

APPENDIX E – NORTH AMERICA TRANSMISSION PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

Unlike Article X of the Public Service Law or the implementing regulations of the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment, Article VII and its implementing regulations do not specifically require activities to engage the public in the transmission siting process.¹

Nonetheless, the Commission has noted that the Legislature, in the recently-enacted Article X, recognized the many benefits of pre-application consultations and that the new statute expressly provides for public outreach in advance of the submission of a formal generation siting application. The Commission noted that, while Article X does not apply to this transmission proceeding, its focus on early interaction with the public and affected communities is instructive and that Article VII reflects the same concerns for facilitating substantive public involvement in the transmission siting process.²

The Commission observed that early notice to affected communities is important to the design of a Project. The Commission strongly encouraged developers to engage with local governments in communities that may be impacted by their Projects before the October 1, 2013, Initial (Part A) Application date, so that the initial application materials reflect consideration of concerns raised by those parties.³

The North America Transmission team understands that transmission line siting must incorporate a broad range of criteria, such as public input, minimization of environmental impacts, technical design standards, and reasonable costs to ratepayers. That is why our first priority is to speak directly with residents and businesses to understand the concerns and preferences of these stakeholders. Well over three years ago, North America started meeting with community leaders in the counties associated with the proposed Edic to Fraser Project component. North America has continued these outreach efforts, and has met and exceeded the public notice requirements of the Public Service Commission for this project. Stakeholder engagement activities have included meetings with elected and appointed government officials, local economic development professionals, business associations, and other community leaders in both the Edic to Fraser and New Scotland to Leeds to Pleasant Valley transmission line areas. Their interests and concerns are reflected in North America's preliminary Project designs submitted in September 2013. Additional public outreach will be conducted to gain input relative to North America's amended application with NYS PSC, which offers alternatives to the original proposed transmission lines.

¹ Compare, Public Service Law Article X, §163.3 with Article VII, §122.2. Compare also 16 NYCRR §§1000.4 and 1000.5 with 16 NYCRR §§85-2.10 and 85-2.11.

² Order Establishing Procedures for Joint Review Under Article VII of the Public Service Law and Approving Rule Changes, April 22, 2013, at 8.

³ *Ibid* at 9.

North America will continue to work closely with the involved communities to further refine the preferred and alternate routes for both the Edic to Fraser and the New Scotland to Leeds to Pleasant Valley components of the Project.

North America understands that establishing trust is a crucial component of public engagement. Clear and substantiated data, responsiveness, accessibility, collaboration, and openness are all essential to building a trusted relationship. These are principles that have made LS Power affiliate companies the energy partner of choice in communities across North America. As demonstrated in North America's proactive approach to public involvement for this Project, North America's goal is to become a valued and contributing partner at the local, regional, and state level.

GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

North America's public involvement process is guided by our Company's values and principles regarding communication with partner organizations, communities, and individual stakeholders in all aspects of a project.

North America's Public Involvement Guiding Principles:

- Meaningful and relevant dialogue
- Emphasis on clear, understandable information
- Reliance on scientific and objective data
- Respect for the varying interests of the parties
- Recognition of both the similarities and distinctive characters of each community
- Commitment to providing the public with a clear context for discussion including Project details and goals
- Understanding that the process should allow for two-way communication in the form of face-to-face dialogue whenever possible

North America's Public Involvement Goals:

- Identify stakeholders related to each of the key aspects of the Project
- Establish awareness of the process and goals of the Project
- Communicate important Project milestones including application, permitting, and construction phases and related stakeholder feedback
- Gather information on how well the Project approach aligns with local needs and interests
- Communicate the benefits of the Project
- Provide easy access to information and mechanisms for public feedback
- Create opportunities for two-way community dialogue
- Document public participation and input
- Measure effectiveness of communication and feedback efforts

2. NORTH AMERICA PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

North America has conducted a comprehensive stakeholder analysis and will continue to build and refine stakeholder audiences as the Project progresses. North America began with a preliminary list based on familiarity with communities in the 16 municipalities along the

proposed Edic to Fraser line and the 14 municipalities along the New Scotland to Leeds to Pleasant Valley line. This effort will be expanded to an additional 13 municipalities that are integral to two alternative routes defined in this amended application.

