and Resort.

In Lake Placid, the new convention center is mentioned, but, like the new hotel and other business demands noted in the DEIS, no conservation or efficiency or regulatory controls are proposed in the document and no limits to growth are contemplated.

The DEIS perpetuates the wasteful, inefficient Use of energy

In essence, the power line proposal could be part of an "Energy-Smart Park" approach to dealing with existing energy problems for a Park touted around the world as a model for of sustainable development. However, it fails to approach the problem in this way. The new power line proposal would provide more reliable power, promote a lot of new development, but it also would result in another, more severe crisis of power involving more people, businesses, and energy demands in short order. Under these circumstances then, with power even more costly and hard to come by, it will be even more difficult to retrofit the Park's energy infrastructure and bring its energy demands under control.

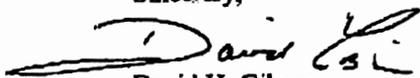
NYPA and its partners should and could do much more in this DEIS to combine the new power line with a comprehensive, innovative set of energy conservation and efficiency programs to advance the ideal of an Energy Smart Park. For example, the Association suggests:

- Several million dollars of incentives to help retrofit the deplorably energy inefficient homes and businesses that characterize the region to be served by the new power line
- A biomass plant that burns wood or produces methanol or that uses wood gasification to make a significant contribution to the region's power demands
- A package of regulatory proposals and incentives that would require new construction to meet certain energy efficiency standards
- Subsidies to promote solar, geothermal, wind, and other renewable, environmentally-attuned, energy production and use

By adopting all or some of these ideas, NYPA would help to promote the greening of the Park's energy future, not the perpetuation of its energy, and environmental, as well as economic and community problems.

Thank you for considering our comments. We look forward to opportunities for continued dialogue on this project and DEIS in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,



David H. Gibson
Executive Director



Michael G. DiNunzio
Director of Special Projects

Cc: John Suloway, NYPA
Mike Sengenberger, APA
Richard H. Lefebvre, APA
Ken Hamm, DEC
Jim Ferreira, DEC
Lynette Stark, DEC
Charles G. Fox, Executive Chamber

Peter Bauer, RCPA
John Sheehan, TAC
Neil Woodworth, ADK
Board of Trustees and Staff

January 31, 2006

Steve Ramsey
Community Relations—Regional Manager
New York Power Authority
1378 State Route 30
North Blenheim, NY 12131

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

The Adirondack Council thanks the New York Power Authority for the opportunity to comment on the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project. As you may know, the Adirondack Council is a non-profit conservation organization with 18,000 members from throughout the Park, the state, and the country. Our mission is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of New York's Adirondack Park.

Before suggesting a least-cost route, the Adirondack Council wishes to remind the Power Authority, as well as the Adirondack Park Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation, that the best solutions to almost any major energy problem are conservation, recycling, and efficiency. We are glad to see that the Power Authority is conducting energy audits in the Tri-Lakes area, but we are concerned that new facilities are being planned before the audits and recommended measures are completed. Energy retrofitting and materials recycling and conservation would keep our air and water cleaner, our lands more intact, and our communities more gainfully employed. All feasible measures to conserve energy should be exhausted before major new energy production and distribution facilities are developed.

If a new power line is truly needed in the Tri-Lakes area, it should be installed *underground along existing roads within existing right-of-ways*, even if burial increases the costs. The preferred route (from Stark Falls then south on Rt 56 then east on Rt 3) is generally more desirable than the alternate route (from Newton Falls east); but as much as possible, the line should be buried along existing roads. The detour around Forest Preserve near Sevey's Bog would be wasteful and ecologically harmful, needlessly extending the length of the power line and fragmenting rare low-elevation boreal forest. Indeed, the detour would take the line through lands proposed by the Adirondack Council in 1988 for a Low Elevation Boreal Heritage

Reserve (2020 Vision, Volume 1, Biological Diversity: Saving All the Pieces, p.23-25). The line detour could thus harm Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, bog lemmings, and other boreal species and fragile plant communities rare in the Adirondacks.

It would be better to keep the line along Rt 56 to minimize fragmentation of habitat and allow maintenance from the existing road. Along with the high ecological costs of the long detour, veering from the road and crossing many wetlands and streams would entail significant engineering and maintenance problems and costs.

