

**APPLICANT:  
NORTH AMERICA TRANSMISSION, LLC  
NORTH AMERICA TRANSMISSION CORPORATION**

**EXHIBIT E-4  
ENGINEERING JUSTIFICATION FOR EDIC TO FRASER COMPONENT  
(§88.4)**

## EXHIBIT E-4

### ENGINEERING JUSTIFICATION FOR EDIC TO FRASER COMPONENT (\$88.4)

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In accordance with 16 NYCRR § 88.4, as modified by the December 16 Order, this Exhibit E-4 provides the engineering justification for the proposed Edic-Fraser facility.

## **1. ENGINEERING JUSTIFICATION: RELATIONSHIP TO THE EXISTING FACILITIES OF THE APPLICANT AND THE INTERCONNECTED NETWORK**

North America's proposed Project will meet the goal of incremental energy transfer across the Upstate New York and Southeast New York ("UPNY-SENY") regions outlined in the Blueprint. The combined Project will also provide significant incremental energy transfer capability to the Central East interface in New York. Collectively, the new lines will serve as a significant enhancement to the backbone transmission infrastructure in New York; relieve the most congested interface in the New York Control Area ("NYCA"); and enable access to more efficient generation in upstate New York to load centers in downstate New York. The North America proposed Project is also expected to increase flexibility in the New York Energy Markets by enabling increased power flows between high density load zones G, H, I, J, and K, and upstate New York generation.

Edic-Fraser is proposed to consist of double-bundled 1590 ACSR conductor connected between National Grid's Edic Substation and New York State Electric & Gas's Fraser 345 kV Substation. The interconnection at Edic Substation will be achieved by adding a new 345 kV breaker in an existing breaker bay. The interconnection at Fraser Substation will be achieved using two new 345 kV breakers in a new breaker bay. The new breaker bay at Fraser Substation will have an available breaker position which will provide the flexibility of future expansion for transmission or generation proposed to interconnect at Fraser Substation. The Edic-Fraser line is expected to be approximately 80 miles in length and will parallel existing transmission line ROW for over 90% of its length.

North America is proposing 25% series compensation on the Edic-Fraser line,<sup>1</sup> which will be switchable and thus able to be taken out of service in the event of high loading on this line.. Series compensation will enable larger flows of power from generators in upstate New York to load centers in downstate New York during summer high load conditions. The series compensation equipment would be located at the Edic Substation site.

The NYISO is currently in the process of initiating the System Reliability Impact Study ("SRIS") for the Edic-Fraser line, and final specifications of the line will conform to the requirements of the SRIS process.

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<sup>1</sup> If NYISO determines that a different specification for the series compensation would be preferred, North America would adjust the Project design to incorporate the preferred level of series compensation.

North America is proposing 50% series compensation on the Fraser-Gilboa line,<sup>1</sup> which will be switchable and thus able to be taken out of service in the event of high loading on this line. This series compensation would be located at the Fraser Substation site. In the event of potential sub-synchronous resonance on existing generators, thyristor controlled series compensation could be one alternative modification.

North America is proposing 25% series compensation on the Marcy-New Scotland line,<sup>1</sup> which will be switchable and thus able to be taken out of service in the event of high loading on this line. This series compensation would be located at the Marcy Substation site.

North America is proposing 30% series compensation on the Edic-New Scotland line,<sup>1</sup> which will be switchable and thus able to be taken out of service in the event of high loading on this line. This series compensation would be located at the Edic Substation site.

North America is proposing to loop the existing Marcy-Coopers Corner 345 kV line into the existing Fraser substation. This involves connecting the existing Marcy-Coopers Corner 345 kV circuit to the existing Fraser substation in the Town of Delhi.

## **2. SPECIFIC BENEFITS**

The proposed Edic-Fraser line will bring specific benefits, both in terms of reliability and economy to North America and the interconnected network.

