

# **New York Transmission Owners**

## **Submission of New York Transmission Owners For Authority to Construct and Operate Electric Transmission Facilities in Multiple Counties in New York**

**Case 13-M-\_\_\_\_\_**

### **Part A Filing**

*Marcy South Series Compensation*

### **Part B Scoping Statements**

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**MARCY SOUTH SERIES COMPENSATION  
PART B SCOPING STATEMENTS**

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## **PART B SCOPING STATEMENTS<sup>17</sup>**

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The Article VII Amendment Application for the Marcy South Series Compensation component (“MSSC”) involves the New York Power Authority’s (“NYPA”) portion of the overall Marcy South Series Compensation component. MSSC is a transmission improvement project that adds switchable series compensation to increase power transfer by reducing series impedance over the existing 345 kilovolt (“kV”) Marcy South lines, which includes installation of one series capacitor bank (“SC bank”) at the Marcy Substation, two SC banks at the Fraser Substation, and reconductoring of approximately 21.8 miles of the Fraser to Coopers Corners (FCC-33) 345 kV line owned by New York State Electric & Gas (“NYSEG”). The SC bank proposed adjacent to the Marcy Substation will connect to existing NYPA’s UCC2-41 line (“Marcy to Coopers Corners [UCC2-41] SC bank”) and one SC bank, proposed immediately north of the Fraser Substation, will connect to NYPA’s existing EF24-40 line (“Edic to Fraser [EF24-40] SC bank”). Both of these lines are covered by the Marcy South Project Article VII Certificate; therefore, the Article VII Amendment Application will be limited to the Marcy to Coopers Corners (UCC2-41) SC bank and the Edic to Fraser (EF24-40) SC bank. Preliminary engineering has identified proposed locations for the new equipment adjacent to these substations that is property owned either by NYPA or NYSEG: thus, no additional property is expected to be required at either substation. Reconductoring of the NYSEG Fraser to Coopers Corners 345 kV line (FCC-33) and the SC bank connected to that line will be addressed by NYSEG as a non-Article VII project (see, “Section Two” below).

This Part B Scoping Statement describes how NYPA will comply with the sections of Parts 86 and 88 of the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Pursuant to Article VII of the Public Service Law (16 NYCRR §86, 88) specified in the April 22, 2013 New York State Public Service Commission (NYSPSC) Order in Case 12-T-0502. NYPA anticipates that the exhibits, as described below, will be compiled for submittal with the NYSPSC during the 4th quarter, 2013 and 1st quarter of 2014.

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<sup>17</sup> NYPA’s Marcy South Series Compensation Project is being submitted as a Non-Article VII project because it has an Article VII Certificate and is merely seeking to amend that Certificate. However, NYPA is including the following preliminary scoping statements pursuant to the April 2013 Commission Order in the event that the Commission determines that projects that require a certificate amendment should be treated as an “Article VII project”, or, alternatively, for purposes of background and supplemental information for the NYSPSC Review as a “non-Article VII project.”

### **EXHIBIT 3: ALTERNATIVES**

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In accordance with §86.4, this section of the amendment application will summarize the preliminary engineering study that identified and evaluated the proposed SC bank locations at the Marcy and Fraser Substations. The requested amendment to NYPA's existing Marcy South Article VII Certificate does not involve the construction of new transmission lines for which alternative routes would be required. MSSC will not involve the expansion of any existing right-of-way. The SC banks will be located on NYSEG & NYPA owned land.

### **EXHIBIT 4: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

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In accordance with §86.5, Exhibit 4 will present the results of various technical studies, including desktop and field studies, to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the installation of the Edic to Fraser (EF24-40) SC bank and the Marcy to Coopers Corners (UCC2-41) SC bank. This exhibit will be organized by resource area including: land use and development; water quality and aquatic resources; invasive species; freshwater wetlands; terrestrial resources; geology, soils, and groundwater; noise; visual resources; and cultural resources. The specific scope of the various technical studies and anticipated content of the Article VII Amendment Application are summarized in the following sections.

#### *Land Use and Development*

Land uses within a one-mile radius of the Marcy and Fraser Substations will be described to characterize the surrounding area. Data sources will include existing maps (United States Geological Survey [USGS] and New York State Department of Transportation [NYSDOT]), aerial photographs, and local planning documents. Sensitive land uses (i.e., residential) will be identified to assess certain potential impacts such as construction noise or visual impacts.