To ensure an inclusive process, North America’s goal has been to identify parties across the proposed transmission line territories. We continue to expand our contact network through suggestions from opinion leaders and by continuous content analysis of print and broadcast news articles and continue to incorporate stakeholder input and have continuously incorporated stakeholder values. Once such example of North America’s incorporation of stakeholder input is providing access, to Internet Service Providers, to the unused fiber optic wires in the OPGW, used for equipment communication, connected to the transmission towers and the availability to mount antennas on the transmission towers. This process has enabled North America to identify many stakeholder interests early on, and to be proactive in creating alternatives and community benefits that are both effective and more preferred to stakeholders in the project. Our analysis also has informed our communication activities, enabling us to anticipate and be sensitive to areas of concern.

2.1 PROJECT AREA COMMUNITIES

The communities in the Project regions are diverse, representing a rural and agricultural history as well as established and growing commercial and industrial centers. The regions’ towns and villages are the centers of the rural communities.

The Edic to Fraser Transmission Line will traverse four counties and the following 16 municipalities. Also see Figure 2-1.

Oneida County

- Town of Marcy
- Town of Deerfield

Herkimer County

- Town of Schuyler
- Town of Frankfort
- Town of Litchfield
- Town of Columbia

Otsego County

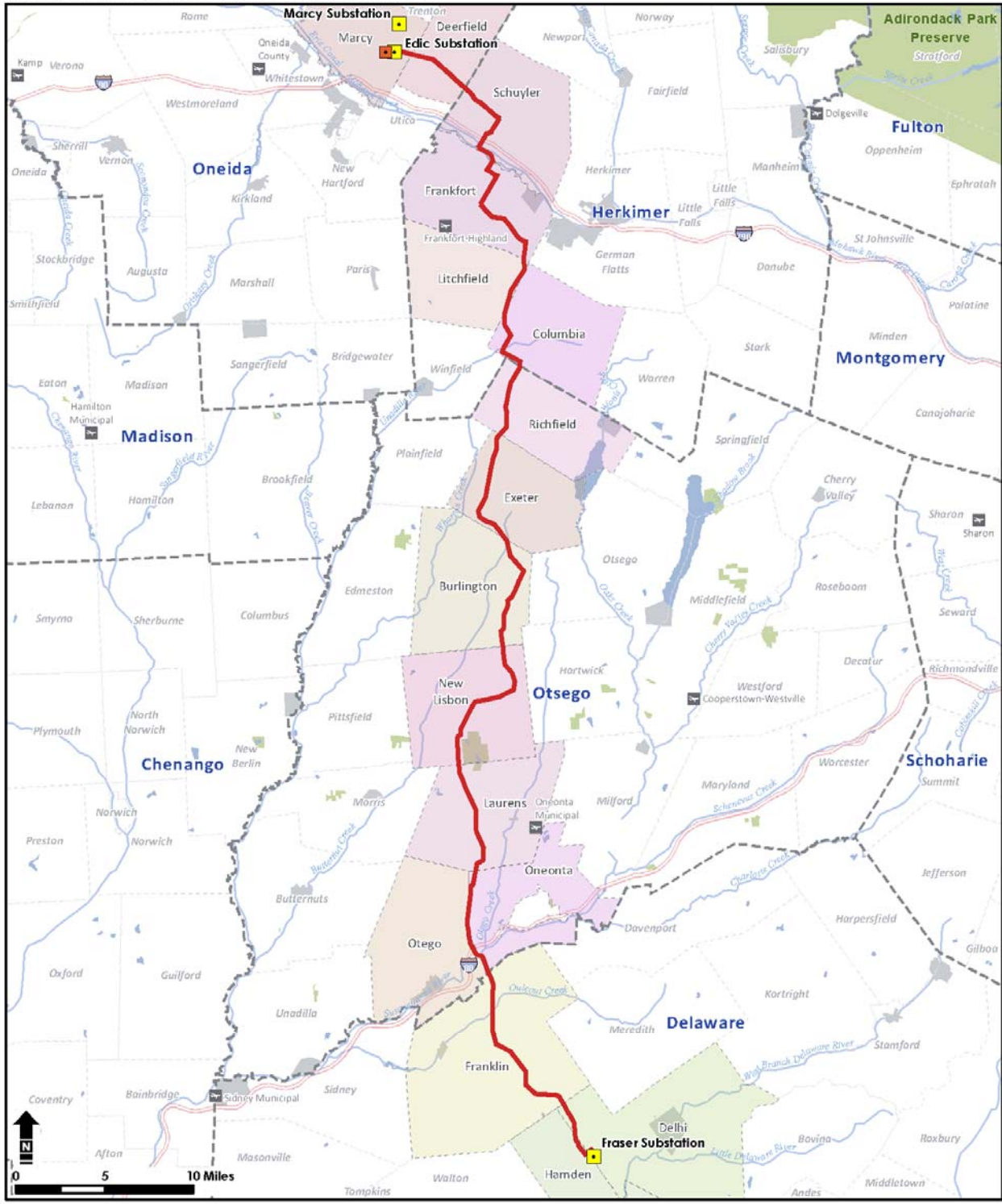
- Town of Richfield
- Town of Exeter
- Town of Burlington
- Town of New Lisbon
- Town of Laurens
- Town of Oneonta
- Town of Otego

