

## APPENDIX E – NORTH AMERICA TRANSMISSION PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

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### 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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 Initial (Part A) Application date, so that the initial application materials reflect consideration of concerns raised by those parties.<sup>3</sup>

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 a year ago, NAT started meeting with community leaders in the counties associated with the proposed Edic to Fraser Project component. NAT has continued these outreach efforts, including 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 NAT's preliminary Project designs. NAT 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Procedural Order at 8.

<sup>3</sup> Procedural Order at 9.

NAT 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 NAT's proactive approach to public involvement for this Project, NAT's goal is to become a valued and contributing partner at the local, regional, and state level.

#### GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

NAT'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.

##### NAT 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

##### NAT 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. NAT PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS**

NAT has conducted a comprehensive stakeholder analysis and will continue to build and refine stakeholder audiences as the Project progresses. NAT began with a preliminary list based on familiarity with the communities in each of the two 4-county Project areas. The goal was to identify parties that were:

- Interested in the Project in some way (identified through primary or secondary sources as having an economic, environmental, or social interest);
- Located in the Project areas;

- In community leadership positions; or
- In policymaking positions

The list was expanded through personal interviews with opinion leaders who offered suggestions on additional individuals and groups to include in our outreach program, as well as content analysis of print and broadcast news articles. The process enabled NAT to identify many stakeholder interests early on, and to be proactive in creating alternatives that are both effective and more preferred. 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