### **2.1. RELIABILITY BENEFITS**

The Edic-Fraser line will interconnect directly to the existing transmission backbone system of NYCA and provide significant reliability benefits to New York State's existing transmission infrastructure. The Project will reinforce the Edic-Fraser corridor which currently serves as one of the major corridors to convey power from upstate New York generators to load customers in southern New York. The Edic-Fraser line will provide an additional path for connecting more economic upstate New York generation with downstate loads during contingency conditions. The proposed series compensation will provide increased reliability due to precise control of power on the Edic-Fraser line. NYISO system operators will be able to increase the flow on the Edic to Fraser line when the load demand is high or under contingency conditions when the other transmission segments along the same or parallel corridors are out of service.

North America proposes to construct the Edic-Fraser line utilizing steel or concrete structures which, when compared to wood structures, provides reliability due to resistance to fire damage and rot. North America also proposes to construct the line utilizing structural loading criteria that meet or exceed all national and regional loading requirements, which will create an additional, robust path of power flow through the congested region.

## **2.2 ECONOMIC BENEFITS**

The economic benefits of the proposed Edic-Fraser line are described more fully in Section 2.5.7 in the Initial Application Materials for Eric to Fraser Component pursuant to 16 NYCRR §85-2.8(f). Significant positive energy market, capacity market, and consumer cost benefits result from the Project over a 10-year period after commencement of operation. These benefits are summarized as follows:

- Due to its significant impact in relieving the Central East Interface, North America estimated the annual production cost savings as a resulting from Edic – Fraser 345 kV line to be \$19 million per year, and the annual load payment savings to be \$60 million per year. Construction related employment and construction and operations related tax payments will benefit the local areas of the Project, as described more fully in Section 5.7.1 of this Exhibit E-4.
- Other benefits due to the proposed North America Edic-Fraser include an expected reduction in air contaminant emissions and increased overall reliability of the NY transmission system.

## **3. PROPOSED DATE FOR COMPLETION AND IMPACT OF DELAY**

North America expects to complete construction of Edic-Fraser by 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2019, assuming timely regulatory approval. While the actual time required to complete construction depends on various factors, North America expects the actual construction period for Edic-Fraser to be approximately 12 months, once all the regulatory approvals and required permits have been secured. Delays in the in-service date would postpone the timing of the economic and reliability benefits that Edic-Fraser will provide, i.e., in the absence of the proposed line, system congestion would be expected to continue and the goals of the Blueprint would not be achieved.

## **4. SYSTEM STUDIES**

North America initiated the System Reliability Impact Study (“SRIS”) for Edic-Fraser with NYISO after the Feasibility Study for Edic-Fraser was completed in July 2013. Edic-Fraser maintains queue position #391 in the NYISO Interconnection Queue. The scope for the Edic-Fraser SRIS has been presented at the NYISO Transmission Planning Advisory Subcommittee (TPAS) meeting and approved by the Operating Committee. The following are the findings of the Feasibility Study for Edic-Fraser:

- All facilities (transmission lines, transformers, etc.) within the Study Area were found to be within their ratings under normal and under contingency conditions.

- Edic-Fraser does not cause any new overloads under normal and contingency condition. No other adverse system thermal impacts were found as a result of Edic-Fraser.
- The low voltage violations that existed pre-Edic-Fraser, post contingency were improved in the post-Edic-Fraser, post contingency conditions. Voltage violations that were observed can be mitigated under the NYISO’s Minimum Interconnection Standard. Therefore, Edic-Fraser was found to have no negative impact on the voltage profile within the Study Area.
- Edic-Fraser caused no adverse impact on the short circuit duty of protection equipment in the study area.

Based on the Feasibility Study results, North America signed an SRIS Agreement with NYISO and the interconnection transmission operators. The study deposit has been furnished. The findings of the SRIS will be presented in the Part B Application submittal to fully satisfy the requirement to provide appropriate system studies, showing expected flows on the line under normal, peak and emergency conditions, including the System Reliability Impact Study forwarded by the Transmission Planning Advisory Subcommittee for approval by the NYISO Operating Committee, which shows effects on stability of the interconnected system.