Delaware County

- Town of Franklin
- Town of Delhi
- Town of Hamden

Figure 2-1. Edic to Fraser Transmission Line

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- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Proposed Route
- Substation
- Proposed Series Compensation Station
- Airport

Edic to Fraser Proposed Route
 North America Transmission
 Delaware, Herkimer, Oneida,
 and Otsego Counties, New York

Data Sources: ESRI 2010, ESRI 2012, North America
 Transmission 2014, NYS GIS Program Office 2013.

The New Scotland to Leeds to Pleasant Valley Transmission Line will traverse four counties and the following 14 municipalities. Also see Figure 2-2.

Albany County

- Town of New Scotland
- Town of Bethlehem
- Town of Coeymans

Greene County

- Town of New Baltimore
- Town of Coxsackie
- Town of Athens
- Village of Athens

Columbia County

- Town of Greenport
- Town of Livingston
- Town of Clermont

Dutchess County

- Town of Milan
- Town of Clinton
- Town of Hyde Park
- Town of Pleasant Valley

The New Scotland to Leeds to Pleasant Valley Alternative 1 Transmission Line will traverse 4 counties and the following 16 municipalities. Also see Figure 2.2

Albany County

- Town of New Scotland
- Town of Bethlehem
- Town of Coeymans

Greene County

- Town of New Baltimore
- Town of Coxsackie
- Town of Athens
- Town of Catskill

Ulster County

- Town of Saugerties
- Town of Ulster
- Town of Kingston
- Town of Rosendale
- Town of Esopus
- Town of New Paltz
- Town of Lloyd

Dutchess County

- Town of Hyde Park

- Town of Pleasant Valley

The New Scotland to Leeds to Pleasant Valley Alternative 2 Transmission Line will traverse 4 counties and the following 13 municipalities. Also see Figure 2.2