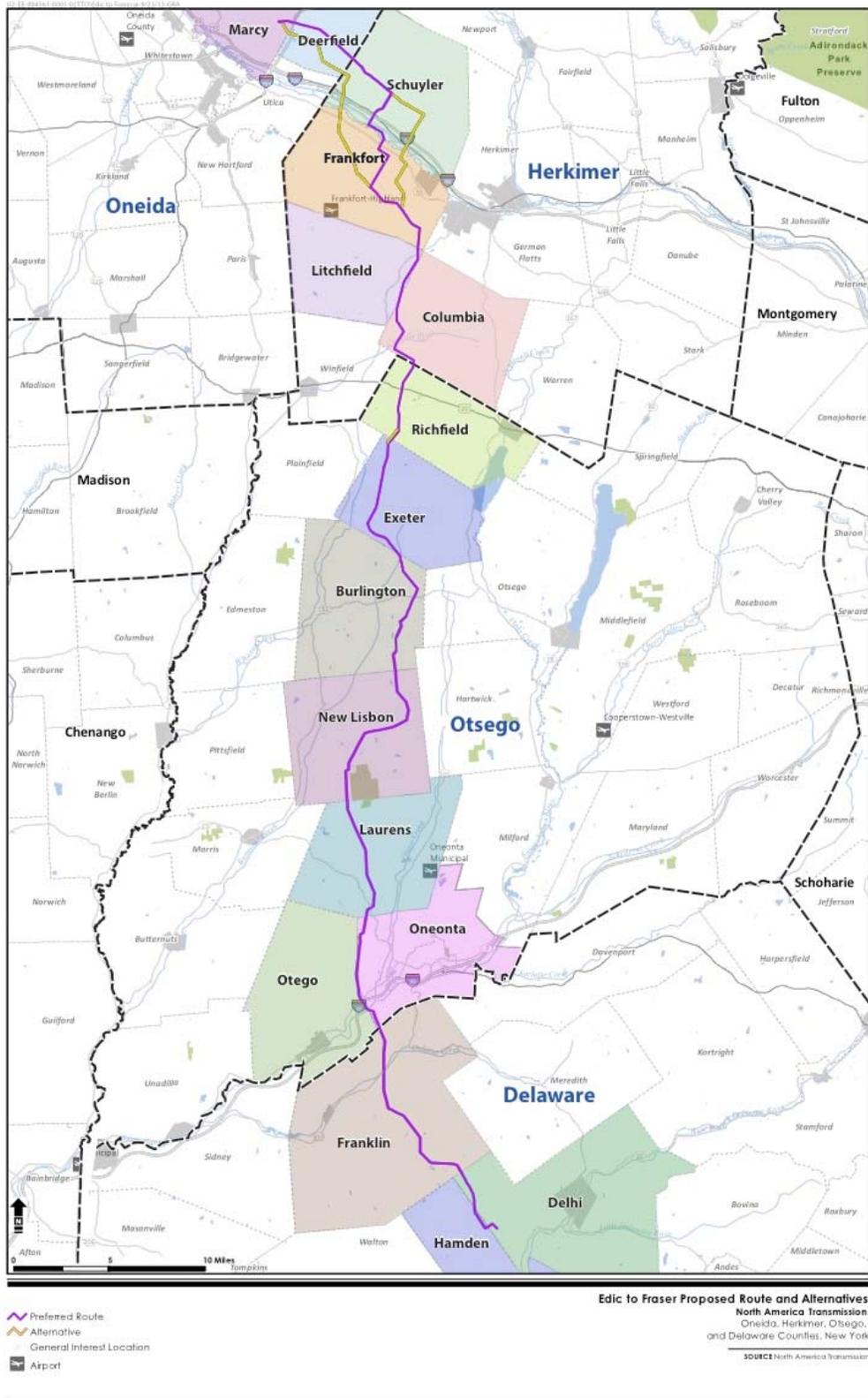
### Otsego County

- Town of Richfield
- Town of Exeter
- Town of Burlington
- Town of New Lisbon
- Town of Laurens
- City of Oneonta
- Town of Ottego