**5. COMPATIBILITY OF PROPOSED FACILITY WITH GOALS  
AND BENEFITS TO RATEPAYERS IDENTIFIED IN THE BLUEPRINT  
(DECEMBER 16 ORDER, APPENDIX D AT 3)**

The proposed Project is consistent with the goals set forth in the Blueprint and would bring significant benefits to ratepayers. This subsection details the compatibility of the proposed Project with the goals and benefits to ratepayers identified in the Blueprint.

**5.1 CONGESTION RELIEF**

North America’s Edic – Fraser 345 kV line is expected to provide congestion relief benefit across the Central East transmission interface, identified by the NYISO as historically the most constrained transmission path in NYCA as part of the Congestion Assessment and Resource Integration Study (“CARIS”). An assessment of congestions costs in the future years completed as part of 2013 CARIS Phase 1 Study also shows that the Central East transmission path will continue to be congested with the Demand\$ Congestion increasing for each of the study years through 2022. Together, the New Scotland - Pleasant Valley path and the Central East path continue to be most congested transmission paths in NYCA in the future years as indicated by the

latest 2013 CARIS. From 2008 through 2012, these two paths have shown a cumulative Demand\$ Congestion<sup>2</sup> of \$2.75 billion and \$1.35 billion.<sup>3</sup>

North America's Edic – Fraser, 345 kV line will provide significant congestion relief on the Central East transmission path by off-loading the existing transmission lines which are currently part of the Central East transmission path i.e. the existing Marcy – New Scotland and Edic – New Scotland 345 kV lines. North America estimated the annual production cost savings as a result of the addition of the Edic – Fraser 345 kV line to be \$19 million per year, based on the 2011 CARIS assumptions. North America estimated the annual load payment savings as a result of the addition of the Edic-Fraser 345 kV line to be \$60 million per year. Additionally, the Edic – Fraser line together with New Scotland – Leeds- Pleasant Valley 345 kV line will allow downstate loads to better access the Upstate generation and economic imports of cheaper energy from outside the NYCA. Further analysis of Edic-Fraser in combination with New Scotland-Leeds-Pleasant Valley should be performed in the comparative analysis, along with portfolios in combination with elements of other proposals on a common record.

North America's Edic – Fraser 345 kV line will also provide incremental savings across additional cost metrics which will lead to direct cost savings for electric energy consumers on NYCA. These metrics include Transmission Congestion Cost Payments and Losses Costs<sup>4</sup>.

## 5.2 ENHANCED SYSTEM RELIABILITY

North America's proposed Project is comprised of the Edic-Fraser transmission line and the New Scotland-Leeds-Pleasant Valley transmission line described separately in this Initial (Part A) Application. North America's Project will integrate directly into the backbone 345 kV transmission system in New York State and significantly enhance the goal of long-term electric system reliability, a high-priority goal identified in the Blueprint. The North America Project will provide significant increases in the power transfer capability of at least three major interfaces in New York, namely UPNY-SENY, Central-East, and Total-East. UPNY-SENY and Central-East have been identified by the NYISO as the most congested interfaces in New York State. The North America Project will add a combination of new transmission lines totaling over 1,000 MW of transmission capacity under normal operating conditions. North America's Project will provide the following additional reliability benefits to New York's electric transmission system:

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<sup>2</sup> "Demand\$ Congestion is the measure of the congestion component of Locational Based Marginal Price (LBMP) and its impact on NYCA load. It represents the cost of congestion to consumers." 2013 CARIS Phase 1 Report, p. 14

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 47.

<sup>4</sup> 2013 CARIS Phase 1 draft report, p. 64

- (1) Mitigate any reliability based shortcoming which may prevent increased energy transfers to downstate New York loads due to changes on transmission topology or generation profile in the state.
- (2) An incremental transfer capability of at least 1 gigaWatt (“GW”) on the UPNY-SENY interface and a significant increase in transfer capability of Central-East and Total-East interfaces. This increase in transfer limit of critical interfaces will lead to more reliable and flexible operation of the New York State electric transmission system during normal and contingency conditions. Electric system operators will be able to reliably operate the New York State electric system during extreme events such as unusual weather conditions, fuel shortages, or multiple generation and transmission outages. Increase in transmission capability will also provide economic benefit by reducing service curtailments and other possible high-cost outcomes during extreme system conditions.
- (3) Increased transmission capacity, provided by North America’s Project, across major interfaces will reduce the need for local reserve margins in pockets of the New York transmission system, thereby providing enhanced reliability in cases where energy imports are constrained and energy reserve margins are depleting due to changing system conditions.
- (4) Increased transmission capacity will also provide electric transmission planners the ability to plan for generation retirements well in advance of such events and without opting for expensive contingency plans like Reliability Must Run (“RMR”) contracts and other ancillary service payments.