Albany County

- Town of New Scotland
- Town of Bethlehem

Rensselaer County

- Town of Schodack

Columbia County

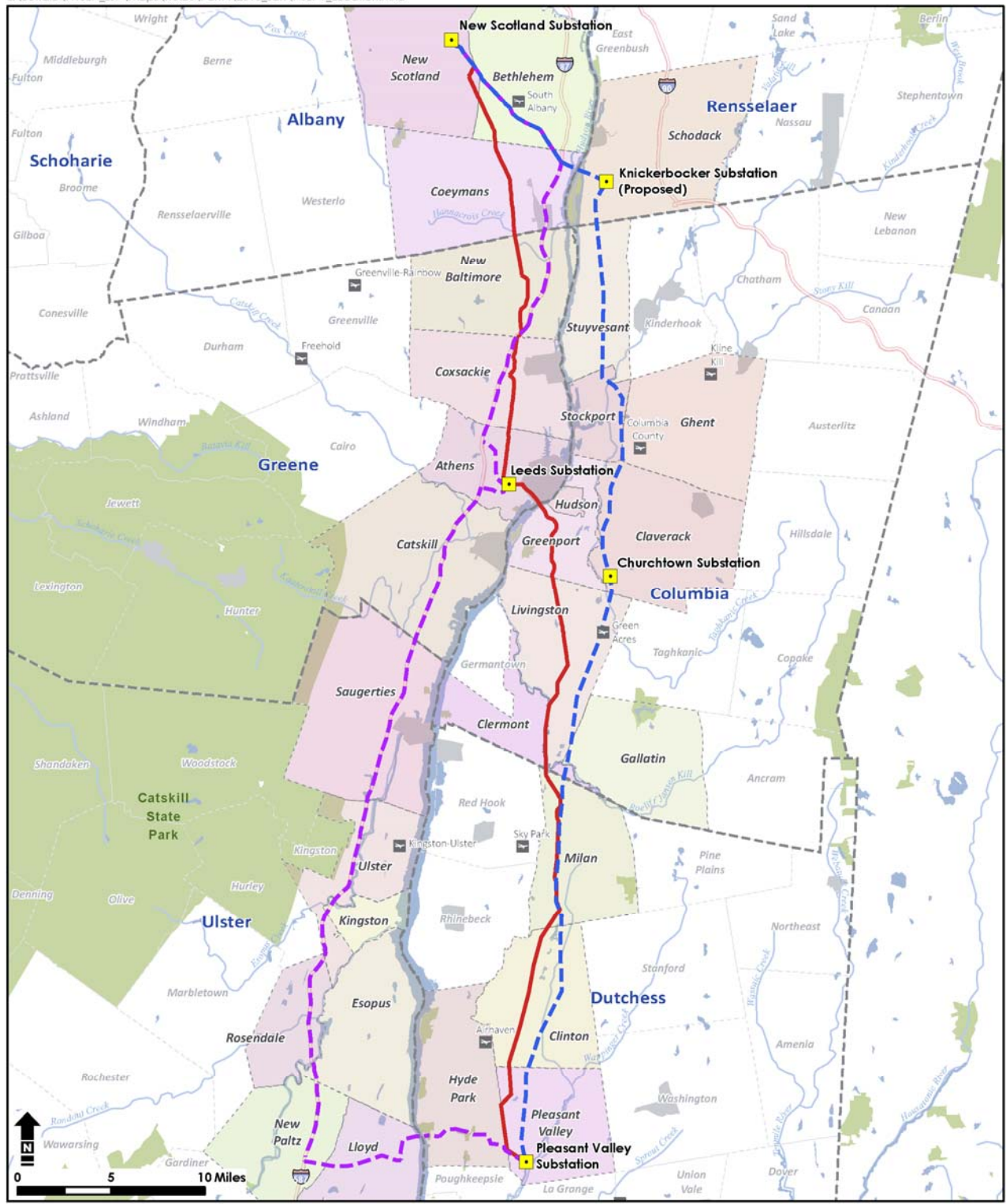
- Town of Stuyvesant
- Town of Stockport
- Town of Ghent
- Town of Claverack
- Town of Livingston
- Town of Gallatin
- Town of Clermont

Dutchess County

- Town of Milan
- Town of Clinton
- Town of Pleasant Valley

Figure 2-2. New Scotland to Leeds to Pleasant Valley Transmission Line and Alternative Routes

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- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- ✈ Airport
- Substation
- Proposed Route
- - - Alternative 1 (I-87 ROW)
- - - Alternative 2 (115-KV ROW)

New Scotland to Leeds to Pleasant Valley Proposed Route

North America Transmission
 Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene,
 Rensselaer, and Ulster Counties, New York

Data Sources: ESRI 2010, ESRI 2012, North America Transmission 2014, NYS GIS Program Office 2013.