Local land use plans and ordinances will be obtained and reviewed, and the Project's compatibility with these plans and ordinances will be discussed. Regulations that are considered unduly restrictive and cannot be met will be identified and exemption from these requirements will be requested in the amendment application (see discussion of Exhibit 7).

#### *Water Quality and Aquatic Resources*

This section of the amendment application will identify any drainage areas that may be affected by the construction and operation of the proposed Project and will describe standard sedimentation and erosion control measures that will be incorporated into the site plan to minimize potential impacts. Site visits were

performed at the Fraser Substation on July 15, 2013 and at the Marcy Substation on July 16, 2013 to assess the presence of wetlands and surface waters near the proposed SC bank. A delineation of surface waters was conducted at the Fraser Substation on July 30, 2013 and at the Marcy Substation on July 31 through August 1, 2013. No surface waters were identified at the SC bank location proposed at the Fraser Substation. One unmapped drainage channel was delineated and characterized at the Marcy Substation. The results of the field investigation are presented in the Wetlands Delineation Report and will be provided with the MSSC Article VII Amendment Application.

Since construction of the Project will disturb more than one acre of soil, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“NYSDEC”) will likely require that construction activities obtain coverage under the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES), General Permit (GP) for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities (GP-0-10-001) and that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) be developed to prevent discharges of construction-related pollutants to surface waters. The Applicant will provide the NYSDEC with a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Notice of Termination (NOT) for this Project and indicate that all GP-0-10-001 and SWPPP-related requirements will be addressed.

#### *Freshwater Wetlands*

This section will classify wetlands at the proposed SC bank locations, identify potential impacts from construction and operation of the Project, and recommend mitigation measures, as required. A delineation of wetlands was conducted at the Fraser Substation on July 30, 2013 and at the Marcy Substation on July 31 through August 1, 2013. No wetlands were identified at the SC bank location proposed at the Fraser Substation. Three unmapped wetlands were delineated at the Marcy Substation. The results of the field investigation are presented in the Wetlands Delineation Report and will be provided with the MSSC Article VII Amendment Application.

#### *Invasive Species*

Proposed activities associated with the project will conform to the requirements of the Environmental Energy Alliance of New York (EEANYs), Best Management Practices (BMP) for Preventing the Transportation of Invasive Plant Species, dated 4/26/2012. The EEANY BMP was developed by representatives from the DPS, DEC and NY Transmission Owners.

#### *Terrestrial Resources*

Terrestrial resources at the proposed SC bank locations will be identified based on data gathered during on-site field investigations and supplemented by desktop studies. The total area and relative percentage of each community type will be quantified for presentation in the amendment application. NYPA will compile a list

of all mammals and birds identified in the Project area, as well as those expected to utilize the area based upon the types of habitats present. Common vegetation and wildlife species that would typically be found within the study area will also be identified and listed.

On behalf of NYPA, Tetra Tech submitted a letter request on July 23, 2013 to the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) for information regarding the presence of threatened or endangered species and unique or significant natural communities in the vicinity of the SC bank locations proposed at the Fraser and Marcy Substations. A response from the NYNHP dated July 31, 2013 stated that their database has no records of rare or state-listed animals or plants or significant natural communities at the Marcy and Fraser Substations or in their immediate vicinities.

#### *Geology, Soils, and Groundwater*

A description of the subsurface conditions at the proposed SC bank locations will be provided based on a review of existing documents (e.g., United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] Soil Conservation Service soil surveys and topographic maps). This overview will identify areas of steep slope, areas of potential shallow bedrock, and hydric soils that may indicate the presence of shallow groundwater or wetlands. Subsurface investigations (i.e., soil borings) and groundwater testing are typically not warranted for the preparation of an Article VII application, however, the results of geotechnical investigations will be provided, if available.

#### *Noise*

Noise impacts resulting from the proposed SC banks are expected to be limited to construction activities. These impacts will be short-term, limited to daytime hours, and conducted in accordance with local ordinances (unless considered unduly restrictive). Accordingly, potential noise impacts from construction will be addressed qualitatively, and no noise monitoring or modeling is anticipated to be necessary.

#### *Visual Resources*

NYPA will conduct a visual resource assessment to evaluate the potential visibility of the proposed Project and objectively determine the difference in the visual character of the landscape before and after the Project is complete (visual impact). The process will follow the NYSDEC Program Policy “Assessing and Mitigating Visual Impacts” (NYSDEC Visual Policy). Since the proposed SC banks will be installed at existing substations, significant incremental visual impact is not anticipated.

