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July 15, 2019

Mr. Frank J. Palermo
Supervisor
Town of Woodbury
615 Route 32
Highland Mills, NY 10930

Subject: NYPA Communications Backbone Execution Plan for Western to Central/Southern New York

Dear Mr. Palermo,

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) has developed a Communications Backbone Execution Plan (the Plan) to protect the security of its telecommunication systems. As currently conceived, the Plan will create robust statewide, multipath interconnections between NYPA's major facilities. Due to the statewide scope of the Plan, NYPA has classified it as a State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Type I Action. As such, pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 and 21 NYCRR Part 461, NYPA has completed the attached Part 1 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) and will conduct a Coordinated Review among the potential SEQRA Involved Agencies. As described in Part 1, NYPA is segmenting its review in a manner that is no less protective of the environment.

NYPA has identified your agency as a potential Involved or Interested Agency. If your agency exercises any discretionary authority over the proposed action, as described in the attachments, and you concur that NYPA should act as the Lead Agency, please sign below and return this form to AECOM within thirty days of the date of this letter. Please note that if no response is received within thirty days, it will be interpreted as having no interest in the choice of Lead Agency and no comments on the action at this time. If you are aware of any other agency under your jurisdiction that could have a discretionary permit or approval over the proposed action, please direct this letter to their attention.

NYPA has retained AECOM as its agent to assist it in completing the SEQRA process. If you wish to discuss this proposed project or have any questions, please call me at (716) 923-1325, gary.palumbo@aecom.com or Erika Cozza at (914) 287-3654, Erika.Cozza@nypa.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Palumbo

Gary Palumbo, Sr. Planner
AECOM

Enclosure – SEQRA FEAF Part I and Attachments

AECOM

We concur with NYPA being designated as SEQRA Lead Agency for the Communication Backbone Execution Plan.

_____
Signature / Date

_____
Name (Type or Print)

_____
Title

_____
Agency

Please specify involvement in project (discretionary action):

Please provide interests and concerns about the project:

Please return this page to:

Gary Palumbo, Senior Planner
AECOM
257 West Genesee Street
Buffalo, New York 14202-2657

or by e-mail at: gary.palumbo@aecom.com

Full Environmental Assessment Form
Part 1 - Project and Setting

Instructions for Completing Part 1

Part 1 is to be completed by the applicant or project sponsor. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification.

Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information; indicate whether missing information does not exist, or is not reasonably available to the sponsor; and, when possible, generally describe work or studies which would be necessary to update or fully develop that information.

Applicants/sponsors must complete all items in Sections A & B. In Sections C, D & E, most items contain an initial question that must be answered either "Yes" or "No". If the answer to the initial question is "Yes", complete the sub-questions that follow. If the answer to the initial question is "No", proceed to the next question. Section F allows the project sponsor to identify and attach any additional information. Section G requires the name and signature of the project sponsor to verify that the information contained in Part 1is accurate and complete.

A. Project and Sponsor Information.

Name of Action or Project: NYPA Communications Backbone Execution Plan: Western to Central/Southern New York		
Project Location (describe, and attach a general location map): Counties: See attached figures.		
Brief Description of Proposed Action (include purpose or need): To protect the security of its telecommunications in the future, the New York Power Authority (NYPA) has developed a Communications Backbone Execution Plan (the Plan). As conceived, the Plan will create statewide, multipath, and robust interconnections between NYPA's major facilities. As described in the attached narrative, this document assesses the scope of work for this segment of the Plan, which includes: (1) the installation of optical groundwire (OPGW) on the NATL transmission line from Niagara to Rochester, Rochester to Pannel, Pannel to Clay, and Clay to Edic, and OPGW will also be installed on the Marcy South transmission line from Utica to Coopers Corner, Coopers Corner to Dolson Ave, and Dolson Ave to Rock Tavern; (2) leasing fiber from the Thruway Authority connecting Niagara to Clark Energy Center (CEC), CEC to New Scotland, New Scotland to NYPA's White Plains Office, and Rock Tavern to WPO; and (3) a microwave link between James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant and CEC. Additional project information is available in NYPA's SEQR File.		
Name of Applicant/Sponsor: New York Power Authority, Patricia Meehan, VP Environmental, Health & Safety	Telephone: 914-287-3407 E-Mail: patricia.meehan@nypa.gov	
Address: 123 Main Street		
City/PO: White Plains	State: NY	Zip Code: 10601
Project Contact (if not same as sponsor; give name and title/role): Erika Cozza	Telephone: 914-287-3654 E-Mail: erika.cozza@nypa.gov	
Address: 123 Main Street		
City/PO: White Plains	State: NY	Zip Code: 10601
Property Owner (if not same as sponsor): The list of property owners is on file with NYPA.	Telephone: E-Mail:	
Address:		
City/PO:	State:	Zip Code:

B. Government Approvals

B. Government Approvals, Funding, or Sponsorship. ("Funding" includes grants, loans, tax relief, and any other forms of financial assistance.)

Government Entity	If Yes: Identify Agency and Approval(s) Required	Application Date (Actual or projected)
a. City Council, Town Board, or Village Board of Trustees ☐Yes☑No	See Narrative	
b. City, Town or Village Planning Board or Commission ☐Yes☑No	See Narrative	
c. City Council, Town or Village Zoning Board of Appeals ☐Yes☑No	See Narrative	
d. Other local agencies ☐Yes☑No	See Narrative	
e. County agencies ☐Yes☑No	See Narrative	
f. Regional agencies ☐Yes☑No	See Narrative	
g. State agencies ☑Yes☐No	See Narrative	
h. Federal agencies ☑Yes☐No	See Narrative	

i. Coastal Resources.

i. Is the project site within a Coastal Area, or the waterfront area of a Designated Inland Waterway? ☑Yes☐No

ii. Is the project site located in a community with an approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program? ☑Yes☐No

iii. Is the project site within a Coastal Erosion Hazard Area? ☐Yes☑No

C. Planning and Zoning

C.1. Planning and zoning actions.

Will administrative or legislative adoption, or amendment of a plan, local law, ordinance, rule or regulation be the only approval(s) which must be granted to enable the proposed action to proceed? ☐Yes☑No

- **If Yes,** complete sections C, F and G.
- **If No,** proceed to question C.2 and complete all remaining sections and questions in Part 1

C.2. Adopted land use plans.

a. Do any municipally- adopted (city, town, village or county) comprehensive land use plan(s) include the site where the proposed action would be located? ☑Yes☐No

If Yes, does the comprehensive plan include specific recommendations for the site where the proposed action would be located? ☐Yes☑No

b. Is the site of the proposed action within any local or regional special planning district (for example: Greenway Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA); designated State or Federal heritage area; watershed management plan; or other?) ☑Yes☐No

If Yes, identify the plan(s):

Maintained in NYPA SEQR file. Because most Plan activities will occur within existing NYPA transmission line ROWs or within NYSTA ROWs, both of which are established utility and transportation land uses, it is not anticipated that the Plan will be inconsistent with any local, or regional plans for special districts, watershed management, opens space, or farmland protection.

c. Is the proposed action located wholly or partially within an area listed in an adopted municipal open space plan, or an adopted municipal farmland protection plan? ☑Yes☐No

If Yes, identify the plan(s):

Maintained in NYPA SEQR file. Because most Plan activities will occur within existing NYPA transmission line ROWs or within NYSTA ROWs, both of which are established utility and transportation land uses, it is not anticipated that the Plan will be inconsistent with any local, or regional plans for special districts, watershed management, opens space, or farmland protection.

