

TRANSMISSION WATCH

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March 2021, Q1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January, staff at the New York Department of Public Services (NYDPS) submitted an initial report on the Power Grid Study to the New York Public Service Commission (NYPSC). The Power Grid Study was mandated by the April 2020 Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act and was seeking to identify transmission investments that are necessary to achieve climate goals under New York's July 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CPLA).

The study has initially identified only limited transmission needs, mostly already planned upgrades to local transmission infrastructure and a increased transfer capability between Zone K and Zones I or J. However, overly idealistic study assumptions warrant further comprehensive analysis that will likely result in the identification of additional transmission needs. The study also identified the need for a high degree of necessary coordination between renewables and energy storage deployment that will have implications for the competitive market structure in New York.

Our Project Update section provides an update on the siting processes of key public policy transmission projects in New York. The NYPSC recently approved the siting application for both segments of the "AC Upgrades" and granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to the developer of the Empire State Line in Western New York. Both projects are therefore ready to proceed to the construction phase. We also briefly describe a new proposal for a 1,200 MW HVDC line between upstate and downstate New York that has the potential to deliver renewable energy to NYC under the new Tier 4 REC program.



In This Issue

| | | | |
|--|----------|---|-----------|
| Policy Update <i>NY Power Grid Study</i> | 2 | Project Update <i>NY PPTN Project Approvals</i> | 16 |
|--|----------|---|-----------|

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