2.2 Stakeholder Representation

North America defines stakeholders as individuals, groups, businesses, agencies, and community organizations that can help inform the planning process. North America believes that a robust exchange of information enables the Company to better understand community interests, and in turn develop the most cost effective and acceptable solutions possible. North America's experienced community outreach team is trained in all aspects of stakeholder engagement including issue identification and issue management, facilitation, consensus-building, collaborative group processes, conflict management, cross-cutting analysis, interest-based problem solving, and vision building.

Stakeholders include but are not limited to:

- Residents and businesses in the immediate Project areas, defined as those residing/doing business in the geographic areas in which the proposed transmission lines will traverse
- State agencies with Project-related technical expertise
- State and local elected representatives with related policymaking responsibilities and whose constituents reside and do business in the geographic areas in which the proposed transmission lines will traverse
- Economic development organizations in Project areas
- Local community-based organizations including community service, education, environmental, tourism/recreation, and other interest-based groups
- Media
- Other interested parties that emerge in the course of community dialogues and Project inquiries

3. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN ACTIVITIES

North America's Public Involvement Plan emphasizes access to information and community engagement as primary elements of a successful strategy. North America is particularly alert to addressing barriers to participation, real or perceived, which may be caused by a variety of factors. The North America approach begins with clarifying goals and process, and providing a clear explanation of technical issues. Trained facilitators and subject matter experts are available throughout the process.

3.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Initial engagement has focused on providing current Project status information, overall Project benefits, timeline for permitting and construction, and process for public involvement. North America's goal has been to gather input that could help inform Project design and identify issues of community interest. Following is a sampling of meetings North America has conducted over the past two plus years. These small-group, face-to-face meetings have been highly informative. North America is continuing the dialogue through phone and email communication and in many cases has made follow-up visits to deliver additional Project information and keep communities leaders informed of the process.

Meeting/Outreach Schedule:

- 09/18/12 Robert Hallman (Secretary of Energy)
Thomas Congdon (Deputy Secretary of Energy)
- 12/18/12 Joseph A. Griffo (Senator, District 47)
Steven DiMeo (President, Mohawk Valley EDGE)
Anthony J. Picente, Jr. (Oneida County Executive), accompanied by Oneida
County Attorney Gregory Amoroso, Esq.
- 12/19/12 Claudia Tenney (Assemblymember, District 101)
- 01/14/13 William Magee (Assemblymember, District 121)
James Seward (Senator, District 51)
Marc W. Butler (Assemblymember, District 118)
Anthony J. Brindisi (Assemblymember, District 119)
- 01/15/13 John J. Bonacic (Senator, District 42)
James E. Eisel, Sr. (Chair, Board of Supervisors, Delaware County)
- 01/16/13 Vincent J. Bono (Chair, Board of Legislators, Herkimer County)
James W. Wallace, Jr. (Administrator, Herkimer County)
- 01/18/13 Kathleen Clark (Chair, Board of Representatives, Otsego County)
- 03/04/13 Thomas Congdon (Deputy Secretary of Energy), follow-up meeting to update him
on Project planning
- 03/04/13 Claudia Tenney, (Assemblymember, District 101)
Anthony J. Brindisi (Assemblymember, District 119) and his appointments
Secretary
Duncan Davis (Senator Seward's Chief of Staff)
Dwight Elliott, (Senator Griffo's Chief of Staff)
- 05/16/13 Anthony Brindisi (Assemblymember, District 119)
Marc Butler (Assemblymember, District 118)
Claudia Tenney (Assemblymember, District 101)
James Seward (Senator, District 51)
James Wallace (Administrator, Herkimer County)
Vincent J. Bono (Chair, Board of Legislators, Herkimer County)
Frank Marocco (Mayor, Village of Frankfort)
Joseph Kinney (Supervisor, Town of Frankfort)
Karlee Tamburro (Clerk, Village of Frankfort)
Peter Manno (Legislator, Herkimer County)
John Brezinski (Legislator, Herkimer County)
- 8/27/13 James Eisel (Chair, Board of Supervisors, Delaware County)