C.3. Zoning

a. Is the site of the proposed action located in a municipality with an adopted zoning law or ordinance. ☑ Yes ☐ No
If Yes, what is the zoning classification(s) including any applicable overlay district?
See Narrative.

b. Is the use permitted or allowed by a special or conditional use permit? ☐ Yes ☑ No

c. Is a zoning change requested as part of the proposed action? ☐ Yes ☑ No
If Yes,
i. What is the proposed new zoning for the site?

C.4. Existing community services.

a. In what school district is the project site located? Maintained in NYPA SEQR File

b. What police or other public protection forces serve the project site?
Maintained in NYPA SEQR File

c. Which fire protection and emergency medical services serve the project site?
Maintained in NYPA SEQR File

d. What parks serve the project site?
Maintained in NYPA SEQR File

D. Project Details

D.1. Proposed and Potential Development

a. What is the general nature of the proposed action (e.g., residential, industrial, commercial, recreational; if mixed, include all components)? Implementation of the NYPA Communications Backbone Execution Plan. See Narrative.

b. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action? SEQR file acres
b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed? SEQR file acres
c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor? SEQR file acres

c. Is the proposed action an expansion of an existing project or use? ☑ Yes ☐ No
i. If Yes, what is the approximate percentage of the proposed expansion and identify the units (e.g., acres, miles, housing units, square feet)? % NYPA SEQR file Units:

d. Is the proposed action a subdivision, or does it include a subdivision? ☐ Yes ☑ No
If Yes,
i. Purpose or type of subdivision? (e.g., residential, industrial, commercial; if mixed, specify types)

ii. Is a cluster/conservation layout proposed? ☐ Yes ☐ No
iii. Number of lots proposed?
iv. Minimum and maximum proposed lot sizes? Minimum Maximum

e. Will proposed action be constructed in multiple phases? ☑ Yes ☐ No
i. If No, anticipated period of construction: months
ii. If Yes:
- Total number of phases anticipated 3
- Anticipated commencement date of phase 1 (including demolition) 9 month 19 year
- Anticipated completion date of final phase 12 month 20 year
- Generally describe connections or relationships among phases, including any contingencies where progress of one phase may determine timing or duration of future phases:

The phases are not interdependent but are all required to achieve the overall program objective.

f. Does the project include new residential uses? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes, show numbers of units proposed.

	One Family	Two Family	Three Family	Multiple Family (four or more)
Initial Phase				
At completion of all phases				

g. Does the proposed action include new non-residential construction (including expansions)? ☑Yes ☐No

If Yes,

i. Total number of structures SeeNarrative

ii. Dimensions (in feet) of largest proposed structure: NA height; _____ width; and _____ length

iii. Approximate extent of building space to be heated or cooled: NA square feet

h. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that will result in the impoundment of any liquids, such as creation of a water supply, reservoir, pond, lake, waste lagoon or other storage? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes,

i. Purpose of the impoundment: _____

ii. If a water impoundment, the principal source of the water: ☐ Ground water ☐ Surface water streams ☐ Other specify:

iii. If other than water, identify the type of impounded/contained liquids and their source.

iv. Approximate size of the proposed impoundment. Volume: _____ million gallons; surface area: _____ acres

v. Dimensions of the proposed dam or impounding structure: _____ height; _____ length

vi. Construction method/materials for the proposed dam or impounding structure (e.g., earth fill, rock, wood, concrete):

D.2. Project Operations

a. Does the proposed action include any excavation, mining, or dredging, during construction, operations, or both? (Not including general site preparation, grading or installation of utilities or foundations where all excavated materials will remain onsite) ☑Yes ☐No

If Yes:

i. What is the purpose of the excavation or dredging? Trenching for lateral build outs of leased fiber.

ii. How much material (including rock, earth, sediments, etc.) is proposed to be removed from the site?

- Volume (specify tons or cubic yards): See Narrative.
- Over what duration of time? See Narrative

iii. Describe nature and characteristics of materials to be excavated or dredged, and plans to use, manage or dispose of them.

See Narrative.

iv. Will there be onsite dewatering or processing of excavated materials? ☐Yes ☑No

If yes, describe. _____

v. What is the total area to be dredged or excavated? See Narrative acres

vi. What is the maximum area to be worked at any one time? See Narrative acres

vii. What would be the maximum depth of excavation or dredging? See Narrative feet

viii. Will the excavation require blasting? ☐Yes ☑No

ix. Summarize site reclamation goals and plan:

See Narrative

b. Would the proposed action cause or result in alteration of, increase or decrease in size of, or encroachment into any existing wetland, waterbody, shoreline, beach or adjacent area? ☑Yes ☐No

If Yes:

i. Identify the wetland or waterbody which would be affected (by name, water index number, wetland map number or geographic description): Maintained in NYPA SEQR file.

ii. Describe how the proposed action would affect that waterbody or wetland, e.g. excavation, fill, placement of structures, or alteration of channels, banks and shorelines. Indicate extent of activities, alterations and additions in square feet or acres:

The proposed work will not result in any adverse environmental impact. Underground portions of the lateral build-outs may require trenching, cable plowing or directional drilling to bury cable, as well as minor construction approaching and within substations.

iii. Will proposed action cause or result in disturbance to bottom sediments? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes, describe: _____

iv. Will proposed action cause or result in the destruction or removal of aquatic vegetation? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes:

- acres of aquatic vegetation proposed to be removed: _____
- expected acreage of aquatic vegetation remaining after project completion: _____
- purpose of proposed removal (e.g. beach clearing, invasive species control, boat access): _____
- proposed method of plant removal: _____
- if chemical/herbicide treatment will be used, specify product(s): _____

v. Describe any proposed reclamation/mitigation following disturbance: _____

c. Will the proposed action use, or create a new demand for water? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes:

i. Total anticipated water usage/demand per day: _____ gallons/day

ii. Will the proposed action obtain water from an existing public water supply? ☐Yes ☐No

If Yes:

- Name of district or service area: _____
- Does the existing public water supply have capacity to serve the proposal? ☐Yes ☐No
- Is the project site in the existing district? ☐Yes ☐No
- Is expansion of the district needed? ☐Yes ☐No
- Do existing lines serve the project site? ☐Yes ☐No

iii. Will line extension within an existing district be necessary to supply the project? ☐Yes ☐No

If Yes:

- Describe extensions or capacity expansions proposed to serve this project: _____
- Source(s) of supply for the district: _____

iv. Is a new water supply district or service area proposed to be formed to serve the project site? ☐ Yes ☐No

If, Yes:

- Applicant/sponsor for new district: _____
- Date application submitted or anticipated: _____
- Proposed source(s) of supply for new district: _____

v. If a public water supply will not be used, describe plans to provide water supply for the project: _____

vi. If water supply will be from wells (public or private), maximum pumping capacity: _____ gallons/minute.

d. Will the proposed action generate liquid wastes? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes:

i. Total anticipated liquid waste generation per day: _____ gallons/day

ii. Nature of liquid wastes to be generated (e.g., sanitary wastewater, industrial; if combination, describe all components and approximate volumes or proportions of each): _____

iii. Will the proposed action use any existing public wastewater treatment facilities? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes:

