

THE COMPARATIVE AC TRANSMISSION PROCEEDING

MYTHS VS FACTS

MYTH: More power is needed downstate

FACT: Harvard-trained environmental physicist Dr. Gidon Eshel modeled the state's own numbers and found that existing generation and transmission infrastructure, as well as new projects already approved and in development, well **exceed anticipated future demand**, even taking into account the expected closure of the Indian Point nuclear facility, increases in downstate population and an anticipated increase in summertime temperatures.

MYTH: This project will lower residents' utility bills

FACT: The Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition (HVSEC), has noted that congestion costs associated with a transmission "bottleneck" - a major justification for this project - are less than the \$1 billion+ ratepayers will have to pay for new lines. In short, **the "solution" would cost more than the problem** and deliver no proven savings to customers. The claim that more transmission will bring in "cheaper" power from western NY is wishful thinking given current energy markets, and an inefficient use of resources.

MYTH: National Grid (NG) claims that its new proposal "improves" visual impacts

FACT: This is **not** actually the case. NG states that their project has "materially no height increase" with their new towers. However, their proposal calls for towers that are on average 10' taller, with even taller towers in certain areas. Ten feet matters because current towers are already at tree line. New, taller towers will be seen by many new neighbors and visitors to the area. For those who enjoy living in a rural area and those who depend on the tourism economy, this is a significant difference. Additionally, at sites where there exists only one 115kv tower the new design will be significantly wider, and they intend to clear-cut the forested buffer that separates much of the lines from residential areas, which will completely change the character of those neighborhoods.

MYTH: At least eminent domain is finally off the table!

FACT: It's not. It is in fact very much still **ON** the table. Although NG has taken the commendable step of assuring no eminent domain, there are still four bidders in this process, and there are proposals that call for new lines to run **RIGHT NEXT TO** the current right-of-way, on property that is currently owned by private homeowners and businesses.

MYTH: This project is a done deal

FACT: **Not so fast!** Your comments are being heard. We thank NG for revised projects, but the PSC has ordered a review of the entire Energy Highway Plan to re-examine its need and purpose. There is still a long way to go before ratepayers statewide can be expected to shell out more than a billion dollars for a project of no proven need or value.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Please go to hvsec.org and click the banner on the front page to see what you, as a concerned resident or business owner, can do to have your voice heard on this important issue.