The increased reliability of the New York electric system will provide economic development benefits by improving operations of existing commercial and industrial customers as well attracting new customers to New York.

The reliability impacts of upgrading UPNY-SENY and Central East/Total East will have direct cost savings to New York electric system customers through increasing efficiency in the state generation capacity market. These impacts could include a) reduction in the need for and the cost under Reliability Support Services Agreements (“RSSAs”) and b) reduced costs for capacity in the New Capacity Zone (“NCZ”). Inefficiencies in the existing capacity and energy markets have resulted in insufficient revenues for many upstate generators to continue to operate. As a result there have been several high-profile and controversial cases of generators requesting to leave the system, and as a result entering into RSSAs.<sup>5</sup> Removing the inefficiencies in the market caused by congestion should both help reduce payments to these generators

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<sup>5</sup> For example see Cayuga Operating Company, LLC in Case 12-E-0400, Dunkirk Power, LLC in Case 12-E-0136, and the Ginna Nuclear Power Plant in Case 14-E-0270

under existing RSSAs and avoid future RSSAs. In addition, while the creation of a New Capacity Zone including the Lower Hudson Valley is still under appeal,<sup>6</sup> new incremental transmission capacity into a NCZ will mitigate the impacts such a zone.

### 5.3 FLEXIBILITY

North America is proposing a 345 kV AC transmission Project to accomplish the goals of the Blueprint. North America's Project will provide a robust transmission link between upstate New York, where clean and renewable energy has most potential, to downstate New York, where the largest demand for this energy resource lies. Since all the proposed lines will operate at 345 kV, the Project will seamlessly integrate with the backbone 345 kV transmission network in New York State. Below are some of the benefits that North America's Project will deliver to enhance the flexibility of the New York Control Area (NYCA) electric transmission system:

- (1) In addition to significant congestion relief, North America's proposed Project of AC transmission lines will boost flexibility for New York State to plan for the entry and exit of generation and transmission.
- (2) The AC option will allow easier interconnection of renewable and conventional generation anywhere along the length of the proposed lines as well as more flexible dispatch of existing upstate generation.
- (3) North America's proposed expansion of the AC transmission system in New York will allow New York State to better address future generation retirements.
- (4) Expansion of the AC transmission system will allow better flexibility to remove other older elements from operations for reconductoring or reconditioning.
- (5) Expansion of the AC system will also allow for the better management of the statewide electric grid during contingency conditions when other elements of the transmission grid may be out of service. Response time to emergencies is also expected to be lower in the case of AC transmission systems.
- (6) North America's Project is proposed to be built on independent structures, providing New York electric grid operators maximum flexibility to operate these lines for maintenance during scheduled and unscheduled outage periods. The support structures used will be monopole steel structures, and if directed by the Commission, the lines will be designed and constructed for future double circuit capability. This will provide the opportunity to further increase transmission capacity between upstate and downstate New York at low cost with only minimal additional public or environmental impact.

Additionally, North America proposes to use switchable series compensation on the Edic-Fraser 345 kV line, the Fraser-Gilboa 345 kV line, the Marcy-New Scotland 345 kV

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<sup>6</sup> See FERC Docket ER13-1380.

line, and the Edic-New Scotland 345 kV line which will give system operators the ability to control power flow from upstate New York to downstate New York, depending on electric system conditions. Series compensation will also provide the flexibility to increase energy flows from upstate New York to downstate New York, beyond what an AC network would allow by itself during high load conditions or when downstate areas have inadequate availability of generation.