- Name of wastewater treatment plant to be used: _____
- Name of district: _____
- Does the existing wastewater treatment plant have capacity to serve the project? ☐Yes ☐No
- Is the project site in the existing district? ☐Yes ☐No
- Is expansion of the district needed? ☐Yes ☐No

- Do existing sewer lines serve the project site? ☐Yes ☐No
- Will line extension within an existing district be necessary to serve the project? ☐Yes ☐No

  If Yes:
  - Describe extensions or capacity expansions proposed to serve this project: _____

iv. Will a new wastewater (sewage) treatment district be formed to serve the project site? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes:
- Applicant/sponsor for new district: _____
- Date application submitted or anticipated: _____
- What is the receiving water for the wastewater discharge? _____

v. If public facilities will not be used, describe plans to provide wastewater treatment for the project, including specifying proposed receiving water (name and classification if surface discharge, or describe subsurface disposal plans):

vi. Describe any plans or designs to capture, recycle or reuse liquid waste: _____

e. Will the proposed action disturb more than one acre and create stormwater runoff, either from new point sources (i.e. ditches, pipes, swales, curbs, gutters or other concentrated flows of stormwater) or non-point source (i.e. sheet flow) during construction or post construction? ☑Yes ☐No

If Yes:

i. How much impervious surface will the project create in relation to total size of project parcel?

_____ Square feet or _____ acres (impervious surface)

_____ Square feet or _____ acres (parcel size)

ii. Describe types of new point sources. See Narrative for i. and ii.

iii. Where will the stormwater runoff be directed (i.e. on-site stormwater management facility/structures, adjacent properties, groundwater, on-site surface water or off-site surface waters)?

Maintained in NYPA SEQR file

- If to surface waters, identify receiving water bodies or wetlands: Maintained in NYPA SEQR file
- Will stormwater runoff flow to adjacent properties? ☑Yes ☐No

iv. Does proposed plan minimize impervious surfaces, use pervious materials or collect and re-use stormwater? ☑Yes ☐No

f. Does the proposed action include, or will it use on-site, one or more sources of air emissions, including fuel combustion, waste incineration, or other processes or operations? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes, identify:

i. Mobile sources during project operations (e.g., heavy equipment, fleet or delivery vehicles)

ii. Stationary sources during construction (e.g., power generation, structural heating, batch plant, crushers)

iii. Stationary sources during operations (e.g., process emissions, large boilers, electric generation)

g. Will any air emission sources named in D.2.f (above), require a NY State Air Registration, Air Facility Permit, or Federal Clean Air Act Title IV or Title V Permit? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes:

i. Is the project site located in an Air quality non-attainment area? (Area routinely or periodically fails to meet ambient air quality standards for all or some parts of the year) ☐Yes ☐No

ii. In addition to emissions as calculated in the application, the project will generate:
- _____Tons/year (short tons) of Carbon Dioxide (CO_2)
- _____Tons/year (short tons) of Nitrous Oxide (N_2O)
- _____Tons/year (short tons) of Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)
- _____Tons/year (short tons) of Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF_6)
- _____Tons/year (short tons) of Carbon Dioxide equivalent of Hydroflourocarbons (HFCs)
- _____Tons/year (short tons) of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)

h. Will the proposed action generate or emit methane (including, but not limited to, sewage treatment plants, landfills, composting facilities)? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes:

i. Estimate methane generation in tons/year (metric): _____

ii. Describe any methane capture, control or elimination measures included in project design (e.g., combustion to generate heat or electricity, flaring): _____

i. Will the proposed action result in the release of air pollutants from open-air operations or processes, such as quarry or landfill operations? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes: Describe operations and nature of emissions (e.g., diesel exhaust, rock particulates/dust):

j. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels or generate substantial new demand for transportation facilities or services? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes:

i. When is the peak traffic expected (Check all that apply): ☐Morning ☐Evening ☐Weekend ☐Randomly between hours of _____ to _____.

ii. For commercial activities only, projected number of semi-trailer truck trips/day: _____

iii. Parking spaces: Existing _____ Proposed _____ Net increase/decrease _____

iv. Does the proposed action include any shared use parking? ☐Yes ☐No

v. If the proposed action includes any modification of existing roads, creation of new roads or change in existing access, describe:

vi. Are public/private transportation service(s) or facilities available within ½ mile of the proposed site? ☐Yes ☐No

vii Will the proposed action include access to public transportation or accommodations for use of hybrid, electric or other alternative fueled vehicles? ☐Yes ☐No

viii. Will the proposed action include plans for pedestrian or bicycle accommodations for connections to existing pedestrian or bicycle routes? ☐Yes ☐No

k. Will the proposed action (for commercial or industrial projects only) generate new or additional demand for energy? ☐Yes ☑No

If Yes:

i. Estimate annual electricity demand during operation of the proposed action: _____

ii. Anticipated sources/suppliers of electricity for the project (e.g., on-site combustion, on-site renewable, via grid/local utility, or other):

iii. Will the proposed action require a new, or an upgrade to, an existing substation? ☐Yes ☐No

l. Hours of operation. Answer all items which apply.

i. During Construction:

- Monday - Friday: 7am-7pm
- Saturday: 7am-7pm
- Sunday: 7am-7pm
- Holidays: N/A

ii. During Operations:

- Monday - Friday: 24 hours/day
- Saturday: 24 hours/day
- Sunday: 24 hours/day
- Holidays: 24 hours/day

m. Will the proposed action produce noise that will exceed existing ambient noise levels during construction, operation, or both? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If yes:

i. Provide details including sources, time of day and duration:

See Narrative.

ii. Will proposed action remove existing natural barriers that could act as a noise barrier or screen? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Describe:

n.. Will the proposed action have outdoor lighting? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If yes:

i. Describe source(s), location(s), height of fixture(s), direction/aim, and proximity to nearest occupied structures:

Temporary lighting during construction.

ii. Will proposed action remove existing natural barriers that could act as a light barrier or screen? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Describe:

o. Does the proposed action have the potential to produce odors for more than one hour per day? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, describe possible sources, potential frequency and duration of odor emissions, and proximity to nearest occupied structures:

Construction will produce temporary emissions.

p. Will the proposed action include any bulk storage of petroleum (combined capacity of over 1,100 gallons) or chemical products 185 gallons in above ground storage or any amount in underground storage? ☐ Yes ☑ No

If Yes:

i. Product(s) to be stored

ii. Volume(s) _____ per unit time _____ (e.g., month, year)

iii. Generally describe proposed storage facilities:

q. Will the proposed action (commercial, industrial and recreational projects only) use pesticides (i.e., herbicides, insecticides) during construction or operation? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

i. Describe proposed treatment(s):

Pesticides/herbicides may be used in accordance with applicable regulations and NYPA policies and procedures.

ii. Will the proposed action use Integrated Pest Management Practices? ☐ Yes ☑ No

r. Will the proposed action (commercial or industrial projects only) involve or require the management or disposal of solid waste (excluding hazardous materials)? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

i. Describe any solid waste(s) to be generated during construction or operation of the facility:

- Construction: Soils/C&D debris tons per TBD (unit of time)
- Operation : 0 tons per 0 (unit of time)

ii. Describe any proposals for on-site minimization, recycling or reuse of materials to avoid disposal as solid waste:

- Construction: Recycling of replaced metal groundwire. Trenching, cable plowing and/or directional drilling methods will minimize ground disturbance and reuse soil in place.
- Operation: N/A

iii. Proposed disposal methods/facilities for solid waste generated on-site:

- Construction: NYPA approved C&D debris disposal and/or recycling facility and management of soils under 6 NYCRR Part 360 and NYPA procedures.
- Operation: N/A

s. Does the proposed action include construction or modification of a solid waste management facility? ☐ Yes ☑ No

If Yes:

i. Type of management or handling of waste proposed for the site (e.g., recycling or transfer station, composting, landfill, or other disposal activities): _____

ii. Anticipated rate of disposal/processing:

- _____ Tons/month, if transfer or other non-combustion/thermal treatment, or
- _____ Tons/hour, if combustion or thermal treatment

iii. If landfill, anticipated site life: _____ years

t. Will proposed action at the site involve the commercial generation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste? ☐ Yes ☑ No

If Yes:

i. Name(s) of all hazardous wastes or constituents to be generated, handled or managed at facility: _____

ii. Generally describe processes or activities involving hazardous wastes or constituents: _____

iii. Specify amount to be handled or generated _____ tons/month

iv. Describe any proposals for on-site minimization, recycling or reuse of hazardous constituents: _____

v. Will any hazardous wastes be disposed at an existing offsite hazardous waste facility? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes: provide name and location of facility: _____

If No: describe proposed management of any hazardous wastes which will not be sent to a hazardous waste facility:

E. Site and Setting of Proposed Action

E.1. Land uses on and surrounding the project site

a. Existing land uses.

i. Check all uses that occur on, adjoining and near the project site.

☑ Urban ☑ Industrial ☑ Commercial ☑ Residential (suburban) ☑ Rural (non-farm)
☑ Forest ☑ Agriculture ☑ Aquatic ☐ Other (specify): _____

ii. If mix of uses, generally describe:

The proposed project will extend through areas of different approved land use.

b. Land uses and covertypes on the project site.

Land use or Covertype	Current Acreage	Acreage After Project Completion	Change (Acres +/-)
• Roads, buildings, and other paved or impervious surfaces	Maintained in NYPA SEQR File	Maintained in NYPA SEQR	0
• Forested	Maintained in NYPA SEQR File	Maintained in NYPA SEQR	0
• Meadows, grasslands or brushlands (non-agricultural, including abandoned agricultural)	Maintained in NYPA SEQR File	Maintained in NYPA SEQR	0
• Agricultural (includes active orchards, field, greenhouse etc.)	Maintained in NYPA SEQR File	Maintained in NYPA SEQR	0
• Surface water features (lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, etc.)	Maintained in NYPA SEQR File	Maintained in NYPA SEQR	0
• Wetlands (freshwater or tidal)	Maintained in NYPA SEQR File	Maintained in NYPA SEQR	0
• Non-vegetated (bare rock, earth or fill)	Maintained in NYPA SEQR File	Maintained in NYPA SEQR	0
• Other Describe: _____			

c. Is the project site presently used by members of the community for public recreation? ☐Yes☑No

i. If Yes: explain: _____

d. Are there any facilities serving children, the elderly, people with disabilities (e.g., schools, hospitals, licensed day care centers, or group homes) within 1500 feet of the project site? ☐Yes☑No

If Yes,

i. Identify Facilities:

_____

_____

e. Does the project site contain an existing dam? ☐Yes☑No

If Yes:

i. Dimensions of the dam and impoundment:

- Dam height: _____ feet
- Dam length: _____ feet
- Surface area: _____ acres
- Volume impounded: _____ gallons OR acre-feet

ii. Dam's existing hazard classification: _____

iii. Provide date and summarize results of last inspection:

_____

_____

f. Has the project site ever been used as a municipal, commercial or industrial solid waste management facility, or does the project site adjoin property which is now, or was at one time, used as a solid waste management facility? ☐Yes☑No

If Yes:

i. Has the facility been formally closed? ☐Yes☐ No

- If yes, cite sources/documentation: _____

ii. Describe the location of the project site relative to the boundaries of the solid waste management facility:

_____

_____

iii. Describe any development constraints due to the prior solid waste activities: _____

_____

g. Have hazardous wastes been generated, treated and/or disposed of at the site, or does the project site adjoin property which is now or was at one time used to commercially treat, store and/or dispose of hazardous waste? ☐Yes☑No

If Yes:

i. Describe waste(s) handled and waste management activities, including approximate time when activities occurred:

_____

_____

h. Potential contamination history. Has there been a reported spill at the proposed project site, or have any remedial actions been conducted at or adjacent to the proposed site? ☑Yes☐ No

If Yes:

i. Is any portion of the site listed on the NYSDEC Spills Incidents database or Environmental Site Remediation database? Check all that apply: ☐Yes☑No

☐ Yes – Spills Incidents database — Provide DEC ID number(s): ROW, past spills may have occurred.

☐ Yes – Environmental Site Remediation database — Provide DEC ID number(s): ROW, past spills may have occurred.

☐ Neither database

ii. If site has been subject of RCRA corrective activities, describe control measures: _____

NA

_____

iii. Is the project within 2000 feet of any site in the NYSDEC Environmental Site Remediation database? ☑Yes☐No

If yes, provide DEC ID number(s): Maintained in NYPA SEQR file.

iv. If yes to (i), (ii) or (iii) above, describe current status of site(s):

NYPA is unaware of any active spills within the project site. Maintenance activities within the ROW adhere to the terms and conditions of NYPA's DEC ROW General Maintenance Permit. NYPA will require compliance of its contractors with environmental easements and DEC directives.

v. Is the project site subject to an institutional control limiting property uses? ☐Yes ☑No

- If yes, DEC site ID number: _____
- Describe the type of institutional control (e.g., deed restriction or easement): _____
- Describe any use limitations: _____
- Describe any engineering controls: _____
- Will the project affect the institutional or engineering controls in place? ☐Yes ☑No
- Explain: _____

E.2. Natural Resources On or Near Project Site

a. What is the average depth to bedrock on the project site? Varies feet

b. Are there bedrock outcroppings on the project site? ☑Yes ☐No
If Yes, what proportion of the site is comprised of bedrock outcroppings? Varies %

c. Predominant soil type(s) present on project site: Varies by location. ____%
____%
____%

d. What is the average depth to the water table on the project site? Average: Varies feet

e. Drainage status of project site soils: ☑ Well Drained: NA % of site
☑ Moderately Well Drained: NA % of site
☑ Poorly Drained NA % of site

f. Approximate proportion of proposed action site with slopes: ☑ 0-10%: NA % of site
☑ 10-15%: NA % of site
☑ 15% or greater: NA % of site

g. Are there any unique geologic features on the project site? ☐Yes ☑No
If Yes, describe: _____

h. Surface water features.

i. Does any portion of the project site contain wetlands or other waterbodies (including streams, rivers, ponds or lakes)? ☑Yes ☐No

ii. Do any wetlands or other waterbodies adjoin the project site? ☑Yes ☐No

If Yes to either *i* or *ii*, continue. If No, skip to E.2.i.

iii. Are any of the wetlands or waterbodies within or adjoining the project site regulated by any federal, state or local agency? ☑Yes ☐No

iv. For each identified regulated wetland and waterbody on the project site, provide the following information:

- Streams: Name Maintained in NYPA's SEQR file Classification _____
- Lakes or Ponds: Name Maintained in NYPA's SEQR file Classification _____
- Wetlands: Name Maintained in NYPA's SEQR file Approximate Size _____
- Wetland No. (if regulated by DEC) Maintained in NYPA's SEQR file

v. Are any of the above water bodies listed in the most recent compilation of NYS water quality-impaired waterbodies? ☐Yes ☑No

If yes, name of impaired water body/bodies and basis for listing as impaired: _____

i. Is the project site in a designated Floodway? ☑Yes ☐No

j. Is the project site in the 100 year Floodplain? ☑Yes ☐No

k. Is the project site in the 500 year Floodplain? ☑Yes ☐No

l. Is the project site located over, or immediately adjoining, a primary, principal or sole source aquifer? ☑Yes ☐No
If Yes:

i. Name of aquifer: Maintained in NYPA's SEQR file

m. Identify the predominant wildlife species that occupy or use the project site:

common passerines	red tailed hawk	
rabbit	squirrel	
deer	fox	

n. Does the project site contain a designated significant natural community? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

i. Describe the habitat/community (composition, function, and basis for designation): See Narrative.

ii. Source(s) of description or evaluation: See Narrative

iii. Extent of community/habitat:

- Currently: NYPA SEQR file acres
- Following completion of project as proposed: NYPA SEQR file acres
- Gain or loss (indicate + or -): NYPA SEQR file acres

o. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal that is listed by the federal government or NYS as endangered or threatened, or does it contain any areas identified as habitat for an endangered or threatened species? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Maintained in NYPA's SEQR file

p. Does the project site contain any species of plant or animal that is listed by NYS as rare, or as a species of special concern? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Maintained in NYPA's SEQR file

q. Is the project site or adjoining area currently used for hunting, trapping, fishing or shell fishing? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If yes, give a brief description of how the proposed action may affect that use: Construction may temporarily affect permissible use activities.

E.3. Designated Public Resources On or Near Project Site

a. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in a designated agricultural district certified pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 303 and 304? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, provide county plus district name/number: See Narrative.

b. Are agricultural lands consisting of highly productive soils present? ☑ Yes ☐ No

i. If Yes: acreage(s) on project site? See Narrative

ii. Source(s) of soil rating(s): See Narrative

c. Does the project site contain all or part of, or is it substantially contiguous to, a registered National Natural Landmark? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

i. Nature of the natural landmark: ☐ Biological Community ☐ Geological Feature

ii. Provide brief description of landmark, including values behind designation and approximate size/extent: See Narrative.

d. Is the project site located in or does it adjoin a state listed Critical Environmental Area? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

i. CEA name: Maintained in NYPA SEQR file.

ii. Basis for designation: Maintained in NYPA SEQR file.

iii. Designating agency and date: Maintained in NYPA SEQR file.

e. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is listed on, or has been nominated by the NYS Board of Historic Preservation for inclusion on, the State or National Register of Historic Places? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

i. Nature of historic/archaeological resource: ☐ Archaeological Site ☐ Historic Building or District

ii. Name: _____

iii. Brief description of attributes on which listing is based:

See Narrative for i. and ii.

f. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in or adjacent to an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archaeological site inventory? ☑ Yes ☐ No

g. Have additional archaeological or historic site(s) or resources been identified on the project site? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

i. Describe possible resource(s): Maintained in NYPA SEQR file.

ii. Basis for identification: Maintained in NYPA SEQR file.

h. Is the project site within fives miles of any officially designated and publicly accessible federal, state, or local scenic or aesthetic resource? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

i. Identify resource: Maintained in NYPA SEQR file.

ii. Nature of, or basis for, designation (e.g., established highway overlook, state or local park, state historic trail or scenic byway, etc.): Maintained in NYPA SEQR file.

iii. Distance between project and resource: NYPA SEQR file miles.

i. Is the project site located within a designated river corridor under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Program 6 NYCRR 666? ☑ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

i. Identify the name of the river and its designation: Maintained in NYPA SEQR file.

ii. Is the activity consistent with development restrictions contained in 6NYCRR Part 666? ☐ Yes ☐ No

F. Additional Information

Attach any additional information which may be needed to clarify your project.

If you have identified any adverse impacts which could be associated with your proposal, please describe those impacts plus any measures which you propose to avoid or minimize them.

G. Verification

I certify that the information provided is true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant/Sponsor Name Patricia Meehan Date 7/10/19

Signature [signature] Title Vice President, Environment, Health and Safety

PRINT FORM

NYPA COMMUNICATIONS BACKBONE EXECUTION PLAN:
WESTERN TO CENTRAL/SOUTHERN NEW YORK
FULL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM
PART 1 – PROJECT AND SETTING

A. Project and Sponsor Information

Proposed Action: In accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the New York Power Authority (NYPA) plans to implement dedicated statewide, redundant communications systems between its facilities to enhance and protect its communications. These systems collectively comprise the "NYPA Communications Backbone Execution Plan" (the Plan). The systems will consist of microwave and fiber optic cable communications equipment and circuits. The proposed action will consist of:

- replacing existing ground wire with new optical ground wire (OPGW);
- leasing existing, unused fiber optic cable space with lateral buildout to NYPA facilities;
- installing microwave communications equipment; and
- undertaking any supporting activities, which may include:
    - reinforcing existing microwave and transmission towers;
    - installing equipment at other utilities' facilities to support NYPA's communications;
    - installing ancillary equipment, as needed;
    - creating laydown areas, cable-pull areas, and/or access roads, as needed; and
    - acquiring easements and/or purchasing land to support the Plan, as needed.

Figure 1 shows the NYPA facilities that the entire Plan (including previously reviewed segments) will connect and the respective pathways for microwave or fiber optic cable communications. Most Plan activities will be done within current NYPA transmission line right-of-ways (ROWs) or within the ROWs of individual service providers (such as those who are leasing fiber to NYPA). The proposed action will begin in September 2019 and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2020.

Some of the stated activities may occur in or near the Adirondack and Catskill Parks as well as the New York City Watershed. Activities will also occur in all nine Regions of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Lastly, some activity will take place at locations (e.g. transmission lines and substations) under the jurisdiction of the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC).

Implementation of the Plan will combine new construction and other activities that, on a stand-alone basis, would typically be considered maintenance and/or system upgrade activities. Under SEQRA, NYPA will assess the impacts of all the listed activities. These activities may affect:

- land, geological features, and open space and recreation;
- surface water and groundwater, including freshwater wetlands, flooding, and intermittent and ephemeral streams;
- air (emissions), noise, odor, and light, including transportation;
- agricultural, aesthetic, historic, and archeological resources;
- plants and animals, including rare, threatened and endangered (RTE) species, and critical environmental areas;
- human health, including waste management;
- energy; and
- community plans and character.

NYPA facilities under PSC jurisdiction operate as allowed under a PSC-approved Environmental Management and Construction Plan (EM&CP). NYPA has also acquired DEC Transmission Line Right-of-Way General Maintenance Permits (GMPs). NYPA's DEC Permit # 0-0000-01 153/00007 "General Permit for Routine Right-of-Way Maintenance Activities" (GMP, or NYPA GMP) allows it to conduct normal ROW maintenance activities within areas under DEC's jurisdiction in accordance with the permit conditions. Conducting the proposed activities under the established conditions of the EM&CP and GMP, as applicable, will help avoid, minimize, or mitigate the possible environmental effects of the proposed action and provide guidance to do likewise for any new (typically minor) construction. Where work is being performed on another entity's ROW, such entity will perform activities in accordance with its applicable or required permits.