Cindy Donofrio (Supervisor, Town of Colchester)
Peter Bracci (Supervisor, Town of Delhi)
Don Smith (Supervisor, Town of Franklin)
Wayne Marshfield (Supervisor, Town of Hamden)
Glenn Nealis (Director, Economic Development, Delaware County)
Nicole Franzese (Planning Director, Delaware County)
Mike Sabansky (Director, Real Property Tax, Delaware County)
Wayne Reynolds (Commissioner of Public Works, Delaware County)
Christa Schafer (Clerk of the Board, Delaware County)

- 8/27/13 Matt Brower (New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets)
- 8/28/13 Anthony Brindisi (Assemblymember, District 119)
- 8/28/13 Anthony Picente, Jr. (Oneida County Executive)
Steven DiMeo (President, MV EDGE, Economic Development Growth Enterprises;
regional economic development group for Oneida and Herkimer Counties)
Mark Reynolds (Sr.VP, MV EDGE)
- 8/29/13 Anthony Brindisi (Assemblymember, District 119)
James Wallace (Administrator, Herkimer County)
Vincent J. Bono (Chair, Board of Legislators, Herkimer County)
Peter Manno (Legislator, Herkimer County)
John Brezinski, (Legislator, Herkimer County)
Joseph Kinney (Supervisor, Town of Frankfort)
Kenneth Dodge (Supervisor, Town of Schuyler)
- 8/29/13 Kathleen Clark (Chair, Board of Representatives, Otsego County)
Doug Gulotti (Interim CEO of Otsego County IDA)
Sharon Oberriter (COIDA)
Barbara Ann Heegan (COIDA)
Patricia Szarpa (Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce)
- 8/29/13 Charles (Sonny) Greco (Governor's Mohawk Valley Regional Representative)
- 9/16/13 Patrick Grattan (Chair, Board of Supervisors, Columbia County),
meeting date pending
- 9/17/13 John Evers (Director of Operations, Albany County)
- 9/17/13 Wayne C. Speenburgh (Chairman, Greene County Board of Legislators)
Shaun S. Groden (Greene County Administrator)
Eugene Hatton (Legislator, Greene County)
Lee Palmateer (Supervisor, Town of Athens)
Linda Overbaugh (Legislator, Greene County)
Christian Pfister (Mayor, Village of Athens)

9/18/13 William O'Neil (Deputy County Executive, Dutchess County)
Ron Hicks (Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Planning and Development,
Dutchess County)

11/4/2013 Anthony J. Picente, Jr. (Oneida County Executive)
Brian Scala (Supervisor, Town of Marcy)

11/6/2013 Vincent Bono (Board Chair, Herkimer County)
John Brezinski (County Legistlator, Herkimer County)
Catlin Calogero (NYS Assembly)
Kenneth Dodge (Supervisor, Town of Schuyler)
James Entwistle (Supervisor, Town of Litchfield)
Paul Kidder (Columbia Planning Board)
Joseph Kinney (Supervisor, Town of Frankfort)
Jonathan Knauth (Town of Litchfield)
Peter Manno (County Legislator, Herkimer County)
Mark O'Sullivan (Litchfield Town Council)
Bernard Peplinski (Herkimer County Legislature
Angelo Roefaro (Representative, Senator Schumer)
Fred Shaw (Herkimer County Legislature)
Marty Smith (Representative, Senator Seward)
Claudia Tenney (Assemblymember, NYS Assembly)

11/6/2013 James Eisel (Chair, Board of Supervisors, Delaware County)
Wayne Marshfield (Supervisor, Town of Hamden)
Nicole Franzese (Planning Director, Delaware County)
Spencer DeVaul (Planning, Delaware County)
Mike Sabansky (Director, Real Property Tax, Delaware County)

11/6/2013 Kathleen Clark (Chair, Otsego County Board of Representatives)
Robert Taylor (Supervisor, Town of New Lisbon)
Richard Murphy (Otsego County Board of Representatives)
Gary Koutnik (Otsego County Board of Representatives)

11/7/2013 John Evers (Director of Operations, Albany County)

12/11/2013 William Gallagher (Supervisor, Town of Milan)

1/8/2014 Pam Carter (PSC)

1/25/2014 North America attends Farmers and Families of Livingston meeting

1/30/2014 Robert Taylor (Supervisor, Town of New Lisbon)

