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3/11/2025 - Public Comment Hearing - 24-M-0433

STATE OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 24-M-0433 - In the Matter of the Rules and
Regulations for the Environmental Review, Permitting,
and Siting in this State of Major Renewable Energy
Facilities and Major Electric Transmission Facilities
Under the Renewable Action Through Project
Interconnection and Deployment Act. PUBLIC COMMENT

HEARING

DATE: MARCH 11, 2025
LOCATION: Webex
Web Conferencing
Albany, New York 12223
BEFORE: ALJ Christopher McEneney Chan

Reported by Vanessa Gonzalez

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2 My name is Christopher McEneney Chan. I'm an
3 Administrative Law Judge for the Department of Public
4 Service, Office of Renewable Energy Siting and
5 Electric Transmission -- also known as ORES -- and
6 the office of hearings.

7 And I'm responsible for presiding over
8 this public comment hearing to receive your comments
9 about proposed regulations by ORES pursuant to New
10 York State's recently enacted renewable action
11 through project interconnection and deployment RAPID
12 Act that implements a new siting program for how
13 permits are issued for renewable electric generation
14 facilities and electric transmission facilities that
15 bring electricity to New York's electrical grid for
16 distribution to you and other members of the public.

17 The new regulations include uniform
18 standards and conditions for the siting, design,
19 construction, and operation of major renewable energy
20 generation and electric transmission facilities.

21 The goal of the RAPID Act is to
22 simplify and accelerate the development of renewable
23 energy projects by addressing barriers in energy grid
24 infrastructure, particularly transmission
25 infrastructure.

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2 We are fortunate to have Commissioner
3 Radina Valova with us today. Commissioner Valova is
4 a member of the New York State Public Service
5 Commission.

6 Commissioner Valova, may I ask if
7 you'd like to address the participants today?

8 A.L.J. VALOVA: Yeah, thank you. I
9 have just a few quick thank you remarks. I
10 appreciate the opportunity to join you today for this
11 public statement hearing. I do want to thank all of
12 the participants today for taking the time out of
13 your afternoon to participate in this hearing.

14 I believe that public statement
15 hearings, like today's, are a very important part of
16 the regulatory process because they allow us at the
17 commission to hear directly from you on what your
18 thoughts and concerns are with the now act then.

19 Please note that I will be quiet
20 throughout the hearing as I am here first and
21 foremost to hear from you. Thank you again for
22 having me join.

23 A.L.J. CHAN: Thank you, Commissioner.

24 So this hearing and several other
25 statewide hearings were scheduled in two public

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2 notices, issued on December 18th, 2024, and January
3 14th, 2025. Those notices advised the public of the
4 possible adoption of proposed generation and
5 transmission setting regulations under 16-NYCRR parts
6 1100, 1101, and 1102, and have the opportunity to
7 comment on the regulations and on the draft generic
8 environmental impact statement underlined proposed
9 regulations, prepared pursuant to the State
10 environmental quality review act.

11 More importantly, the proposed
12 regulations require a permit applicant to provide
13 extensive information about an electric generation
14 project or transmission project which the Office of
15 Renewable Energy Siting will review in depth to
16 determine if the goal -- if the project is in the
17 public interest and consistent with New York's goals
18 to address climate change.

19 The information the applicant must
20 provide includes the project's location, size and
21 design, and most importantly, its potential impacts.
22 That includes the project's impacts on the community,
23 as well as its historic and archaeological resources,
24 wildlife, wetlands, and water resources, and
25 agricultural resources.

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2 Visual, noise, socioeconomic,
3 transportation, and communication impacts are also
4 examined along with public health, safety, and
5 security issues.

6 At this hearing, we're accepting
7 comments on the proposed generation and transmission,
8 permit regulations, and the draft generic
9 environmental impact statement. This environmental
10 impact statement supports the proposed regulations by
11 serving as a comprehensive assessment and evaluation
12 of any potential environmental impact associated with
13 implementing the new siting permit program under the
14 proposed regulations.

