



Meeting the Electric Reliability Needs of the Tri-Lakes Region

History

Over the past several decades, the reliability of the electric system in the Tri-Lakes Region has been increasingly challenged as the population and use of technology continue to grow. However, with certain exceptions, the major infrastructure that supplies electricity to the area has not been upgraded or expanded since the late 1970s and has reached its limit to maintain system reliability and serve the load in the region. The result is an immediate need to enhance the reliability of the system to adequately provide electric service to consumers during periods of high demand, especially during the severely cold winter months.

The Project

In September 2004, an agreement was executed between the villages of Lake Placid and Tupper Lake, National Grid and the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to help alleviate the longstanding reliability problems in the region through short- and long-term solutions. The Tri-Lakes Reliability Project, one of the long-term solutions identified by interested parties, was developed through a cooperative effort between National Grid and NYPA. It consists of two static var compensators (SVC) to improve voltage conditions, a new 23-mile 46 kilovolt (kV) power line, and energy efficiency and clean energy projects.

The SVCs became operational in the spring of 2007 and are located within existing substations serving the Tupper Lake and Lake Colby areas. The new 46kV line is located within the Adirondack Park in St. Lawrence County. Construction of the line began in September 2007 and it began operating in May 2009.

The majority of the 23-mile route for the new line is located along 15.6 miles of existing highway/utility corridors and have been overbuilt (share the same poles) with existing utility lines in approximately the

same location as existing poles. Portions of the route that are not following existing corridors are primarily not visible to the public. To reduce visual impact of the line, wood poles (similar to existing poles) were used along existing corridors. In addition, efforts were made to minimize the need for any new utility corridors.

The route begins near the Stark Reservoir where a new substation was built in Parishville off Raquette River Road. From there, the line travels south along State Route 56, crossing a 2-mile stretch of Forest Preserve land and continues to Sevey Corners in Colton. The line then travels east along State Route 3 and connects to a new regulator station near an existing Brookfield hydroelectric station in Piercefild, prior to connecting to an existing National Grid line that brings the power to Tupper Lake. The regulator station is required to raise the voltage back to the 46kV nominal power level.

Need for the Constitutional Amendment

As mentioned above, the new power line crosses a two-mile stretch of Forest Preserve land next to an existing highway/utility corridor along the side of State Route 56. Originally, the corridor was not large enough to accommodate the new line without impinging on Forest Preserve land. So National Grid made plans to run the line around the Forest Preserve land, which would have resulted in a 75-foot-wide corridor being cleared along a six-mile stretch of sensitive forest boreal habitat. To avoid this, an alternative route was developed and constructed involving the Forest Preserve land adjacent to State Route 56. In most cases, use of Forest Preserve land requires a New York State Constitutional

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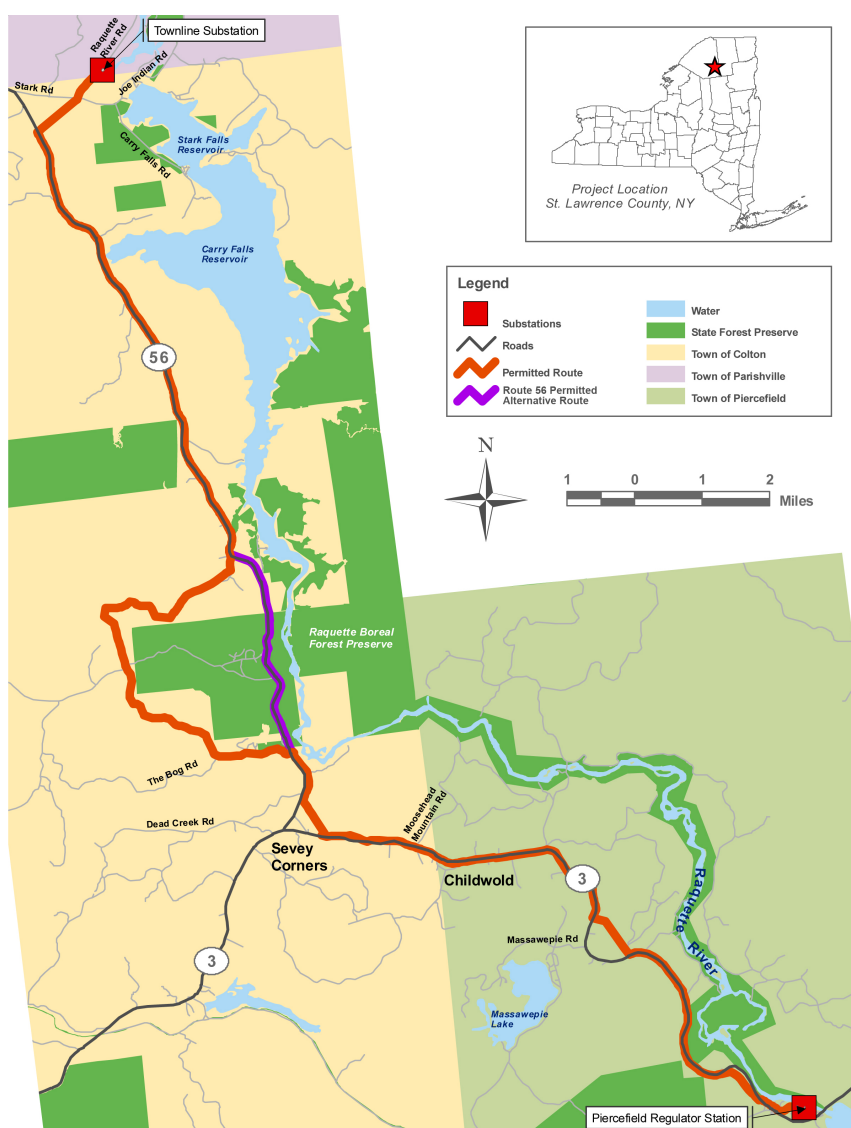
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Amendment. The constitutional amendment being sought here provides for the use of less than six acres of Forest Preserve land. The alternate route is more environmentally-sound and less expensive by removing the need to clear in the habitat around Forest Preserve land and shortening the overall length of the line by three miles. The constitutional amendment will bring substantial benefits to the Adirondack Park with the addition of over 43 acres of forest land being conveyed by National Grid to New York State for conservation in St. Lawrence County, in exchange for less than six acres of Forest Preserve land the state will deed to National Grid for the line.

As part of the process to secure a constitutional amendment, the New York State Legislature recently passed legislation authorizing the state to convey to National Grid the Forest Preserve land needed to construct the power line in St. Lawrence County. The legislation is now with the New York Secretary of State and will be put on the November 2009 ballot for a statewide vote.

For more information

Please go to www.nypa.gov/services/TriLakes.htm or call Jim Bunyan, project manager, National Grid, at 1-800-990-1909.



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