4/29/2014 Otsego County Town Supervisors

5/2/2014 Town of Clinton
Clinton Concerned Citizens
Columbia Land Conservancy
Dutchess County
Dutchess Land Conservancy
Farmers and Families for Claverack
Farmers and Families for Livingston
Town of Milan
The Olana Partnership
Omega Institute
The Preservation League of New York State
Town of Pleasant Valley
Scenic Hudson
Walnut Grove Farm
Winnakee Land Trust

6/17/2014 Marion Mathison (Town of Milan)

6/24/2014 Pam Carter (PSC)

Ongoing Engagement Activities:

North America will continue to engage stakeholders in multiple forums, creating opportunities for diverse interests to be heard. North America understands that issues related to environmental, economic and social concerns are often intertwined, requiring astute gathering and analysis of stakeholder input. We already have been very successful in responding to requests for clarifications of, or adjustments to, North America’s early Project designs, and we will continue to keep lines of communication open throughout the process. Forums conducive to education and dialogue include the following:

1. Community dialogues — information and listening sessions in multiple locations across the nine involved counties.
2. Speaking Engagements — representatives of the Project are available for meetings in communities and municipalities along the route.
3. Interviews/Small Group Roundtable Discussions — as specific topics of interest or concern are identified, one-to-one or small group meetings will be arranged to allow for dialogue with North America.
4. Briefings — with elected officials and other decision-making bodies.
5. Surveys — online questionnaires to gather input from stakeholders. The goal is to gather information on stakeholder opinions and gauge how well outreach activities are addressing the issues and interests of the communities. Survey topics include:
 - Project awareness and understanding (assessing knowledge and level of understanding of Project components)
 - Economic development interests (interests and community priorities)

- Issue priorities (to assess topics of interest or concern that warrant additional outreach)

Engagement activities will be scheduled around project milestones, but North America will respond to stakeholder inquiries at all times.

3.2 Public Information Vehicles

Once this amended application is filed with the Public Service Commission, North America will distribute copies in accordance with statutory requirements for service and notice for Article VII applications. A list of persons receiving copies of the Notice of Application is provided in Appendix A. A notice regarding the submittal of the amended application was published in community newspapers covering the municipalities in North America's proposed transmission line project areas. These newspapers are listed in Table 3-1 below.⁴

In addition, copies of the application will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following libraries:

- Utica Public Library, 303 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13501
- The Frank J. Basloe Library, 245 North Main Street, Herkimer, NY 13350
- Village Library of Cooperstown, 22 Main Street #1, Cooperstown, NY 13326
- Cannon Free Library, 40 Elm Street, Delhi, NY 13753
- Albany Public Library, 161 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210
- Catskill Public Library, 1 Franklin Street, Catskill, NY 12414
- Hudson Area Library, 400 State Street, Hudson, NY 12534
- Adriance Memorial Library, 93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
- Rensselaer Library, 676 East Street, Rensselaer, NY 12144
- The Kingston Library, 55 Franklin Street, Kingston, NY 12401.

The application also will be on file at the Department of Public Service Offices in Albany (Office of Central Files, 14th Floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223) and will be posted on the Public Service Commission's website (www.dps.ny.gov).

⁴ Per the Secretary's Letter Ruling of December 30, 2014 regarding clarifications for the Part A filing due January 20, 2015, notice of the amended application is only required to be provided to those municipalities that were not previously notified of a pending application, i.e., notice of the January 2015 amended application was only required for those municipalities affected by the new alternatives to the New Scotland to Leeds to Pleasant Valley line.