15 This hearing will provide you with an
16 opportunity to state your views and comments on these
17 proposed actions. Copies of the proposed new
18 regulations and the environmental impact statement
19 are available on the Department of Public Service
20 website at www.dps.ny.gov by searching case number
21 24-M-0433 in the commission files tab. That case
22 number is important if you want additional
23 information about the proposed regulations or our
24 work.

25 You may post your comment on the

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2 will do its best to give you answers. You may find
3 all the contact information on the ORES website.
4 Please note that your comments should be about the
5 proposed regulations or the environmental impact
6 statement and should not be about a particular
7 project.

8 I'll be calling on speakers in the
9 order in which you have registered. If you wish to
10 make a statement this afternoon and have not already
11 registered as a speaker, I will give you an
12 opportunity once the registered speakers have spoken
13 to raise your hand and speak.

14 Again, if you do not wish to make a
15 statement -- an oral statement today, you may submit
16 your written comments as I previously outlined. All
17 right. Also, if you're dialing in and you wish to
18 make a comment, please raise your hand by pressing
19 star three.

20 Our first speaker is James Doring.
21 Would you please unmute yourself and provide your
22 comment please? And make sure to spell -- state and
23 spell your last name -- and if you're representing
24 any organization.

25 MR. DORING: Hello. This is James

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2 Doring. And I'm representing the town of Preble in
3 Central New York. And I am speaking in regard to
4 wind turbines. We have a potential wind turbine
5 project for our area.

6 And many of these wind turbines
7 throughout the country are placed in flat lying areas
8 and deserts -- you know -- even off shore and in the
9 great plains. But we have a hilly area and they want
10 to put the wind turbines on top of the hills.

11 These hills are not always stable and
12 with the weight of these turbines and the torque of
13 the spinning propellers going around, we are
14 concerned about the stability of these hills in terms
15 of mudslides. There has been a mudslide in our area
16 in the 1990's.

17 And these -- these wind turbines,
18 there's -- there's two issues that people are
19 concerned about. One is -- one is that when the sun
20 sets or rises behind the turbine, the flicker of the
21 propellers going around, it tends to drive people a
22 little bit crazy.

23 The other thing is the swishing sound
24 that these turbines make. That tends to drive people
25 crazy if they're in the sound of -- distance of those

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2 swishing sounds. So those two things and of course
3 the unsightliness of the area.

4 Normally, these turbines are placed in
5 areas with low population density or no population,
6 but these are being placed in residential areas or
7 just above residential areas on top of hills.

8 So it is going to affect a lot of
9 people and we just don't think that this is the place
10 for wind turbines from Palmer Capital that -- who is
11 proposing this. So that is my announcement -- that's
12 my comment.

13 A.L.J. CHAN: Thank you very much for
14 your comment. Our next speaker is Christopher
15 Zublionis.

16 MS. VALOVA: I'm -- I'm so sorry.
17 Before we go on to the next speaker, may I ask Mr.
18 Doring, could you repeat the name of the town? I'm
19 sorry, I didn't catch that.

20 MR. DORING: Town of Preble --
21 P-R-E-B-L-E.

22 MS. VALOVA: Thank you very much. I
23 appreciate it.

24 MR. WHITE: Christopher, your line was
25 unmuted. Go ahead.

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2 MR. ZUBLIONIS: Hello. Thank you so
3 much. My name is Dr. Christopher Zublionis. That's
4 Z-U-B-L-I-O-N-I-S. And I am the superintendent of
5 schools for the North Shore Central School District
6 on Long Island. Thank you for the opportunity to
7 speak today on behalf of our school district, board
8 of education, and our school community who are all
9 deeply concerned about what the future holds for us
10 and our most precious natural resource -- our
11 children.

12 These are preliminary remarks based on
13 our current understanding and we do anticipate that
14 we will submit written comment as our understandings
15 and questions evolve. So thank you again.

16 Our schools and our school community
17 include over 200 -- 2,500 students, hundreds of staff
18 members, and approximately 15,000 residents. Our
19 community is already heavily populated with
20 electrical utility infrastructure. And our history,
21 health, education, and operations are directly tied
22 to existing and proposed utility development.

