

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service  
Commission held in the City of  
Albany on December 18, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Rory M. Christian, Chair  
James S. Alesi  
David J. Valesky  
Uchenna S. Bright  
Denise M. Sheehan  
Radina R. Valova

CASE 22-T-0351 - Petition of New York Power Authority Relating  
to its Certificate of Environmental  
Compatibility and Public Need for the Y-49  
345kV Transmission Facility - Formerly Case  
70365.

ORDER APPROVING AMENDMENT TO THE CERTIFICATE  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED  
SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS.

(Issued and Effective December 22, 2025)

BY THE COMMISSION:

INTRODUCTION

On May 18, 1988, the New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) issued Opinion No. 88-14 in Case 70365, granting the Power Authority of the State of New York (NYPA) a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) pursuant to Public Service Law (PSL) Article VII. The Certificate authorized NYPA to construct the Y-49 Sound Cable Project (the Facility), an approximately twenty-six-mile, 345 kilovolt (kV) underground and submarine transmission cable connecting the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. 345 kV Sprain Brook Substation, located in Westchester County, to the Long Island Power Authority East Garden City Substation,

located in Nassau County (now known as the Uniondale Hub). The Certificate Conditions contain several requirements for compliance, including a requirement that the Certificate Holder submit for public review and Commission approval an Environmental Management and Construction Plan (EM&CP) detailing the Facility's design, construction, and environmental controls. The Commission approved the Facility's EM&CP on February 8, 1989.<sup>1</sup> NYPA placed the Project into service in 1990.

On April 18, 2025, NYPA filed a petition to amend the Certificate pursuant to Article VII of the PSL (Amendment Petition). NYPA submitted supplemental filings to the Amendment Petition on November 20, 2025. In the Amendment Petition, as supplemented, NYPA requests approval to amend its Certificate to permit the Uniondale Hub Substation Upgrade Project (Project), an expansion of the existing Uniondale Hub consisting of a new 345 kV gas-insulated<sup>2</sup> substation adjacent to the existing Uniondale Hub. The need for this Amendment is driven by the New York Independent System Operator, Inc. (NYISO) selecting the Uniondale Hub as an upgrade facility under the Long Island Public Policy Transmission Need (PPTN) solution.

Through this Order, the Commission approves the Amendment Petition, as supplemented, subject to conditions, as discussed below.

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<sup>1</sup> Case 70365, Order Approving Environmental Management and Construction Plan, Subject to Conditions (issued February 24, 1989) (EM&CP Order).

<sup>2</sup> "Gas insulated" refers to the use of sulfur hexafluoride to insulate substation equipment. Sulfur hexafluoride is used where space constraints limit the use of other technologies. Sulfur hexafluoride is regulated at 6 NYCRR Part 495.

AMENDMENT PETITION

On April 18, 2025, NYPA filed the Amendment Petition pursuant to PSL §§122(4). In the Amendment Petition, NYPA requests amendment to its existing Certificate to permit the expansion of the existing Uniondale Hub Substation through the construction and operation of a new 345 kV, 63 kiloampere (kA), 4000 ampere (A), gas-insulated substation fully enclosed in a building at 550 Stewart Avenue in the Village of Garden City. The proposed Project's location is a 5.3-acre impervious lot directly adjacent to the existing Uniondale Hub Substation located at 600 Stewart Avenue in the Town of Hempstead, as well as work within the footprint of the existing Uniondale Hub Substation. The Project includes a total acreage of 4.51 acres across two parcels, split by 2.76 acres in the adjacent undeveloped expansion parcel and 1.75 acres in the existing Uniondale Hub.

In addition to an explanation of the proposed project and Uniondale Hub Substation Upgrade Facility, in its Amendment Petition, the Certificate Holder provided exhibits describing environmental impact assessments including analyses on existing land uses, visual and noise impacts, cultural and historic resources, and potential impacts to soil, water, and terrestrial ecology, including threatened, endangered, and invasive species. The Certificate Holder also provided a summary of the need for the Project, anticipated electromagnetic field (EMF) impacts, a System Reliability Impact Study, and demonstrated consistency with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).

On November 20, 2025, NYPA supplemented the Amendment Petition to remove previously proposed spare equipment and provide an updated project layout depicting an approximate 20-foot structural shift in a westerly direction to accommodate

potential future cables. In its revised supplement, NYPA demonstrates that there are no changes to the Project's proposed limits-of-disturbance. NYPA provided updated visual resource, sound impact, and EMF assessments.

PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENTS

On April 10, and April 17, 2025, NYPA published notice of the proposed Amendment Petition in *Newsday*, a daily newspaper published in Melville, Suffolk County, and circulated in Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens Counties. On April 18, 2025, NYPA mailed a notice of the Amendment Petition to affected landowners as required by PSL §122. A Secretary's Notice Soliciting Comments was issued on May 12, 2025, and the comment period expired on June 3, 2025. No public comments were received regarding the Amendment Petition.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

Public Service Law §122(4) provides the "[a]n application for an amendment of a Certificate shall be in such form and contain such information as the Commission shall prescribe. Notice of such an application shall be given as set forth in subdivision two." In addition, under §123(2), "[o]n an Application for an amendment of a Certificate, the Commission shall hold a hearing in the same manner as a hearing is held on an Application for a Certificate if the change in the Facility to be authorized would result in any material increase in any environmental impact of the Facility or a substantial change in the location of all or a portion of such facility other than as provided in the alternates set forth in the application."