For all disturbed areas, NYPA will employ best management practices, including standard erosion and sediment control practices in accordance with the New York Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control. Refueling of vehicles will take place in designated areas with sufficient controls and response equipment to minimize the likelihood of a spill to the environment.

Given the statewide geographic extent of the Plan, regional communication modalities, varying regulatory jurisdictions, and other considerations, segmentation is merited to ensure rigorous environmental review and timely implementation of the Plan. NYPA is considering each segment in a manner that is no less protective of the environment. To do so, NYPA is considering all aspects of the Plan as Type 1 actions, even where such segment would otherwise be an Unlisted or Type 2 action. Furthermore, in reviewing each segment, NYPA is considering

the synergistic or cumulative impacts of the totality of the proposed actions to implement the Plan.

NYPA began its environmental review of the Plan by assessing the OPGW system to interconnect NYPA's facilities in the Central New York (CNY) and Catskill regions as one segment (CNY Corridor segment). This work was limited to the removal of existing ground wire and the installation of OPGW on: (1) the GNS-1 line between Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project (BG) and New Scotland substation, (2) the GF-5 line between BG and Fraser substation, and (3) the UCC2-41 line from Fraser substation to Coopers Corners substation. The scope of the CNY OPGW work was based on the regional proximity and similar communication modality of the work, even with a multi-year implementation schedule. On August 17, 2017, NYPA issued a negative declaration for the CNY Corridor segment.

The second segment (Northern to CNY) of the Plan encompassed upgrading NYPA's analog microwave system to a digital microwave system from NYPA's Plattsburgh Substation to STL-FDR Power Dam, installing OPGW from Plattsburgh Substation to the Saranac Substation and Cumberland Head Transition Station, and leasing dark fiber from the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) from NYPA's Clark Energy Center to Adirondack Substation to STL-FDR Power Dam to the Plattsburgh Substation. On April 10, 2018, NYPA issued a negative declaration for the Northern to CNY segment.

This current environmental review concerns the third segment (Western to Central/Southern NY) of the Plan which encompasses installing OPGW and leasing fiber from the New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA). The scope of work for this segment includes:

- the installation of OPGW on the NATL line: Niagara to Rochester (NR2), Rochester to Pannel (RP2), Pannel to Clay (PC2), and Clay to Edic (CE2). OPGW will also be installed on the Marcy South line: Utica to Coopers Corner (UCC2-41), Coopers Corner to Dolson Ave (CCDA42), and Dolson Ave to Rock Tavern (DART44);
- NYPA will lease fiber from the NYSTA connecting Niagara to CEC, CEC to New Scotland, New Scotland to WPO. A second lease will connect Rock Tavern to WPO; and
- A microwave link between Fitzpatrick and CEC will be established. A contract for engineering, procurement and installation will be executed in 2020. The intermediate site(s) have not been determined.

The scope of this segment is based on the regional proximity and implementation schedule for the work, even with multiple communication modalities. These two factors provide the nexus for the environmental review as there may be synergistic impacts of the cumulative work performed. The remaining work to be performed as part of the statewide Plan, which NYPA hopes to

achieve over the next few years, will be considered in future environmental reviews based on consideration of those proposed projects' schedule, locality and modality.

The following describes each modality in this segment.

OPGW

NYPA plans to install OPGW from the Niagara Switchyard to the Rochester substation (NR2). From the Rochester substation to Pannel substation (RP2). Pannel substation to Clay Substation (PC2). Clay substation to Edic substation (CE2). The towers along these transmission lines are 345kV lattice towers and steel poles. The installation of OPGW will be conducted in accordance with NYPA's GMP.

OPGW is an optical fiber composite overhead ground wire. It is a cable used in overhead power lines that combines grounding and communications functions. The OPGW is run between the tops of high-voltage electricity pylons. OPGW cable contains a tubular structure with one or more optical fibers in it, surrounded by layers of steel and aluminum wire. The optical fibers within the cable are used for the high-speed transmission of the utility's data for high-speed communication between its sites. The conductive part of the cable serves to bond adjacent towers to the earth (grounding), which shields the high-voltage conductors from lightning strikes.

NYPA may use helicopters to run the OPGW between the pull sites. Helicopter transmission line installation and maintenance activities are a proven technique and are regularly employed by NYPA along its transmission system. Using helicopters would reduce possible ground disturbance within the ROW and minimize possible adverse environmental effects to land. Using helicopters to install the OPGW would cause local, short-term environmental effects, i.e., noise and visual impacts.

Leased Fiber

NYPA is contracting with the NYSTA to lease fiber, comprised of existing dedicated strands in NYSTA's fiber optic network and lateral build-outs to NYPA's facilities which will provide a dedicated communications network. NYSTA contractors will build-out to the end of their right of way (ROW). NYPA will connect to the NYSTA fiber at these points. This will establish a private and secure network connecting the following locations:

- Niagara Switchyard (NIA)
- Emergency Energy Control Center (E2C2)
- New Scotland Substation (NS)

- White Plains Office (WPO)

NYPA's interconnections to NYSTA's system are officially referred to as "lateral build-outs" (LBOs). Underground portions of the LBOs may require trenching, cable plowing and directional drilling to bury cable, as well as minor construction approaching and within the substations.

Microwave

NYPA will install new microwave systems from the Town of Scriba (James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Project) to the Town of Marcy (Clark Energy Center). This section is generally located along NYPA's non-Article VII transmission ROW and, therefore, is subject to SEQRA.

B. Government Approvals

NYPA and its agent AECOM will send the attached SEQRA Lead Agency Concurrence Letter, the completed Part 1 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form, and supporting documentation to all state and local entities that could potentially exercise discretion over the proposed action, as well as to agencies, groups, and individuals that may be interested in this activity.

This section identifies the governmental entities having jurisdiction over the implementation of the proposed action, organized as follows by modality: OPGW, leased fiber, and a microwave system. For each communication modality, this section describes the jurisdiction and responsibilities for acquiring necessary environmental permits, adhering to existing permits (such as the GMP), and collaborating with DPS where applicable.

OPGW

NYPA plans to install OPGW from Niagara to Albany along the I-90 corridor, and Albany to NYPA's White Plains Office (WPO) along the I-87 corridor. This portion of the work is subject to compliance with NYPA's GMP as those lines are not under the jurisdiction of the PSC. NYPA considers replacement of existing shield wire with OPGW to be a maintenance activity. For this segment, NYPA will ensure construction procedures and measures to protect the environment are compliant with the GMP.

Leased Fiber

NYPA is leasing fiber to interconnect its major facilities in Western to Central NY in a dedicated secure and private communication network. To make use of existing infrastructure and reduce potential environmental impacts, NYPA is contracting with NYSTA and its contractors to lease

its unused fiber optic cable capacity. NYSTA contracts with independent firms to manage its network, which will be built out to NYPA's facilities.

