

1 3/11/2025 - Public Comment Hearing - 24-M-0433

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

4 CASE 24-M-0433 - In the Matter of the Rules and  
5 Regulations for the Environmental Review, Permitting,  
6 and Siting in this State of Major Renewable Energy  
7 Facilities and Major Electric Transmission Facilities

8 Under the Renewable Action Through Project  
9 Interconnection and Deployment Act. PUBLIC COMMENT

10 HEARING

11 DATE: MARCH 11, 2025

12 LOCATION: Webex

13 Web Conferencing

14 Albany, New York 12223

15 BEFORE: ALJ Christopher McEneney Chan

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17 Reported by Vanessa Gonzalez

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2                   (The hearing commenced at 1:07 p.m.)

3                   THE COURT REPORTER: Testing --

4                   testing -- one, two, three. Testing -- one, two,  
5                   three. Mic check. Mic check. Today is March 11th,  
6                   2025. Mic check. Mic check. Great.

7                   A.L.J. CHAN: Fifteen now -- so  
8                   Administrative Law Judge Christopher McEneney Chan  
9                   presiding. Thank you for joining as we'll begin  
10                  shortly.

11                  THE COURT REPORTER: So yes --

12                  A.L.J. CHAN: All right, thank --  
13                  thank you.

14                  THE COURT REPORTER: Sure.

15                  A.L.J. CHAN: We are on the record. I  
16                  call case number 24-M-0433 in the matter of the rules  
17                  and regulations for the environmental review  
18                  permitting and siting in this state of major  
19                  renewable energy facilities and major electric  
20                  transmission facilities under the renewable action  
21                  through project interconnection and deployment act.

22                  The date is Tuesday, March 11th, 2025.  
23                  The time is 1:07 p.m. This hearing is being held via  
24                  Webex.

25                  Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome.

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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](http://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 O 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.

11

12          KRYSTAL PARRISH, Reporter

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