Under the CLCPA, State agencies must consider, in the context of issuing permits, licenses, administrative approvals, and orders, "whether such decisions are inconsistent with or

will interfere with the attainment of the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits" established by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation under the CLCPA.<sup>3</sup> If such administrative approvals or orders are found to be inconsistent or to interfere with those limits, agencies "shall provide a detailed statement of justification as to why such limits/criteria may not be met, and identify alternatives or greenhouse gas mitigation measures to be required where such project is located."<sup>4</sup> In addition, State agencies are to ensure that their orders will not "disproportionately burden disadvantaged communities."<sup>5</sup>

#### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The Amendment Petition seeks to expand the existing Uniondale Hub by constructing a new 345 kV, 63 kA, 4000 A, fully enclosed substation in a building at 550 Stewart Avenue in the Village of Garden City. The proposed project site is an existing, impervious lot owned by LIPA and NYPA. The Amendment Petition explains that the proposed Project is a NYISO-designated upgrade facility that is part of the Long Island PPTN solution and is, therefore, needed for the reliability and resiliency of the Long Island electric system. The Amendment Petition details expected impacts, including: land use; noise; visual, cultural, and historic resources; wetlands and waterbodies; and threatened and endangered species. Notably, because the Project consists of expanding an existing substation on an impervious lot in a highly developed area, expected impacts are minimal and mainly limited to those arising from

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<sup>3</sup> See CLCPA §7(2).

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> See CLCPA §7(3).

construction. Indeed, there are no expected impacts to: land use; visual, cultural, or historical resources; or wetlands and waterbodies. In short, the Project is needed and has minimal impacts.

The minimal impacts and location of the proposed Project indicate that the proposed Project does not entail a substantial change in the location of the Facility or involve any material increase in any environmental impact. Therefore, no hearing is required.

As part of the Project, NYPA proposes to install cables within the footprint of the existing Uniondale Hub. The existing Uniondale Hub is an environmental remediation site (site code 130120) subject to a Site Management Plan (SMP) and a conservation easement. The SMP and conservation easement manage or mitigate adverse environmental impacts arising from site contamination, including from construction on the site. Accordingly, consistent with applicable State law, NYPA shall conduct all construction activities within the footprint of the existing Uniondale Hub in a manner consistent with the SMP and the conservation easement. NYPA shall detail the construction activities' consistency with the SMP and the conservation easement in the EM&CP.

Approving the Amendment Petition is not inconsistent with CLCPA targets. The proposed Project involves the construction of a new substation and does not entail a new emissions source. Indeed, the proposed Project facilitates achievement of CLCPA renewable targets. The NYISO determined that the Project is an upgrade facility that is part of the Long Island PPTN solution, and thus it is needed to bolster the reliability and resiliency of the Long Island electric system. In addition to the reliability and resiliency benefits, the Project helps facilitate transmission of additional renewable

energy into and from Long Island. Therefore, the Project contributes to achieving CLCPA renewable targets.

Approving the Amendment Petition does not disproportionately burden Disadvantaged Communities. The Project location is not located in a Disadvantaged Community. Therefore, the Project does not disproportionately burden a Disadvantaged Community.

In conclusion, the Amendment Petition has demonstrated that the proposed Project is not expected to cause a significant increase in adverse environmental impacts. The Amendment Petition has also demonstrated that the Project is needed to provide reliability and resiliency benefits. Accordingly, the Amendment Petition is approved, with conditions, as discussed above.

The Commission orders:

1. The Power Authority of the State of New York's petition to amend the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, issued on May 18, 1988, is approved pursuant to Public Service Law §122(4), with conditions, as discussed in the body of this Order.

2. The Power Authority of the State of New York shall conduct all construction activities located within the footprint of the existing Uniondale Hub Substation located at 600 Stewart Avenue in the Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York consistent with the Site Management Plan and conservation easement for remediation site 130120.

3. The Power Authority of the State of New York shall detail in the Environmental Management & Construction Plan how all construction activities within the footprint of the existing Uniondale Hub Substation located at 600 Stewart Avenue in the Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York are consistent with

the Site Management Plan and conservation easement for remediation site 130120.

4. All other requirements of the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, as amended, and the approved Environmental Management and Construction Plan shall remain in effect.

5. In the Secretary's sole discretion, the deadlines set forth in this Order may be extended. Any request for an extension must be in writing, must include a justification for the extension, and must be filed at least three days prior to the affected deadline.

6. This proceeding is continued.

By the Commission,

(SIGNED)

MICHELLE L. PHILLIPS  
Secretary