During construction, North America proposes to build its Project in a phased manner. To provide maximum flexibility for system-wide benefit, North America will work with the NYISO and where possible, components of the North America Project (including the Project) will be energized as they complete construction. This phased approach to construction and energization will enable the North America Project to provide increased capacity and energy deliverability earlier in the program life-cycle, compared to energizing the components of the Project after the entire Project has been constructed.

#### **5.4 EFFICIENCY**

The proposed North America Project will lead to significant production cost savings by replacing more expensive energy produced by generators located in downstate New York with cheaper, renewable, and more abundant sources of energy in upstate New York.

The North America Project will enable reduced operation of less efficient, higher heat rate generation in the State in favor of higher efficiency generating units. This will also lead to significant savings in the payments made by New York State customers for the electric energy they use due to the increased access to more efficient and cheaper sources of energy in Upstate NY. North America's proposed transmission lines will also decrease the impedance on the critical New York transmission paths due to the addition of new transmission lines. This expected to reduce the overall system losses by 66 MW, thereby reducing fuel consumption and associated air emissions, particularly oxides of nitrogen (NOX), particulate matter, and carbon dioxide (CO2).

Additionally, use of switchable series compensation will lead to efficient use of transmission assets by allowing increased transfer capacity on the proposed transmission lines during high load conditions when the demand for energy is the highest.

#### **5.5 REDUCED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: GHG AND REGIONAL AIR POLLUTION AND EMISSION REDUCTIONS**

One goal of the AC transmission upgrade initiative under the Blueprint is to reduce environmental impacts by relieving congestion and allowing a more efficient portfolio

of generating resources, including renewables from upstate New York, to serve downstate areas. These principles are explained in the Blueprint as follows:

“Congestion can have adverse environmental and economic consequences when older plants in urban areas run more frequently than they otherwise would if power from other sources of energy could reach these areas. The Energy Highway Blueprint addresses the challenges of a congested transmission system by calling for the upgrade of existing lines and the building of new lines following existing rights-of-way.”<sup>7</sup>

“These targeted upgrades of the AC transmission system can strengthen the statewide power grid and provide significant reductions in nitrogen oxide (NOX) and particulate matter emissions in the downstate region. The reduction of those emissions are particularly important because the downstate region is designated nonattainment for the federal air quality standard for ozone, and NOX emissions contribute to those elevated ozone levels.”<sup>8</sup>

These goals are also reflected in the Commission’s April 22, 2013 Order, where the Commission stated the following with regards to the expected environmental benefits of the AC transmission upgrades:

“As we identified in undertaking this effort, upgrading this section of the transmission system has the potential to bring a number of benefits to New York’s ratepayers. These include the near-term benefits of enhanced system reliability, flexibility, and efficiency, reduced environmental and health impacts through reduced downstate emissions...”<sup>9</sup>

The following subsections describe the greenhouse gas (GHG) and regional air pollution emission reductions expected to occur as a result of implementation of North America’s Project of AC transmission upgrades.

### **5.5.1 GHG EMISSION REDUCTION**

As described in the Blueprint and Commission’s April 22, 2013 Order, it is expected that the congestion relief provided by North America’s Project of AC transmission upgrades will allow for reduced operation of older power plants in

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<sup>7</sup> New York Energy Highway Task Force, *New York Energy Highway Blueprint*, p. 38, October 22, 2012, <http://www.nyenergyhighway.com/PDFs/BluePrint/EHBPPT/> (accessed August 20, 2013).

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 41-42.

<sup>9</sup> New York State Public Service Commission, Case 12-T-0502, Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Examine Alternating Current Transmission Upgrades, *Order Establishing Procedures for Joint Review Under Article VII of the Public Service Law and Approving Rule Changes*, pp. 1-2, April 22, 2013.

urban (e.g., downstate) areas, and reduced downstate emissions. The result would be lower overall emissions of GHG to the atmosphere.