23 Despite the name of the RAPID Act and
24 all that its name implies, the school district
25 submits that the review of proposed major energy

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2 projects in the state and particularly on Long Island
3 and in our school community, must be slowed down.

4 In fact, numerous towns on Long Island
5 have proposed moratoriums on reviewing applications
6 for the construction of battery energy storage
7 facilities in order to fully understand the impacts
8 of these facilities upon particular locations.

9 We submit that there is no need for an
10 aggressive streamlined path geared towards approval
11 with expedited timelines that does not allow for
12 reasonable and necessary analysis.

13 This process needs to be careful and
14 deliberate in order to make a fully informed decision
15 and to understand any consequence of such a decision
16 before it is made so that efforts can be properly
17 made to mitigate any negative impacts associated with
18 the project.

19 Our children and our community is our
20 concern. Yet, as proposed, the rules and regulations
21 appear to create a strict timeline that if the Office
22 of Renewable Energy Siting and Electrical
23 Transmission does not need leads to automatic
24 approval and granting of a permit. This is very
25 concerning to the schools, to our students, and our

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2 families.

3 As a school district, we believe we
4 must stay informed about development and construction
5 proposed within our geographical boundaries that
6 could potentially impact our district, its
7 operations, the health and safety of our students,
8 staff, and school community as well as any financial
9 impact to the district and its taxpayers.

10 The North Shore Central School
11 District community has voiced concerns related to the
12 impact associated with major energy projects proposed
13 within our community to the district and to the board
14 of education, including projects that may very well
15 be subject to the RAPID Act and its streamlined
16 processes.

17 We share their concerns. And although
18 the district does not have permitting or zoning
19 authority, it has a vested interest in the health and
20 safety of our students, staff, and school community.
21 And of course, in maintaining our operations in a
22 safe and efficient manner to the benefit of our
23 students, school community, and taxpayers.

24 The North Shore Central School
25 District has a long history with dealing with major

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2 utilities sited in the geographical boundaries of the
3 district and the impacts associated with these
4 utilities.

5 Notably, the district has been host to
6 a power generation plant network and related
7 facilities for almost a century which has resulted in
8 significant impacts to our schools, operations, our
9 tax base, financial stability, and the school
10 community.

11 We know and have felt impacts like
12 this for many, many decades because we live here or
13 work here.

14 Currently, there are at least two
15 major energy projects that are being proposed to take
16 place in close proximity to the district's
17 transportation facilities, which is used for
18 maintenance, storage, and fueling of the district's
19 vehicles including those utilized for transportation
20 of the district's students.

21 And there's a substation located
22 immediately adjacent to the district's property that
23 is proposed as -- is a proposed site for new
24 construction and connections with multiple proposed
25 projects, posing serious health and safety concerns

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2 as well as operational concerns for the district.

3 Those two projects are the propel
4 transmission line project and the Jupiter power, also
5 known as oyster shore energy, battery storage
6 project.

7 Simply stated, this process should not
8 bypass local zoning laws. The health and safety of
9 our students and our school community must be
10 navigated at the local level. Our schools and our
11 residents provided with -- should be provided with
12 sufficient local venues to voice their concerns and
13 our local municipalities armed with knowledge of
14 local conditions. And community concerns should be
15 correctly empowered to adequately address these
16 significant issues.

17 The protections afforded the district
18 in its school community under these local zoning laws
19 should not be circumvented. As proposed, the rules
20 and regulations pursuant to the RAPID Act for
21 maintenance efficient and appear to be unclear in a
22 number of respects.

23 The district has a vested interest in
24 all the projects proposed to be located within its
25 boundaries and should receive proper and ample

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2 notice. And school districts, at the heart of local
3 communities, should be included in the list of
4 entities to receive service of the field application
5 under proposed section 110016 in any proceeding
6 conducted by ORES.

7 Notwithstanding, the district submits
8 that the immediate needs and impacts to the district
9 are better assessed by local jurisdictions. And so
10 we have several initial questions.

11 Will the State carefully and properly
12 analyze the cumulative impacts of multiple major
13 energy projects proposed in a densely populated
14 residential area? Will the State consider other
15 contributing factors such as new residential and
16 commercial development pending before local
17 jurisdictions?