Table 3-1. Notice of Application Newspaper Placements

Edic to Fraser Transmission Line	
County	Publications
Oneida	2014: Utica Observer-Dispatch, 9/17, 9/24 Rome Sentinel, 9/17, 9/24 Rome Observer, 9/20, 9/27 Clinton Courier, 9/18, 9/25 Oneida Daily Dispatch, 9/17, 9/24 Waterville Times, 9/18, 9/25 Utica, Rome Pennysavers, 9/19, 9/26
Herkimer	2014: Herkimer Telegram, 9/17, 9/24 Little Falls Times, 9/17, 9/24 West Winfield Star, 9/18, 9/25 Your Valley Pennysaver, 9/21, 9/28
Otsego	2014: Daily Star, 9/17, 9/24 Cooperstown Crier, 9/19, 9/26 Freeman’s Journal and Hometown Oneonta, 9/18, 9/25
Delaware	2014: Walton Reporter, 9/18, 9/25 Delaware County Times, 9/20, 9/27
New Scotland to Leeds to Pleasant Valley Transmission Line	
County	Publications
Albany	2014: Albany Times Union, 9/17, 9/24
Rensselaer	2015: The Advertiser, 1/12 Albany Times Union, 1/10, 1/12
Greene	2014: Daily Mail, 9/17, 9/24 Windham Journal, 9/19, 9/26 Greene County News, 9/19, 9/26 Ravena News Herald, 9/19, 9/26 2015: Daily Mail, 1/9, 1/11 Windham Journal, 1/12 Daily Freeman, 1/9, 1/11
Columbia	2014: Register-Star, 9/17, 9/24, 1/9, 1/11 Chatham Courier, 9/19, 9/26

	2015: Register-Star, 1/9, 1/11 Chatham Courier, 1/12 Albany Times Union, 1/10, 1/12
Albany	2014: Albany Times Union, 9/17, 9/24 2015: Albany Times Union, 1/10, 1/12
Greene	2014: Daily Mail, 9/17, 9/24 Windham Journal, 9/19, 9/26 Greene County News, 9/19, 9/26 Ravena News Herald, 9/19, 9/26 2015: Daily Mail, 1/9, 1/11 Windham Journal, 1/12 Daily Freeman, 1/9, 1/11
Columbia	2014: Register-Star, 9/17, 9/24, 1/9, 1/11 Chatham Courier, 9/19, 9/26 2015: Register-Star, 1/9, 1/11 Chatham Courier, 1/12 Albany Times Union, 1/10, 1/12
Ulster	2015: Daily Freeman, 1/9, 1/11 The Almanac, 1/12
Dutchess	2014: Poughkeepsie Journal, 9/17, 9/24 Southern Dutchess News, 9/18, 9/25 Northern Dutchess News, 9/18, 9/25 Beacon Free Press, 9/18, 9/25

North America will continue to make information available to all stakeholders in multiple ways, including:

1. Website – www.nat-ny.com, North America’s official site for Project information, news and activity updates. The website will be active and stakeholders will be able to provide input and comments.
2. Email — North America continues to build a database of stakeholders who prefer email communication.
3. Informational Materials – while most information will be posted online, some print material will be needed for public and other stakeholder meetings. Initial materials include proposed transmission line maps, North America company profile, a Project Fact Sheet, and FAQ.

4. Local Distribution Networks — North America will engage community groups interested in assisting with distributing Project information/milestones to their members/constituents.

4. FEEDBACK AND MEASUREMENT

An essential component of North America’s Public Involvement Plan is documenting feedback and measuring the effectiveness of public outreach efforts. Feedback mechanisms are built into each activity and include:

1. Comment section/suggestion tool on website
2. Email and web-based surveys
3. Feedback forms at public meetings and individual stakeholder meetings
4. Feedback instructions on all print/electronic materials with alternative ways of submitting comments

Measurement will be conducted in both quantitative and qualitative forms, such as the following:

- Number and frequency of outreach meetings compared to total stakeholder groups identified
- Length of time to respond to inquiries
- Frequency of non-issue related communications such as progress reports and other Project and company news
- Number of press briefings/news coverage
- Percentage of key messages that appear in media coverage and other types of community reports

Equally important will be qualitative assessments including content analysis of news reports and stakeholder feedback. North America employs a formal issue management process that includes:

- Issue identification and tracking — scanning for emerging issues that have potential to affect productive dialogue with stakeholders
- Issue analysis and action plan — proactively addressing stakeholder concerns or other barriers to developing the most effective and acceptable solution

As outlined above, North America’s Public Involvement Plan is comprehensive and ongoing, with critical feedback loops that allow for adjustment as new information emerges.