NYPA will work with NYSTA to ensure NYPA's environmental objectives for the project are met. NYSTA, working on behalf of NYPA, will be responsible for the preparation and submittal of all environmental permit applications, and any attendant plans and studies for all project activities outside of each substation's PSC-jurisdictional area. Within the jurisdictional area, NYPA will work with DPS staff to ensure environment objectives are met.

Microwave

NYPA will install new microwave systems from the Town of Scriba (James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Project) to the Town of Marcy (Clark Energy Center). This section is generally located along NYPA's non-Article VII transmission ROW; and, therefore, is subject to SEQRA. Should any portion of it be subject to PSC's jurisdiction under Article VII of the Public Service Law, it will be subject to the Environmental Management and Construction Plan (EM&CP) for that transmission ROW.

C. Planning and Zoning

1. Planning and Zoning Actions

Installing and use of digital microwave equipment and OPGW pull sites, do not require planning and zoning changes. NYSTA is providing leased fiber on existing poles and through existing conduits.

2. Adopted Land Use Plans

The proposed action will not require any new land use plans or changes to existing ones.

3. Zoning

The proposed action will not require any variances or changes to existing zoning.

4. Existing Community Services

The school districts, emergency services agencies, and parks that serve the communities located within the second segment are identified/maintained in NYPA's SEQR record and available upon request.

Other information supporting Section C ("Planning and Zoning") is also identified/ maintained in NYPA's SEQR record and available upon request.

D. Project Details

1. Overall Project and Prior SEQR

NYPA has developed a Communications Backbone Execution Plan (the Plan) to protect the security of its telecommunications into the future. The purpose and goal of the Plan is to deploy robust, secure, and scalable communications systems to:

- Replace NYPA's legacy point-to-point circuits that will inevitably need to be retired;
- Manage a host of intelligent end-point devices (IEPDs) deployed through the Smart Generation & Transmission (SG&T) initiative and the increased data flows from these devices and assets; and
- Provide multi-path communications backbone systems to enable the capabilities of the Asset Health Monitoring & Diagnostics Center (M&D), the Integrated Smart Operating Center (iSOC), NYPA Energy Control Center (ECC), and the additional imperatives associated with NYPA's larger strategic vision.

Each part will include one or more independent communication paths connecting NYPA's major transmission and generation facilities. When fully developed and implemented, the Plan will transition individual communication circuits inside the various NYPA facilities to the new multi-path communications systems.

NYPA evaluated the first segment of the Plan: the communications system interconnecting NYPA's facilities in the Catskill region, limited to installation of OPGW on the GF-5 line between BG and Fraser Annex substation, on a portion of the UCC2-41 line from Fraser Annex substation to Coopers Corners substation, and on the GNS-1 line between BG and New Scotland substation. There was no permanent disturbance along the NYPA Gilboa to New Scotland ROW section, which was completed in 2017.

For the second segment, NYPA evaluated the communications segment connecting its Clark Energy Center (CEC) to St. Lawrence – FDR Power Project (STL) and connecting its St. Lawrence – FDR Power Project to Plattsburgh Substation and other transmission facilities in the region, as follows:

- leasing of existing fiber from DANC, and lateral buildout to facilities in the region (CEC, Adirondack Substation, Massena Substation, STL dam facility, Massena Substation, Willis Substation, Ryan Substation, Patnode Substation, Duley Substation, and Plattsburgh Substation);
- upgrading the analog microwave system to digital (STL dam facility, Massena Substation, Willis Substation, Ryan Substation, Patnode Substation, Big Hill site, Duley Substation, and Plattsburgh Substation); and
- installing OPGW and ancillary equipment (including equipment racks and fiber patch Pannels and terminations) from Plattsburgh Substation to Cumberland Head Transition Station, and from Plattsburgh to Saranac (PS1).

2. Current Project under Review

The scope of work for this segment includes:

- the installation of OPGW on the NATL line: Niagara to Rochester (NR2), Rochester to Pannel (RP2), Pannel to Clay (PC2), and Clay to Edic (CE2). OPGW will also be installed on the Marcy South line: Utica to Coopers Corner (UCC2-41), Coopers Corner to Dolson Ave (CCDA42), and Dolson Ave to Rock Tavern (DART44);
- NYPA will lease fiber from the NYSTA connecting Niagara to CEC, CEC to New Scotland, New Scotland to WPO. A second lease will connect Rock Tavern to WPO; and
- A microwave link between Fitzpatrick and CEC will be established. A contract for engineering, procurement and installation will be executed in 2020. The intermediate site(s) have not been determined.

3. Potential Development

The Plan also includes potential communications systems connecting NYPA's facilities in its Southeast New York (SENY) region. Segment 4 consists of the SENY microwave project which will backhaul data from the Eugene W. Zeltman, Flynn, Brentwood and Small Clean Power Plants (SCPPs) to WPO. NYPA plans to install a new digital microwave system at the following NYPA and intermediate sites: East Garden City (600 Stewart Ave.), Brentwood, Flynn, Gowanus, Harlem River, Hellgate, Kent, Eugene W. Zeltmann, Pouch, Sprain Brook, and White Plains. This work is expected to be completed in the spring of 2020. These proposed projects will be considered in a future SEQR segment based on their proximity, schedule and modality.

E. Site and Setting of the Proposed Action

1. Land Uses On and Surrounding the Project Site

The following tables list the municipalities of the proposed third segment:

Central & Northern New York Communications Improvements
Affected Counties

Albany	Herkimer	Onondaga	Schenectady
Cayuga	Madison	Ontario	Seneca
Delaware	Monroe	Orange	Sullivan
Erie	Montgomery	Oswego	Ulster
Genesee	Niagara	Otsego	Wayne
Greene	Oneida	Rockland	Westchester

Central & Northern New York Communications Improvements
Affected Local Municipalities

Alabama	Elmsford (Village)	Liverpool (Village)	Princetown
Albany (City)	Esopus	Lloyd	Ramapo
Amboy	Exeter	Lockport	Ravena (Village)
Amherst	Farmington	Lyons	Richfield
Amsterdam (City)	Florence	Lysander	Riga
Annsville	Florida	Macedon	Rockland
Arcadia	Floyd	Mamakating	Root
Athens	Forestburgh	Manchester	Rose
Batavia	Fort Plain (Village)	Manlius	Rosendale
Bergen	Frankfort	Marcy	Rotterdam
Bethel	Franklin	Mendon	Royalton
Bethlehem	Fremont	Mentz	Salina
Brutus	Fultonville (Village)	Mexico	Saugerties
Buffalo (City)	Geddes	Middletown (City)	Schuyler
Burlington	German Flatts	Minden	Scriba
Butler	Glen	Montebello (Village)	Sloatsburg (Village)
Byron	Goshen	Montezuma	South Nyack (Village)
Callicoon	Grand Island	Monticello	Stafford