18 Will the State consider the impact to
19 schools, school districts, their students, their
20 staff, their operations, and their finances? Will
21 the State help mitigate any of these impacts?

22 What recourse will the district or
23 local residents have if a major energy project is
24 approved simply by virtue of the amount of time that
25 is lapsed as opposed to a more thorough review or

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2 merits of the project?

3 And how will the State protect our
4 schools, our students, and our school communities?
5 Are there adequate measures in place to address these
6 local issues and concerns?

7 As it stands, we're unsure of the
8 answers to those questions and certainly don't expect
9 answers today, but that is where our thinking is.
10 Local zoning codes are created based on the unique
11 circumstances of each individual jurisdiction in
12 order to maintain and preserve the community at large
13 to allow proposed projects to bypass local
14 jurisdiction and enable the State to make decisions
15 regarding the review, siting, and design of major
16 energy projects that may have long lasting
17 consequences on our schools and school community,
18 essentially lenders, local jurisdictions, and zoning
19 laws and the reason for those zoning laws moot.

20 Verbal -- further, the formal
21 proceedings proposed at the state level will
22 undoubtedly have a chilling effect on the voices of
23 our many concerned citizens who otherwise are engaged
24 and freely able to participate at the local
25 jurisdiction level.

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2 We ask that local voices be heard by
3 local jurisdictions and make decisions about local
4 projects that will impact their local communities.
5 The State should not usurp the power of the local
6 government officials who directly interface with the
7 community and better understand the infrastructure
8 and the needs of their communities.

9 Please note that the concerns shared
10 today only reflect our preliminary assessment --

11 A.L.J. CHAN: Can you please summarize
12 the remaining of your comments now? It's just, we're
13 on a sort of a -- we want to give everyone a chance
14 and opportunity to speak. So if you wouldn't mind
15 summarizing the rest of your comments. And if you
16 have lengthier comments, feel free to submit them in
17 writing as we stated please.

18 MR. ZUBLIONIS: Thank you so much and
19 I appreciate the time. The district and its
20 representatives are reviewing all potential options
21 and, at the very least, are in the process of
22 preparing that written submission to more thoroughly
23 express our concerns by the deadline of April 18th.

24 Our district respectfully requested
25 all concerns be raised thoughtfully, considered, and

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2 that be taking to slow down this process and allow
3 for local oversight of projects. Thank you so much.

4 A.L.J. CHAN: Thank you. And there's
5 time at the end once everyone's spoken, if you'd like
6 to add anything to your comment, I'll try to give you
7 an opportunity at the end if there's time.

8 MR. ZUBLIONIS: Thank you.

9 A.L.J. CHAN: Our next speaker is Drew
10 Gamils.

11 MS. GAMILS: Thank you. Can you hear
12 me all right?

13 A.L.J. CHAN: Yes.

14 MS. GAMILS: Great. My name is Drew
15 Gamils. I am a senior attorney at Riverkeeper, an
16 environmental nonprofit dedicated to protecting and
17 restoring the Hudson River from source to sea.

18 Riverkeeper supports New York's
19 transition to renewable energy, recognizing its
20 benefits for both the environment and water
21 resources. However, we have serious concerns about
22 the proposed RAPID Act regulations and urge
23 substantial revisions to ensure these regulations are
24 workable, transparent, and environmentally
25 protective.

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2 I want to highlight three critical
3 areas of concern. First, public and local agency
4 involvement is severely constrained. The process for
5 the public to raise concerns about a project is
6 overly technical and confusing, creating unnecessary
7 barriers to participation. Given the significant
8 impact these projects can have on communities and
9 ecosystems, meaningful public engagement cannot be
10 sidelined.

11 Second, the regulations ignore state
12 agency expertise. For example, the regulations fail
13 to align with the ECU's recently adopted Wetland
14 Lineation Process Regulation under 6 NYCRR part 664
15 and make no reference to DEC's proposed regulations
16 on the threatened and endangered species mitigations
17 bond.