### *Cultural Resources*

NYPA will conduct a desktop review of information that is on file and currently available from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), which functions as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), to evaluate possible Project impacts to cultural resources. Information on inventoried archeological sites within one mile of each substation will be reviewed. Information will also be reviewed on historic architectural resources (buildings, structures, and other elements of the built environment) within three miles of the proposed facilities that are listed on or have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and its state equivalent. Field investigations will be conducted if the desktop review indicates the potential for significant Project impacts to these types of resources. OPRHP will be consulted, as necessary, to complete the amendment application.

### *Greenhouse Gases*

The normal operation of the series capacitor banks and the reconductored segment of the transmission line will not emit greenhouse gases. Additionally, measures will be taken to help minimize emissions during construction such as reduced idling time and properly maintained equipment.

### *EMF*

An analysis will be performed to assess the expected electric and magnetic field (EMF) effects as required by the New York State Public Service Commission. The results of the analysis will be included in the Part B filing.

### *Coastal Zone Consistency*

The SC banks proposed at the Marcy Substation and Fraser substation are not located within a coastal zone. Therefore, this requirement is not applicable.

## **EXHIBIT 6: ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF PROPOSED FACILITY**

In accordance with §86.7, Exhibit 6 of the amendment application will provide an overview of the demographic characteristics of the study areas and will identify the size and character of the required construction work force for the proposed facilities. Potential construction effects on the local economy will be presented in terms of the available construction work force, based on New York State Department of Labor data. This exhibit will also describe any potential secondary effects regarding induced changes in land use patterns.

## **EXHIBIT 7: LOCAL ORDINANCES**

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In accordance with §86.8, NYPA will review the local ordinances for the Town of Marcy (Marcy Substation) and the Town of Delhi (Fraser Substation) that are considered applicable or potentially applicable to the construction and operation of the proposed SC banks. NYPA will also identify the specific provisions for which waivers will be required and justify the need for a waiver to secure NYSPSC approval.

## **EXHIBIT 8: OTHER PENDING FILINGS**

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In accordance with §86.9, Exhibit 8 will identify any other regulatory approvals or permits that may be required outside of the Article VII process for the proposed Project. Anticipated permits and approvals include a NYSDEC SPDES permit for construction stormwater (i.e., General Permit for Stormwater Discharge from Construction Activities described in Exhibit 4, Water Quality and Aquatic Resources). This exhibit will only identify the potential need for any additional permits and approvals and would not include actual copies of any other permit applications.

## **EXHIBIT 9: COST OF PROPOSED FACILITY**

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In accordance with §86.10, this exhibit will present the capital cost estimate for the proposed Project. An explanation of the sources used for developing the cost estimates will also be provided. The breakdown of estimated capital costs will include land acquisition; materials and supplies; labor; construction; purchased equipment; other direct costs; contingencies; and administrative overhead (i.e., engineering costs, legal fees, etc.).

## **EXHIBIT E-1: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE**

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Reconductoring of the Fraser to Coopers Corners (FCC-33) 345 kV line is not included as part of the Article VII Amendment Application and, accordingly, this exhibit is not applicable to the proposed NYPA component of the MSSC project (§88.1)(Note: the proposed NYSEG Reconductoring is described in Section Two below). All facilities and components proposed as part of this Project will be described in Exhibit E-2.

## **EXHIBIT E-2: OTHER FACILITIES**

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In accordance with §88.2, Exhibit E-2 explains any proposed switching station or substation, including a description of the equipment to be installed. NYPA will describe the Edic to Fraser (EF24-40) SC bank which connects to the EF24-40 line at the Fraser Substation and Marcy to Coopers Corners (UCC2-41) SC bank which connects to the UCC2-41 line at the Marcy Substation of the amendment application.

### **EXHIBIT E-3: UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION**

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Underground construction is not proposed as part of this Project and, accordingly, this exhibit is not applicable to the proposed Project (§88.3).

### **EXHIBIT E-5: EFFECT ON COMMUNICATIONS**

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This Project is not anticipated to have an effect on communications and, accordingly, this exhibit is not applicable to the proposed Project (§88.4).

### **EXHIBIT E-6: EFFECT ON TRANSPORTATION**

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In accordance with §88.6, this exhibit will describe the anticipated effects of the proposed facilities on transportation systems. Impacts to transportation systems will be limited to short-term, insignificant impacts on local roadways during construction of the Project.

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