		(Village)	
Camden	Grand View-on-Hudson (Village)	Mount Hope	Suffern (Village)
Canajoharie (Town)	Greenburgh	New Baltimore	Sullivan
Canajoharie (Village)	Greenville	New Haven	Tarrytown (Village)
Canastota (Village)	Guilderland	New Lisbon	Thompson
Cato	Hamden	New Paltz	Tonawanda
Catskill	Hamptonburgh	New Windsor	Trenton
Cheektowaga	Hancock	Newburgh	Tuxedo
Chestnut Ridge (Village)	Harriman (Village)	Newstead	Tyre
Chili	Harrison (Town)	Niagara	Ulster
Cicero	Harrison (Village)	Niagara Falls (City)	Utica (City)
Clarence	Henrietta	Nyack (Village)	Van Buren
Clarkstown	Herkimer (Town)	Oakfield	Verona
Clay	Herkimer (Village)	Oneida (City)	Victor
Coeymans	Hillburn (Village)	Oneonta	Wallkill
Colchester	Junius	Orangetown	Wawayanda
Columbia	Kingston (City)	Otego	Western
Conquest	Lancaster	Palmyra	Westmoreland
Cornwall	Laurens	Parish	Wheatfield
Coxsackie	Le Roy	Pembroke	Wheatland
Danube	Lee	Pendleton	White Plains (City)
De Witt	Lenox	Perinton	Whitesboro (Village)
Deerfield	Lewiston	Phelps	Whitestown
Deerpark	Liberty	Pittsford	Williamsville (Village)
Delhi	Litchfield	Plattekill	Woodbury (Town)
Elba	Little Falls	Port Byron (Village)	Woodbury (Village)
Elbridge			

NYPA will adhere to the terms and conditions of its GMP, as applicable, during the construction and operation of this segment. Under the GMP, DEC authorizes typical transmission line maintenance work that occurs within its jurisdictional areas under the statutory authority of the following:

- New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Article 15, Title 5 – "Excavation and Fill in Navigable Waters";

- ECL Article 24 – "Freshwater Wetlands";
- ECL Article 15, Title 5 – "Stream Disturbance"; and
- United States Clean Water Act, Section 401 – "Water Quality Certification".

NYPA's GMP is valid from June 3, 2015 to June 3, 2020. NYPA will file an application with DEC to renew this permit, prior to its expiration date, to ensure authorized project continuity for any work that is performed within an area under DEC's jurisdiction and is therefore subject to the GMP. Operating under the GMP's conditions within DEC-jurisdictional areas will help NYPA to avoid, minimize, and mitigate possible environmental effects that may be caused by typical ROW maintenance work and related activities. Areas that may benefit from NYPA's adherence to its GMP include:

- freshwater wetlands and their adjacent areas;
- perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams;
- waste generation;
- traffic, noise, and light;
- cultural resources; and
- rare, threatened and endangered (RTE) species.

Attachment A to NYPA's GMP, entitled "Notification of General Permit Project" (NOI), requires NYPA to notify DEC at least 45 days prior to commencing any applicable work within a DEC-jurisdictional area. The GMP authorizes the following activities:

- Activity A: Vehicular and equipment crossings - stream, wetlands and wetland adjacent areas;
- Activity B: Maintenance of in-kind existing facilities - streams and wetlands and wetland adjacent areas;
- Activity C: Small excavations and fills - streambeds and wetland adjacent areas;
- Activity D: New minor construction to install new single family residential line service across a freshwater wetland, adjacent area, or stream; and
- Activity E: Vegetation management of the ROW, across streams, wetlands and wetland adjacent areas.

NYPA will submit the appropriate NOIs when work is conducted within a DEC-jurisdictional area. In accordance with the NOI, NYPA will describe any proposed activity not mentioned in the above listing in its submittal to DEC. Should DEC determine that a proposed activity is outside of the GMP's scope of authority, NYPA will file for the appropriate permit as directed by DEC.

Likewise, NYPA will file for any permit required by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Certain permits, if necessary, will only require NYPA to notify the Corps prior to beginning work.

Excess soils generated during project work not able to be reused on site will be minimal and will be taken to a certified, NYPA approved landfill. Information supporting Section D ("Project Details") is identified/maintained in NYPA's SEQR record and available upon request.

2. Natural Resources On or Near the Project Site

As described herein, the installation of digital microwave equipment, OPGW and buildouts of leased fiber under this segment is expected to be performed within existing ROWs. The majority of the anticipated OPGW construction activities are expected to be outside of any DEC-jurisdictional areas. However, for any OPGW ROW work that is conducted within a DEC-jurisdictional area, NYPA will adhere to the terms and conditions of its GMP and will file all appropriate NOIs and permit applications. NYSTA is responsible for the build out on their ROW. NYPA is contracting the build out to tie-in to the leased fiber. The contractor will be responsible for all permits and coordinating with any third-parties.

Designated Significant Communities, Rare Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern and their habitats will be identified using data from the DEC Natural Heritage Program.

NYPA will further discuss the proposed action's possible effects on Natural Resources and other areas of potential impact when completing FEAF Parts 2 and 3 and in its Determination of Significance.

Information supporting Section E.2 is identified/maintained in NYPA's SEQR record and available upon request.

3. Designated Public Resources On or Near the Project Site

As described herein, the installation of digital microwave equipment and OPGW under this segment is expected to be performed within existing ROWs. The digital microwave equipment and the majority of the anticipated OPGW construction activities are expected to be outside of any DEC-jurisdictional areas. However, for any OPGW ROW work that is conducted within a DEC-jurisdictional area, NYPA will adhere to the terms and conditions of its GMP and will file all appropriate NOIs and permit applications.

NYPA will consult with the New York State Historic Preservation Office once more engineering details become available. NYPA has determined that the replacement of the OPGW and the upgrading of the equipment on the existing microwave towers are maintenance activities that will have No Effect on resources listed in or nominated by the NYS Board of Historic Preservation for inclusion in the State or National Registers of Historic Places.

With regard to underground conduit and leased fiber, NYSTA is responsible for the build out on their ROW. NYPA is contracting the build out to tie-in to the leased fiber. The contractor will be responsible for consulting with the appropriate agencies and securing all necessary permits, approvals and authorizations. The contractor will also apply for all required agency approvals to minimize any potential delays with third-party pole owners or right-of-way providers.

NYPA will further discuss the proposed action's possible effects on Natural Resources and other areas of potential impact, if any, when completing FEAF Parts 2 and 3 and in its Determination of Significance.

Information supporting Section E.3 is identified/maintained in NYPA's SEQR record and available upon request.

F. Additional Information

NYPA's proposed Communications Backbone Execution Plan is singular and unique. NYPA has determined that it is both necessary and prudent to secure its multi-path communications systems. These robust, statewide, multi-path communications systems support NYPA's ability to operate all its facilities in a reliable and secure manner.

NYPA is taking the atypical step of segmenting its proposed action, confident that this segmentation is no less protective of the environment than the alternative of delaying review of completely engineered, statewide, multi-path communications systems consisting of distinct scopes of work, each having a character that is unrelated between regions in terms of potential impacts to the environment.

At this time, NYPA anticipates assessing the Plan in segments based on geographic, timeframe and/or functional (communications modality) characteristics. Over the course of its environmental reviews, this approach will enable NYPA to optimally address the unique aspects of the proposed multi-path statewide action that will use different technologies (i.e. microwave equipment, OPGW, and dark fiber), implementation schedules, and multiple requests for

proposals for potential partnerships with different public and private entities, utilities, and businesses, all while being mindful of the synergistic and cumulative impacts of the overall Plan.

Further information supporting this document is identified/maintained in NYPA's SEQR record and available upon request.

G. Attachments

The following figures show:

- **Figure 1:** NYPA Communications Backbone Execution Plan in its totality
- **Figure 2:** Map showing communications improvements in Western to Central/Southern NY (Segment 3);