

**Dutchess County Policy Statement
Alternatives to Transmission Congestion
(PSC Case 12-T-0502/13-E-0488)**

Dutchess County Government *opposes* the proposed construction of new, above-ground transmission lines for the sake of providing energy to areas outside of Dutchess County but at a cost to Dutchess County residents.

Dutchess County's goals concerning the installation of new transmission lines being proposed through the County is that a solution or solutions to address downstate New York's power needs must result in *minimal local community impact, no financial burden on the residents of Dutchess County, and no lasting environmental effect*. At the very least, consideration must be given to bury these lines underground; compensation given to the County of Dutchess as well as impacted communities and residents; and a commitment for no rate hikes associated with this project.

Dutchess County Government proposes that the construction of any new energy project including electric transmission lines provides both economic and environmental benefits to parties that live, work, or own property in Dutchess. Electric transmission line construction must be weighed against other alternatives to provide electric supply such as conservation, demand side management, and the siting of new generation. Such alternative investigation must explore the long-term consequences of facility siting that may last for centuries.

Dutchess County's position concerning the installation of electric transmission, whether new or a rebuild of existing transmission, is that the resulting installations provide visual impacts that lead to the park like visual environment that Dutchess has worked hard to create. At the same time, Dutchess County landowners and residents directly impacted by new or rebuilt construction should be fairly compensated for the property impacts resulting from such construction. Transmission lines that use Dutchess as part of circuit routing should be constructed to provide direct economic benefits to the County and not be constructed to fulfill policies the development of which excluded Dutchess County input.

Dutchess County Government supports the rights of all residents to be heard in proceedings such as Article VII proceedings. Dutchess County will reach out to municipalities and residents in a concerted effort to support County's goals in Public Service Commission (PSC) proceedings, to preserve and improve the Dutchess County environment and economy. Our intent is to provide a focused voice and ensure this issue receives the attention it deserves so that our shared concerns are heard by the State of New York and its PSC with the intention that through an open and transparent process our goals will be achieved.

MJM/DCE
November 22, 2013