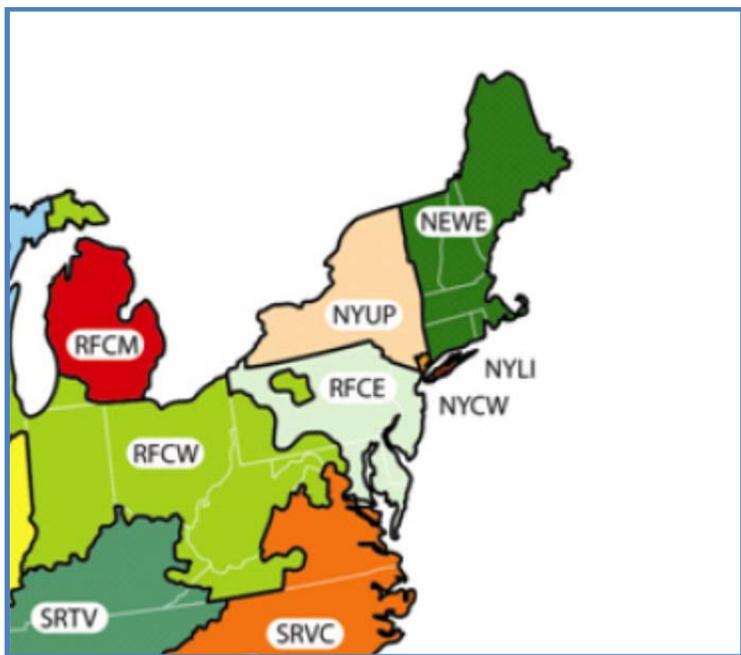
These reductions in greenhouse gases would be expected due to the lower GHG emission rates associated with upstate generating resources, when compared with those in downstate areas. To illustrate this point, Table 5-1 and Figure 5-1 below compare the carbon dioxide (“CO2”, the primary greenhouse gas) emission rates between upstate and downstate areas, based on information available from the U.S. EPA’s Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database (eGRID).

**Table 5-1. CO2 Emission Rate Comparison for New York Regions**

eGrid Sub-Region	Upstate/Downstate	CO2 Emission Rate (pounds/MW-hour)
NYUP Upstate NY	Upstate	721
NYCW NYC/Westchester	Downstate	815
NYLI Long Island	Downstate	1,537

Source: U.S. EPA, Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database (eGRID), <http://cfpub.epa.gov/egridweb/ghg.cfm>, accessed September 16, 2013.

**FIGURE 5-1. EPA eGRID MAP – NORTHEAST UNITED STATES**



Source: U.S. EPA, Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database (eGRID), <http://cfpub.epa.gov/egridweb/ghg.cfm>, accessed September 16, 2013.

As shown in Table 5-1, based on the U.S. EPA eGRID data, CO2 emission rates in upstate New York are significantly lower than those in downstate areas, ranging

from approximately 12% lower to 53% lower, depending on the downstate sub-region evaluated. Consequently, it is anticipated that the Project will achieve significant GHG emission reductions by relieving congestion between upstate and downstate areas. The degree of anticipated reductions for the proposed Project will be estimated in the Part B application based on power flow, dispatch, and emissions predictions contained in the final SRIS study results.

### 5.5.2 REGIONAL AIR POLLUTION AND EMISSION REDUCTION: HEALTH BENEFITS

As described in the Blueprint, health benefits are expected to result from decreased emissions of NOX and particulate matter and decreased formation of ground-level ozone caused by NOX emissions reductions. The potential health benefits of such emissions reductions are listed in Table 5-2, based on information from U.S. EPA.

**TABLE 5-2. POTENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS OF EMISSION REDUCTIONS**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Potential Health Benefits: Anticipated Reduced Incidence of Symptoms Due to Lower Ambient Pollutant Concentrations</b>
NOX <sup>(1)</sup>	Airway inflammation in healthy people, increased respiratory symptoms in people with asthma, increased visits to emergency departments and hospital admissions for respiratory issues, especially asthma.
Particulate Matter <sup>(2)</sup>	Premature death in people with heart or lung disease, nonfatal heart attacks, irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function, and increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing
Ozone <sup>(3)</sup>	Chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, and congestion. It can worsen bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma. Ground level ozone also can reduce lung function and inflame the linings of the lungs. Repeated exposure may permanently scar lung tissue.