The Council recognizes that the town of Tupper Lake and the New York Power Authority wish to see this line built as soon as possible. We also recognize that NYPA hoped to avoid Constitutional issues by routing the line around the Forest Preserve block west of Route 56. Adding to the ecological concerns expressed above, the Council objects to the circuitous detour on several other grounds:

- 1) If the line is *buried* along the Rt. 56 right-of-way, tree-cutting would be reduced from 11 acres to 2 and wetlands crossings would be eliminated from this portion of the line.
- 2) We are aware of your concern over the ill-defined nature of the Rt. 56 right-of-way through the Raquette Boreal Wild Forest. We share your concern that Constitutional protections for the Forest Preserve are, in this case, in conflict with ecological protections – even if New York Telephone did not. We tend to agree with our colleagues at the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks that the quickest and most reliable means of securing legal permission to bury the line on the right-of-way is through a Constitutional Amendment. The Council is willing to consider supporting narrowly and carefully written resolutions introduced by this Legislature (2005-06) and the next Legislature (2007-08) that would create a Constitutional amendment that could be voted on by all New Yorkers in the 2007 statewide election.
- 3) The Adirondack Council understands your desire to undertake this project in the 2008 construction season and will work with the NYPA to expedite the approval of both a Constitutional Amendment and the enabling legislation needed to carry it out.
- 4) The Power Authority was called upon to build this line because privately owned power companies had refused to undertake the project. While an investor-owned utility company might justifiably balk at the long-term cost of burying any portion of the line, the Power Authority is not a private power company beholden to profit-oriented shareholders, nor is it a state agency

constrained by Legislative spending limits. NYPA has the authority to sell bonds and the resources to design a line that makes the least possible negative impact on the environment – and on the Constitutional protections for the Forest Preserve. The additional short-term costs of burying the power line would be more than offset by avoiding the inevitable aesthetic damage caused by overhead wires, and the long-term maintenance of exposed poles and lines.

- 5) The current single-source power supply in Tupper Lake is inadequate due to its poor reliability. Wires strung from poles are exposed to ice storms, heavy snow, high winds, falling trees, mud slides, auto accidents, and extreme temperature swings, all of which can cause outages. A buried line, as you know, has none of those reliability drawbacks.
- 6) Your desire to keep the right-of-way accessible 365 days per year would necessitate your plowing and maintaining a six-mile-long service road through a forest bejeweled with ponds and wetlands. Experience tells us that this will be an enormous expense that may not be a desirable legacy to eventual owners National Grid (NG). If NG refuses full-time maintenance, your reliability improvements will be neutralized.
- 7) In addition, since the road will not be a public highway, we expect that it will become an attractive nuisance, luring snowmobilers and all-terrain vehicle riders. Unregulated roads such as this have become notorious throughout the Park as ATV riders use them to gain access to off-limits and ecologically sensitive areas. Your road would provide easy illegal ATV access into the western side of the Raquette Boreal Wild Forest and into Sevey's Bog, in a place where law enforcement officials will be at a great disadvantage. The outrageous damage and vandalism carried out by ATV riders in other areas of St. Lawrence County and the Adirondack Park should be enough reason, by itself, to reject the detour away from Route 56.

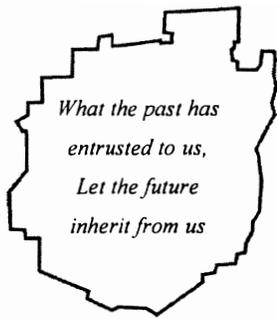
To conclude, the Adirondack Council asks the New York Power Authority, as well as the Department of Environmental Conservation and Adirondack Park Agency, to do all in their power to encourage conservation, recycling, and efficiency over new power facilities. To the extent that new power lines are needed, we ask that you route them underground along existing roads, within existing right-of-ways.

