

News

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NEW 7-MILE 660-MEGAWATT HUDSON TRANSMISSION POWER LINE ENHANCING RELIABILITY AND ENERGY SECURITY IN NYC

New underground and underwater transmission line, connecting the grids of northern New Jersey and Manhattan, will also reduce electricity costs in NYC and improve fuel diversity

June 4, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK—A new seven-mile electric transmission line, from Bergen County, N.J., to the West Side of Manhattan, enabled by a purchase agreement with the New York Power Authority (NYPA), entered its second day of commercial operation on Tuesday, in advance of the heightened power demands of summer. The 345-kilovolt line, completed 42 days ahead of schedule, provides an additional conduit for transmitting lower cost electricity into New York City to reduce electricity bills for homes and businesses.

The underground and underwater transmission line was developed as a result of a Request for Proposals administered by NYPA to obtain additional electric resources to serve the New York City regional economy.

“The Hudson Transmission Project will provide enhanced transmission reliability and energy security and access to an additional pool of energy resources,” **said Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.** “The new line will also result in substantial economic savings to New York consumers. These are significant benefits that herald similar improvements on a broader scale from the New York Energy Highway initiative that my administration is spearheading to modernize and upgrade the statewide electric power system and improve its versatility and performance.”

The Hudson Transmission Project, which includes a four-mile submarine section across the Hudson River, has the capability of carrying 660 megawatts (MW) of electricity. NYPA has contracted for 75 percent of the line’s capacity—up to 495 MW of power—for a period of 20 years. (One megawatt is enough electricity to meet the power needs of 800 to 1,000 typical homes.)

Hudson Transmission Partners, which began construction of the \$850 million project in May 2011, undertook rigorous tests of the line over the last two months to prepare for it being placed into service.

“The commercial operation of the Hudson Transmission Project is a major electricity development for expanding access to a regional power system adjacent to New York,” **said Gil C. Quiniones, NYPA president and chief executive officer.** “The larger pool of lower cost power resources for New York City, as achieved by the new power line, is a prelude to the broader efforts under Governor Cuomo to upgrade and modernize the state’s aging energy infrastructure.”

Under the Governor’s leadership, New York State is pursuing a statewide public-private initiative known as the New York Energy Highway, which is expected to result in approximately \$5.7 billion in investments over the next five to 10 years. The comprehensive efforts, which are well under way, will provide as much as 3,200 MW of additional electric generation, including renewable power, and transmission capacity.

The Hudson Transmission Project connects the regional transmission organizations of the New York Independent System Operator and PJM Interconnection, which encompasses a 13-state area, including New Jersey, along with the District of Columbia. The new line extends from Public Service Electric and Gas Company’s Bergen Substation in Ridgefield, N.J., to the Con Edison West 49th Street Substation.

One of the challenging elements of the project was the installation of the submarine portion which called for a special cable installation vessel to bury three high-voltage cables below the Hudson River bottom at depths ranging from 10 to 15 feet. The line enters the river from Edgewater, N.J., and exits on the Manhattan side by 55th Street and the West Side Highway.

The new transmission line, which stems from a purchase agreement that NYPA reached with HTP following the Authority’s competitive solicitation for additional long-term supply of electricity capacity and energy for New York City, is designed with the latest High Voltage Direct Current technology for maximizing reliability and control in delivering power.

The project was extensively reviewed by federal, state and local government agencies, leading to the issuance of a number of permits. This included a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need from the New York State Public Service Commission and a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, whose jurisdiction included the Hudson River work.

Hudson Transmission Partners, the developer, owner and operator of the new line, is managed by PowerBridge LLC.

COMMENTS BY OTHERS

Garry A. Brown, Chairman, New York State Public Service Commission, said: “The new Hudson transmission line will provide a useful bulk transmission connection to the PJM region. It will help reduce electric system stress and enhance system reliability by providing additional sources of electricity supply. The ample benefits of this project correspond with the goals set by Governor Cuomo to upgrade the versatility and performance of the state’s electric power system to lower electric bills and improve reliability.”

Edward M. Stern, president and chief executive officer of PowerBridge, the parent company of Hudson Transmission Partners, said: “The Hudson Transmission Project is a great example of public and private interests working successfully in partnership to expand and modernize the nation’s electric system.”

Stephen G. Whitley, president and chief executive officer of the New York Independent System Operator: “The Hudson Transmission Project will contribute to the flexibility of New York State’s transmission system by making it possible to access additional amounts of lower cost power from the PJM Interconnection and its surplus capacity. The new line will facilitate a greater number of transactions between the two regional power grids, strengthening both systems and providing significant value to consumers.”

Ashok Gupta, Director of Programs and Senior Energy Economist at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said: "The Hudson Transmission Project creates an opportunity to expand access to clean renewable power, in addition to the reliability benefits resulting from a more integrated interstate electric power system."

John Gilbert, chairman of the New York Building Congress Energy Committee, said: “The new power line is good news for all New Yorkers and evidence of the progress being made under Governor Cuomo and Mayor Bloomberg to upgrade electricity infrastructure. Grid investments are a necessity for power reliability, which is essential to our economy.”

About NYPA:

The New York Power Authority uses no tax money or state credit. It finances its operations through the sale of bonds and revenues earned in large part through sales of electricity. ■ NYPA has been designated as the lead entity via Executive Order 88 by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo to form a central management and implementation plan to carry out his [Build Smart NY](#) plan to reduce energy use by state facilities by 20 percent by 2020. ■ NYPA is the nation's largest state public power organization, through the operation of its 16 generating facilities in various parts of New York State, participation in a unique public/private partnership to contract for power from a clean generating plant in Queens, and its operation of more than 1,400 circuit-miles of transmission lines. ■ More than 70 percent of the electricity NYPA produces is clean renewable hydropower. Its lower-cost power production and electricity purchases support hundreds of thousands of jobs throughout the state. ■ For more information visit www.nypa.gov or follow @NYPAenergy on Twitter.