**Notes:**

- (1) U.S. EPA, Nitrogen Dioxide Health, <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/nitrogenoxides/health.html>, accessed September 16, 2013.
- (2) U.S. EPA, Particulate Matter (PM) Health, <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/particulatepollution/health.html>, accessed September 16, 2013.
- (3) U.S. EPA, Ground Level Ozone, <http://www.epa.gov/glo/index.html>, accessed September 16, 2013.

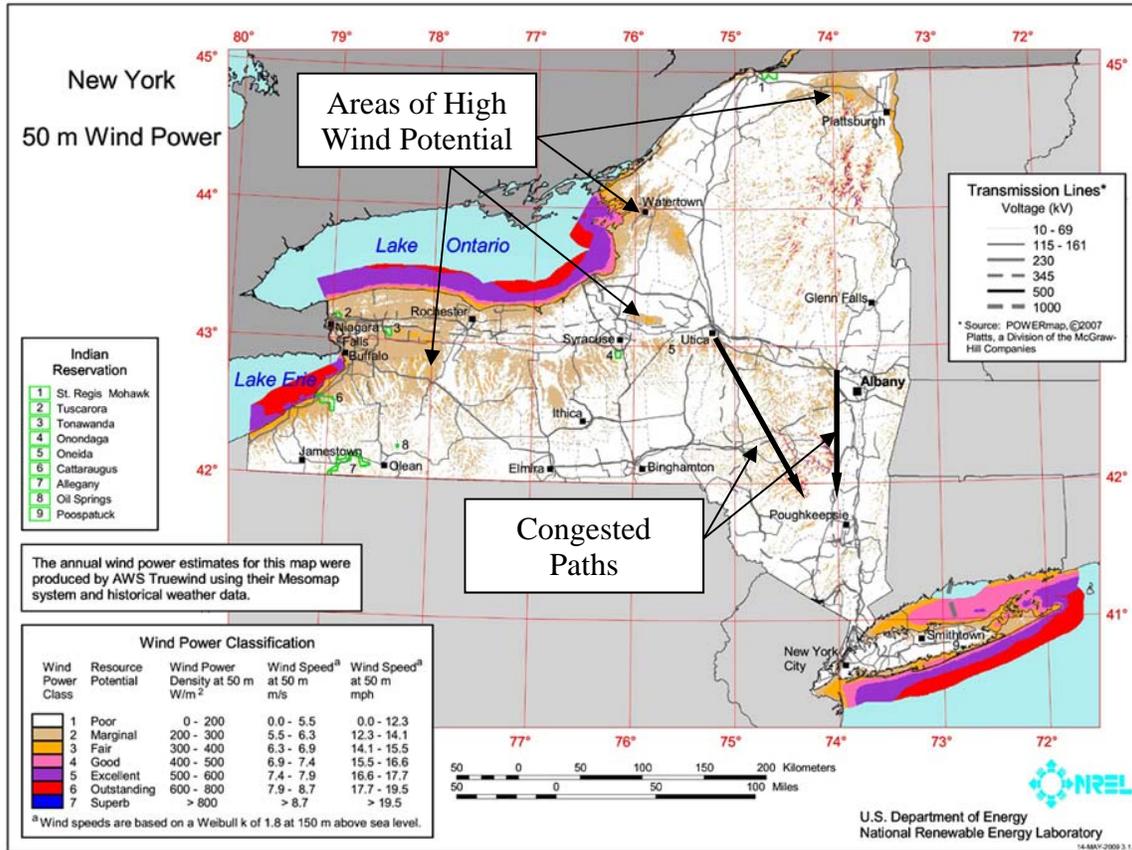
As shown in Table 5-2, a variety of respiratory health benefits would be expected to result from reductions in ambient concentrations of NOX, particulate matter, and ozone. Projects that result in lower ambient concentrations of these pollutants (e.g., the AC transmission upgrades) would therefore be expected to contribute to the health benefits listed above. The degree of NOX and particulate matter emissions reductions associated with the proposed Project will be

estimated in the Part B application based on power flow, dispatch, and emissions predictions contained in the final SRIS study results.