18 Instead, the RAPID Act regulations
19 create parallel conflicting frameworks undermining
20 environmental oversight and efforts by the DEC to
21 update its regulations and efforts by the public to
22 participate in these rulemaking efforts.

23 Finally, the draft regulations include
24 numerous typographical errors, internal
25 inconsistencies, and cross references to nonexistent

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2 and incorrect provisions. These issues make the
3 regulations very difficult to read, interpret, and
4 implement.

5 In addition, there are differences
6 between parts 1101 and 1102 that seem arbitrary,
7 unintentional, and unrelated to facilitate. These
8 mistakes and inconsistencies raise concerns about
9 whether the regulations were adequately reviewed and
10 give the appearance that ORES and DPS did not fully
11 consider the practical implications of these rules.

12 Before these regulations are
13 finalized, ORES and DPS must strengthen and refine
14 the regulations to ensure alignment with existing
15 environmental protections and create a process that
16 allows meaningful public participation.

17 We urge the agencies to carefully
18 review our forthcoming written comments and amend the
19 regulations accordingly. Thank you for the
20 opportunity to provide testimony.

21 A.L.J. CHAN: Thank you for your
22 comments.

23 Our next speaker is Gabrielle Corso.

24 MS. CORSO: Hi, how are you? And
25 thank you for letting me speak today. I implore that

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2 safeguard our biggest assets -- life, health, safety,
3 and property. And from this whole -- you know --
4 these projects, we've noticed that there's a lack of
5 transparency with the government and a lack of
6 communication from the State which is really been
7 appalling.

8 For example, I was the one that
9 notified safe and central School District on Long
10 Island of an impending large-scale lithium ion
11 battery energy storage center. So there has not been
12 enough to promote communication amongst the residents
13 that will be affected and impacted.

14 Of great concern with this specific
15 act, part 0 contained in the governor's article seven
16 revenue bill relating to the expedited siting of
17 major electric transmission facilities, the use of
18 imminent domain for said purposes and the
19 extinguishing of conservation easement in the rush to
20 approve projects is of great concern. Property
21 rights need to be respected.

22 Additionally, the requirement of a
23 single meeting with stakeholders is not enough as it
24 is their health and safety that is in jeopardy.
25 Ongoing dialogue and bidirectional feedback should be

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2 required as well as majority vote of the stakeholders
3 for any project to be approved. ORES should not issue
4 approval over the majority of the community
5 objections, as well as honoring all local laws and
6 zoning.

7 We need to learn from history and we
8 shouldn't repeat history. Do not allow New York
9 State to repeat the mistakes of California and rush
10 to approve renewable energy projects and high powered
11 transmission lines without fully understanding the
12 impact to the environment and the population.

13 I'm sure at the time of construction
14 for the Vistra facility in California, it was state
15 of the art construction -- state of the art
16 technology -- state of the art compliance. But we
17 all see what happened. This technology is still very
18 new.

19 The process for the approval needs to
20 be made more rigorous to ensure the residents of this
21 state's safety. You know -- another example where I
22 feel like the State rushed through a process was the
23 New York working groups report. I feel like it was
24 expedited, missed key information, actions, and
25 lacked substance.

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2 I do hope my comments today are more
3 impactive -- more impactful than my comments on
4 matter 23-E-0142. Thank you for giving me the time
5 to speak. Again, my name is Gabrielle Corso, and I'm
6 a Suffolk County resident.

7 A.L.J. CHAN: Thank you very much for
8 your comments.

9 Our next speaker is Tyler Stark.

10 MR. WHITE: Your line has been
11 unmuted. Go ahead please.

12 MR. STARK: I actually have no points
13 to comment at this time. I appreciate that though.
14 Thank you.

15 A.L.J. CHAN: Thank you very much.

16 Our next speaker is Katrina Kuh.

17 MS. KUH: Hello. My name is Katrina
18 Kuh, spelled K-U-H. I'm the Elisabeth Haub
19 distinguished professor environment law at the
20 Elisabeth Haub School of Law. And thank you for the
21 opportunity -- opportunity to be here.

