

## Timeline

A look at the genesis of transmission line proposals and efforts to halt them from destroying the Hudson Valley's natural beauty and prosperity.

Proposed new high-voltage transmission lines would run through 25 Hudson Valley towns in Albany, Rensselaer, Greene, Columbia, Dutchess and Ulster counties. In addition to potentially doubling the height of current towers—up to 165 feet tall—these projects could double the width of utility corridors—and possibly take private property by eminent domain.

- Oct. 22, 2012 **Energy Highway** - Gov. Andrew Cuomo announces Energy Highway initiative in his State of the State Address
- Nov. 2012 **Energy Highway Blueprint Released** - The governor's Energy Highway Task Force releases its **Blueprint**, including plans to add up to 3,200 megawatts of electric generation to relieve transmission congestion.
- Nov. 2012 **PSC Calls for Proposals** - The state Public Service Commission (PSC) calls for proposals for 1,000-watt transmission lines to increase capacity of electricity generated upstate to downstate customers.
- Apr. 22, 2013 **PSC Review Process Revealed** - The PSC approves a mechanism for reviewing and evaluating developers' submissions—including a public process to examine impacts on landowners, farms, historic properties and the environment.
- Oct. 1, 2013 **Developer Proposals Submitted** - Developers submit proposals for four high-voltage transmission lines that would run through 25 Hudson Valley communities and cross the Hudson River.
- Nov. 7, 2013 **Concerned Groups Intervene** - Scenic Hudson becomes a formal intervenor in the PSC's regulatory proceedings—meaning it can provide testimony on critical project details such as the route any transmission lines would follow. Around this time community groups Clinton Concerned Citizens, Farmers & Families for Livingston, Farmers & Families for Claverack and the Town of Milan (Dutchess County) also intervened in the proceedings.
- Dec. 5, 2013 **Dutchess County Legislature Policy Statement** - The Dutchess County Legislature votes unanimously to issue a policy statement opposing transmission line proposals that would unfairly impact county residents and calling on the PSC to "consider all options and alternatives."
- Dec. 11, 2013 **Columbia Board of Supervisors Resolution** - Columbia County's legislative body issues a resolution calling for transmission line proposals to receive "the utmost scrutiny and careful consideration, including an independent and thorough analysis of reasonable alternatives."
- Dec. 13, 2013 **Coalition Formed** - The Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition is established. Its members include grassroots community groups, county and local governments, environmental organizations, local businesses and historic sites.
- Dec. 13, 2013 **Poughkeepsie Information Session** - An information session hosted by the PSC in Poughkeepsie draws more than 100 people overwhelmingly opposed to the transmission-line projects.
- Jan. 12, 2014 **2014 State of the State Address** - In his State of the State address, Gov. Cuomo announces a preference for transmission lines staying within existing rights-of-way in terms of height, width and length.
- Jan. 17, 2014 **Ned Sullivan Letter to Cuomo** - On behalf of the Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition, Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan sends a **letter** to Gov. Cuomo outlining coalition goals and listing specific points it wants to bring to his attention.
- Feb. 20, 2014 **PSC Calls for Modification of Proposals** - The PSC encourages developers of proposed Hudson Valley transmission lines to retool their plans to conform to the governor's preference.

- Feb. 27, 2014 **Developers Pledge to Comply** - All four developers agree to rewrite proposals to utilize existing rights-of-way “to the maximum extent possible.”
- Apr. 7, 2014 **National Grid Announces Revisions** - One of the developers—National Grid—announces a new proposal that would stay within utility-owned rights-of-way and not require additional land being taken by eminent domain.
- Apr. 24, 2014 **Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) Revealed** - Gov. Andrew Cuomo announces Reforming the Energy Vision. He characterizes New York’s electricity distribution as largely unchanged for 100 years. “But today we are taking a giant step from the status quo,” he states and pledges to embrace technology.
- May 14, 2014 **NY Times Power Lines Feature** - *New York Times* article, “With Power Comes Ambivalence,” highlights concerns of residents near proposed power lines and threats to valley’s economy, agriculture and historic resources.
- May 25, 2014 **Huffington Post Blog Entry** - In a *Huffington Post* blog entitled “Meeting NYC’s Energy Needs Can’t Come at Hudson Valley’s Expense,” Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan describes the threat posed by the transmission lines.
- Aug. 15, 2014 **New Procedures for Proposal Approvals Announced** - The PSC’s new procedural proposal for transmission line project approvals basically starts the whole process over—without addressing any concerns raised by the HVSEC. The coalition urged the public to take action.
- Sept. 4, 2014 **Coalition Criticizes New PSC Plan** - The Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition signaled major problems with the PSC’s new proposal for transmission lines. The coalition called on the PSC to suspend consideration of the transmission project proposals until the threshold question of need for the project can be answered.
- Sept. 20, 2014 **NYC Pursues Major Energy Initiatives** - Mayor Bill de Blasio announces bold energy-efficiency standards. Through the effort New York would become the largest city in the world to make such an aggressive commitment. New York City’s electricity consumption is trending downward.
- Sept. 24, 2014 **Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition Adds New Member** - Pleasant Valley Concerned Citizens becomes the 17th member of the coalition, which includes municipal officials; environmental, historic and land preservation organizations; businesses; and residents who oppose outdated power lines and seek a modern energy plan for the Hudson Valley and state.
- Nov. 5, 2014 **Physicist’s Research Shows Power Line Expansion Not Needed** - At Oct. 18 and Nov. 1 public presentations, an independent research geophysicist, Gidon Eshel, Ph.D., showcased his findings that existing power lines can meet our region’s peak electricity-demand needs well into the future.
- Dec. 12, 2014 **PSC Announces Stronger Look at Need for New Power Lines** - Amid growing public opposition, the state Public Service Commission announced that it will hold a June 2015 technical conference to more deeply evaluate the need for the new power lines. HVSEC member organizations will have an opportunity to weigh in on the need issue and cost-benefit analysis.

**Steering Committee Members of the Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition (HVSEC):**

Scenic Hudson	Olana Partnership	Dutchess Land Conservancy
Omega Institute	Town of Pleasant Valley	Town of Milan
Town of Clinton	Dutchess County Government	Farmers & Families of Livingston
Winnakee Land Trust	Clinton Concerned Citizens	Pleasant Valley Concerned Citizens
Columbia Land Conservancy	Farmers & Families of Claverack	Preservation League of NYS
Walnut Grove Farm		