### 5.6 INCREASED DIVERSITY IN SUPPLY

The congestion on the existing transmission system identified in the Blueprint does not just translate into higher costs for current ratepayers, it also limits the dispatch of new resources within New York State, particularly wind energy. The map in Figure 5-2 below identifies the wind energy potential in New York, and it can be seen that the areas of highest land-based wind potential match very closely with the areas of existing generation excess. Therefore the congestion relief from the Project and its components can also help diversify the generation supply in New York State through the delivery of more wind energy, once new wind generation is efficiently interconnected to the grid.

**FIGURE 5-2. WIND POWER POTENTIAL AND CONGESTION IN NEW YORK**



## **5.7 LONG-TERM BENEFITS**

The Project is expected to bring significant long-term benefits, including, but not limited to: job growth, development of efficient new generating resources at lower cost in upstate areas and mitigation of reliability problems that may arise with expected generator retirements. Per the Commission's April 22, 2013 and December 16, 2014 Orders, those benefits are detailed in the subsections below.

### **5.7.1 JOB GROWTH**

The Project and its related congestion relief and incremental transmission capacity can lead to job growth in several different ways. There are direct and indirect construction impacts from the Project. There could also be direct and indirect construction impacts from generation capacity which would benefit from the Project, including existing generation capacity employment that could be preserved and future employment associated with construction and operation of new generation. Finally, there is the opportunity for increased employment indirectly due to the lower costs to businesses in New York State through congestion relief, and the associated economic development impact. North America has only attempted to quantify the job growth impacts related to the construction activities for the project.

An Economic Impact Study was completed by Appleseed, included as Attachment A to the scoping and schedule statement, which identifies direct and indirect employments impacts from Edic to Fraser of over 600 person-years of employment.

### **5.7.2 DEVELOPMENT OF EFFICIENT NEW GENERATING RESOURCES AT LOWER COST IN UPSTATE AREAS**

It is widely recognized that most costs are higher in the New York Metropolitan Statistical Area, recognized in various cost indexes. The NYISO recognizes this effect in the Cost of New Entry (CONE), which indicates the estimated cost of new construction for new generation resources. The NYISO defined CONE in New York City and Long Island is \$247 per kW per year and \$197 per kW per year and the CONE for upstate areas of NY State is \$111 per kW per year.<sup>10</sup> However, transmission capacity limits the ability to site new lower-cost generation resources in upstate areas. New transmission capacity can enable this generation, which would create a cost savings. Ratepayers in all zones of New York State would benefit from the addition of new, relatively low cost capacity. However, calculating this cost savings is complex.

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<sup>10</sup> 2012 NYISO State of the Market Report

A simple back-of-the-envelope calculation would be that if a new generation resource could be constructed in Upstate areas at a lower cost, the savings would be at least \$86 per kW per year, or \$86 million per year for a 1,000 MW generator. North America's proposed Project will foster such savings by facilitating development of lower cost generation in upstate NY, the benefits of which can be passed on to load customers across all load zones in NY.

### **5.7.3 MITIGATION OF RELIABILITY PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE WITH EXPECTED GENERATOR RETIREMENTS**

Electricity generation capacity and electricity demand in New York State is out of balance. Approximately 2/3 of the electricity demand is in Zones G-K but approximately 1/2 of the electricity supply is in Zones A-F. While the current transmission system has been designed to account for this relative imbalance, there is still significant congestion in the state due to this relative imbalance. This imbalance would be made much worse with potential generation retirements in Zones G-K. North America proposed Project will reinforce the NY State transmission system by providing a strong transmission link between downstate NY load centers and upstate NY. The thermal and voltage transfer capability across major NYCA interfaces, that North America's Project will increase, will mitigate reliability related problems that may develop due to potential generator retirements. A stronger NY transmission system will also facilitate generator retirements without compromising reliability due to its ability to supply energy from geographically diverse generators into load pockets where generators may retire over the future years. A strong transmission system may also foster additional imports of energy from neighboring areas which will be able to replace energy produced by retiring generators and mitigate reliability shortcomings that may develop due to such retirements.