22 I have a relatively small comment
23 about the regulations and I was going to suggest when
24 the -- in Exhibit 23, which focuses on environmental
25 justice, there's a requirement that applicants

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2 include or list a proportion of impacts and
3 disadvantage and in ruminal justice communities. I
4 was going to suggest that it -- that you consider
5 strengthening that and have a trigger such that if a
6 proportion of impacts and disadvantage communities
7 exceeds a certain level or percentage that there be
8 some mandatory additional scrutiny or requirements
9 imposed on the project.

10 And I'll -- I'll explain why which is
11 my concern here is that we're effectively cutting and
12 pasting the expedited review processes that were
13 adopted for renewable energy facilities to
14 transmission.

15 But to my mind, there are many things
16 about transmission that make it more attendant to
17 traditional locally undesirable land uses. And we
18 know from unfortunate experience that there are
19 really strong forces that drive locally undesirable
20 land uses to the least powerful, most disadvantaged
21 communities.

22 Let's go back a few years ago, I
23 contributed a chapter to a book adapting to high
24 level warming, law governed incident equity, and the
25 chapter was titled Performative Climate of Just --

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2 Performative Climate Justice -- and it critically
3 examines climate change laws in states from an
4 environmental justice perspective.

5 And in reviewing environmental justice
6 provisions of the accelerated renewable energy growth
7 and community benefit act of 2020, my chapter
8 explained that that law essentially took mandates
9 related to environmental justice from a statutory
10 requirement with judicial review available to a
11 highly discretionary regulation really difficult with
12 limits -- significant limits -- on judicial review.

13 And to quote -- I explained a lot of
14 reasons in the chapter why a sense -- you know -- for
15 a variety of reason, the large renewable energy
16 facilities likely -- I think there wasn't much
17 concern that there would be significant environmental
18 justice issues related to the location of those
19 facilities.

20 But I acknowledge in the book
21 chapter -- I talked about what some of the concerns
22 about that approach would be. And one is -- I
23 mention -- is a potential harm -- the possibility
24 that the same justice trade off approach would be
25 uncritically imported into other context, allowing

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2 for expedited siting without strong justice
3 protections for other more worrisome infrastructure.

4 There's a risk that New York might
5 adopt the same exemption approach to the siting of
6 the other climate infrastructure without fully
7 cognizing the justice implications of doing so even
8 if there's no real on the ground harm from the loss
9 of justice protections and the context of renewable
10 energy siting.

11 We should be very careful not to copy
12 and paste this exemptions style approach to other
13 context like the siting of transmission lines that
14 have greater -- potentially greater local -- local
15 impacts.

16 So I would just encourage some real
17 thoughtfulness about whether when we have something
18 like transmission that is more unambiguously locally
19 undesirable, we really should be importing the same
20 shortcuts with respect to environmental justice that
21 we've used elsewhere. Thank you.

22 A.L.J. CHAN: Thank you, Professor
23 Kuh.

24 I'm told the next caller -- the next
25 speaker will be calling in. So we'll -- speaker Ann

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2 Ruggles, please press star three on your phone to
3 raise your hand and you will be unmuted.

4 MR. WHITE: Your Honor, this is Joe.
5 I wasn't sure if she was calling in, but she is not.
6 She has not signed in through a computer -- I don't
7 think so -- but if you did, please hit the raised
8 hand on the bottom. If you call -- if you're signing
9 in from someone else's computer or if you called in,
10 you can hit star three and we'll see you.

11 Thank you, Your Honor.

12 A.L.J. CHAN: Thank you. Do we have
13 Ann Ruggles? All right. I'll go to the next
14 speaker. Our next speaker is Anita Dungey. If
15 they --

16 MR. WHITE: Same thing -- Your Honor,
17 I apologize. I didn't mean to interrupt you.

18 If she called in, she needs to hit
19 star three on her phone. Thank you.

20 A.L.J. CHAN: Thank you. Anita
21 Dungey, if you have called in, please press star
22 three on your phone to raise your hand and you will
23 be unmuted.

24 MR. WHITE: No raised hands, Your
25 Honor.

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2 A.L.J. CHAN: Thank you. Is there
3 anyone else on the call that hasn't registered to
4 speak that now would like to make a comment for the
5 record? Please raise your hand or if you're calling
6 in, press star three on your phone to raise your
7 hand.

