

Background

In October 2012, the New York State Energy Highway Task Force recommended to Governor Cuomo that electric utilities be required to analyze repowering as an alternative to transmission system upgrades when a facility needed for reliability proposes to retire. The Commission has noted in other proceedings that careful planning for generator retirements is important for the maintenance of reliability at reasonable cost.

On January 18, 2013, the Commission issued an Order Instituting Proceeding and Requiring Evaluation of Generation Repowering (Order). The Order:

- o Recognized that the New York State Energy Highway Task Force Blueprint noted reliability concerns with the potential retirement of the Cayuga Generating Station and identified it as a potential candidate for repowering;
- o Directed NYSEG to file the cost of transmission upgrades needed to maintain reliability, and solicit bids from the current owners of the Cayuga plant for the cost of out-of-market support needed to repower their plant, at least at the minimum capacities needed to maintain reliability; and
- o Directed NYSEG to evaluate all alternatives in terms of reliability and impacts on ratepayer costs, the environment, the economy, electric market competitiveness and any other relevant factors – and to file its recommendations.

NYSEG provided that requested information to the Commission. The filings are now being reviewed by Staff of the Department of Public Service. The Commission is expected to determine whether the Cayuga plant should be repowered, or if the transmission alternatives proposed by NYSEG should be adopted.

Other Methods for Commenting on the Case

- **Via the Internet or In Writing:** Those who cannot or do not wish to attend a public statement hearing may submit comments electronically to Hon. Jeffrey C. Cohen, Acting Secretary, at secretary@dps.ny.gov or by mail or delivery to Acting Secretary Cohen at the Department of Public Service, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350. Comments may also be entered directly into the case by locating the case via the home page of the Commission's website, www.dps.ny.gov, by clicking on "Search," and entering 12-E-0577 in the "Search by Case Number" field. In the open case, enter comments in the "Post Comments" located at the top of the page. Comments should refer to "Case 12-E-0577 - Repowering Alternatives to Utility Transmission Reinforcements in the villages of Cayuga and Dunkirk."
- **Toll-Free Opinion Line:** Individuals may choose to submit comments by calling the Commission's toll-free Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This line is set up to receive in-state calls 24-hours a day. Callers should press "1" to leave comments about "Case 12-E-0577 - Repowering Alternatives to Utility Transmission Reinforcements in the villages of Cayuga and Dunkirk."

In order to ensure consideration prior to the Commission's vote, comments should be submitted, via any means described above, by August 16, 2013.