Respectfully,

Comment: _____

John Davis
Conservation Director

Cc: Ross Whaley and Dick LeFebvre, APA
Denise Sheehan, DEC
Arnie Talgo, NYPA



*Clean Water
Sustainable Forestry
Healthy Communities
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Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks

P.O. Box 27, 7 Ordway Lane, North Creek, NY 12853-0027

Phone: (518) 251-4257, Fax: (518) 251-5068

rcpa@frontiernet.net, www.RCPA.org

January 31, 2006

Mr. John Suloway
New York Power Authority
Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project Visitors Center
1378 State Route 30, Box 898
North Blenheim, NY 12131

RE: RCPA Comments on Draft EIS for the Tri-Lakes Electric Reliability Project

Dear Mr. Suloway,

The Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks (RCPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of the New York Power Authority's (NYPA) Tri-Lakes Electric Reliability Project that seeks to construct a new power line from Newton Falls/Stark Reservoir to Tupper Lake. The RCPA recognizes the need for public safety for improving the delivery of electricity to Tupper Lake, but has a number of concerns that we believe should be addressed in NYPA's Final Environmental Impact Statement and application to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). Please find the RCPA's comments below:

Constitutional Issues and County Route 56

NYPA has proposed a preferred route that utilizes Route 56 until it meets Forest Preserve on the west side of the road and then routes west around parts of the Raquette-Boreal Wild Forest. The RCPA objects to the proposed bypass of the Raquette-Boreal Wild Forest. This bypass will be highly disruptive to the forest system west of Route 56. The Route 56 bypass would disrupt roughly 55 acres of forest lands, while burying the line in the Route 56 corridor would disrupt two acres of forestlands in the Forest Preserve. NYPA claims that it cannot place the powerline along Route 56 due to constitutional issues associated with Forest Preserve ownership by stating in the DEIS "Because of the pressing need to license and construct the 46 kV line to improve the reliability of the electrical delivery system in the Tri-Lakes Region, the Route 56 Alternate, which may be susceptible to the potential for delays as a result of the Forest Preserve issues, was not selected as the

preferred alternative.” Hence, the accelerated and artificial time frame for this project appears to force NYPA to disrupt 55 acres of forests as opposed to two acres along the highway corridor.

The RCPA finds the analysis in the draft EIS to be inadequate. RCPA calls upon NYPA to provide an analysis of the ownership of County Route 56. Is this corridor owned by St. Lawrence County? Is this corridor part of the Raquette-Boreal Forest Preserve? The RCPA calls upon NYPA to fully examine the legality and practicality of routing this power line within the 100-foot Route 56 right-of-way. This would create the least disturbance and would not necessitate new construction west of the Route 56 corridor. The Constitutional analysis in the DEIS is inadequate.

If the corridor is found to be solely owned by St. Lawrence County, RCPA urges that burying the line become the preferred alternative in a way that does not harm or impact the Forest Preserve. If this cannot be accomplished, or if the Route 56 corridor is found to be Forest Preserve, then the RCPA calls upon NYPA to adjust its project time frame and pursue a Constitutional Amendment to exchange the lands in the Raquette Boreal Wild Forest for comparable lands in another location. An amendment process could be accomplished by November 2007.

Preferred Course of Action: Constitutional Amendment

The RCPA believes that NYPA’s preferred route should be pursuit of a Constitutional Amendment to obtain the necessary acreage along the Route 56 corridor to bury this powerline. The RCPA believes this amendment will be widely supported.

NYPA has stated that an amendment is not possible due to a timeframe mandated by a “settlement” between NYPA and the tri-lakes local governments. RCPA calls upon NYPA to provide copies of this settlement in the FEIS and a legal analysis about NYPA’s legal obligations.

Maintenance Costs

There are a variety of standpoints by which the Route 56 bypass should be assessed. As part of the scoping NYPA should provide a comparison of the costs of undergrounded power lines with conventional wires and poles. This analysis should also look at maintenance costs over the next 50 years for undergrounded systems along Route 56 and wires/poles systems through the Route 56 bypass.

Power Usage/Energy Conservation in Tupper Lake

The RCPA appreciates the energy audit that NYPA has undertaken, but requests that all information be provided to the public and not just a summary. The RCPA requests that NYPA include information about the efficiency of use of electricity for heating systems compared with other fuel uses. Moreover, RCPA requests information about the number of residences in the Tri-Lakes communities that utilize electrical heating systems as compared with other types of heating systems.

The RCPA looks forward to reviewing a formal application to the APA on this project and continuing to provide meaningful input as the project progresses. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, please let me express our gratitude for the opportunity to share our concerns on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Bauer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "B".

Peter Bauer
Executive Director

CC: APA Staff