8 MR. WHITE: I'm not seeing any raised
9 hands, Your Honor.

10 A.L.J. CHAN: Thank you very much.

11 All right. At this moment, I'd like
12 to give Superintendent Christopher Zublionis a moment
13 if you would like to follow up.

14 Are you still with us, Superintendent
15 Zublionis?

16 A.L.J. CHAN: Okay, so we have --

17 MR. WHITE: So Superintendent
18 Zublionis has been unmuted, but there is also someone
19 with a raised hand.

20 A.L.J. CHAN: All right. We'll let
21 Superintendent Zublionis, if you wanted to follow up
22 on your earlier comment, please do so at this time.

23 MR. ZUBLIONIS: I'm not --

24 MR. WHITE: You'll have to speak up.
25 We didn't hear what you said. I apologize.

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2 A.L.J. CHAN: All right. Maybe
3 Superintendent Zublionis is not there. All right.
4 So we'll go to the calling user, please. It's 914-
5 384 -- please state the name -- first and last and
6 spell your last name for the record please, and give
7 us your comment.

8 MS. FLORA: Hi. Well, it's Teresa
9 Flora -- F as in Frank, L-O-R-A. I just wanted to
10 voice my concern about the unlawful control. We're a
11 very small village located in West Suffolk County,
12 3.1 square miles with approximately 11,000 residents.
13 That's over 3,500 residents per square mile.

14 We have an all-volunteer fire source
15 who were on the record stating that they cannot
16 handle a best fire. So without local control over
17 our zoning codes, how are we going to protect
18 ourselves.

19 I don't have much more comment than
20 that, but I appreciate the other speakers who spoke
21 much more eloquently than I did. I say -- I wanted
22 to say I appreciate that information. It's very
23 helpful to me. And thank you for letting me speak.

24 A.L.J. CHAN: Of course. Thank you
25 for your comments.

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2 All right. At this time, I'd just
3 like to give one more chance to Superintendent
4 Christopher Zublionis just because I cut him off
5 earlier.

6 If you're with us you'd like to make a
7 comment, please let us know.

8 MR. WHITE: You can go ahead and raise
9 your hand, Superintendent, if you're still here. I
10 didn't see that he is here. So -- but I -- if you
11 have the raised hand feature on the bottom of the
12 computer or star three if you're calling in, we
13 can -- there you go.

14 Someone's calling in, Your Honor. Do
15 you want me to unmute them?

16 A.L.J. CHAN: Yes. Please unmute the
17 caller.

18 And caller, please state your name and
19 spell it and give us your comment, please.

20 MR. WHITE: Caller, you've been
21 unmuted. Go ahead.

22 A.L.J. CHAN: All right. I believe
23 all the speakers wishing to provide a statement have
24 been called. Please let the record reflect that
25 there are no more raised hands -- no more members of

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2 the public wishing to give comment at this time.

3 I want to remind anyone listening that
4 if you wish to make a comment about the regulations
5 or the draft environmental impact study, you may
6 submit your comments until April 18th, 2025. Thank
7 you all for your comments today and for
8 participating.

9 Thank you also, Commissioner, and
10 thank you to ORES staff, DPS staff, and the court
11 reporter. This hearing is adjourned. The time is
12 1:42 p.m. and we are off the record.

13 MS. VALOVA: Thank you very much.

14 THE COURT REPORTER: Off the record.
15 Thank you very much, Your Honor. Have a good day.

16 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you
17 everyone.

18 MR. WHITE: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 (The hearing concluded at 1:43 p.m.)

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2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 I, KRYSTAL PARRISH, do hereby certify that the
4 foregoing was reported by me, in the cause, at the
5 time and place, as stated in the caption hereto, at
6 Page 1 hereof; that the foregoing typewritten
7 transcription consisting of pages 1 through 37, is a
8 true record of all proceedings had at the hearing.

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
10 subscribed my name, this the 15th day of March, 2025.

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12 KRYSTAL PARRISH, Reporter

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