### Delaware County

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

**Figure 2-1. Edic to Fraser Transmission Line**



**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

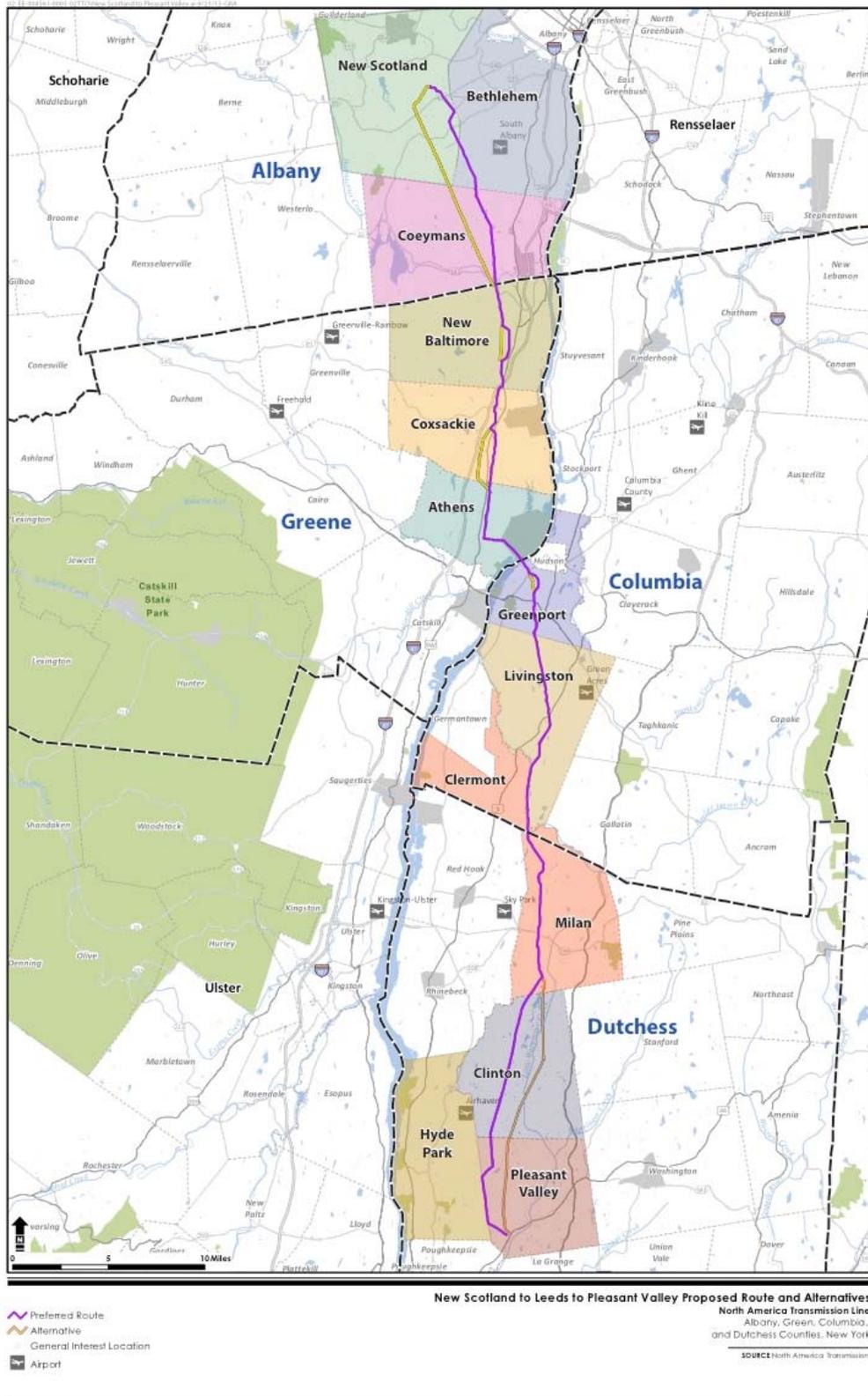
Columbia County

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

Dutchess County

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

**Figure 2-2. New Scotland to Leeds to Pleasant Valley Transmission Line**



## **2.2 Stakeholder Representation**

NAT defines stakeholders as individuals, groups, businesses, agencies, and community organizations that can help inform the planning process. NAT 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. NAT'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**

NAT's Public Involvement Plan emphasizes access to information and community engagement as primary elements of a successful strategy. NAT is particularly alert to addressing barriers to participation, real or perceived, which may be caused by a variety of factors. The NAT 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. NAT'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 NAT has conducted over the past several months. These small-group, face-to-face meetings have been highly informative. NAT is continuing the dialogue through phone and email communication and in many cases has made follow-up visits to deliver additional Project information.

**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)

### **Ongoing Engagement Activities:**

NAT will continue to engage stakeholders in multiple forums, creating opportunities for diverse interests to be heard. NAT 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, NAT'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 held in multiple locations in the two 4-county regions.
2. Speaking Engagements — representatives of the Project will be 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 NAT.
4. Briefings — with elected officials and other decision-making bodies.
5. Surveys — online questionnaires to gather input from stakeholders on an ongoing basis. The goal is to gather baseline information on stakeholder opinions, and gauge how well outreach activities are addressing the issues and interests of the communities. Survey topics could 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 NAT will respond to stakeholder inquiries at all times.

### **3.2 Public Information Vehicles**

NAT will distribute this Initial (Part A) Application in accordance with statutory requirements for service and notice for Article VII applications. A list of persons receiving copies of the Notice of Application and the Initial (Part A) Application itself is provided in Appendix A. A notice regarding the submittal of the Part A Application was published in community newspapers in the two 4-county project areas [See Table 3-2].

Upon filing of the Part A Application with the Public Service Commission, copies will be available for public inspection 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
- Adriaance Memorial Library, 93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

In addition, the application 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](http://www.dps.ny.gov)).

**Table 3-2. Notice of Application Newspaper Placements**

<b>Edic to Fraser Transmission Line</b>	
<b>County</b>	<b>Publications</b>
Oneida	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	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	Daily Star, 9/17, 9/24 Cooperstown Crier, 9/19, 9/26 Freeman’s Journal and Hometown Oneonta, 9/18, 9/25
Delaware	Walton Reporter, 9/18, 9/25 Delaware County Times, 9/20, 9/27
<b>New Scotland to Leeds to Pleasant Valley Transmission Line</b>	
<b>County</b>	<b>Publications</b>
Albany	Albany Times Union, 9/17, 9/24
Greene	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
Columbia	Register-Star, 9/17, 9/24 Chatham Courier, 9/19, 9/26
Dutchess	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

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

1. Website – [www.nat-ny.com](http://www.nat-ny.com), NAT’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 — NAT 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, NAT company profile, a Project Fact Sheet, and FAQ.

4. Local Distribution Networks — NAT will engage community groups interested in assisting with distributing Project information/milestones to their members/constituents.
5. Public Notices — NAT will provide notifications during the Article VII process.
6. Access to NAT application — Copies of the Part A and Part B Applications will be available on the Project website.

NAT will also distribute the Part B Application in accordance with statutory requirements for service and notice lists for Article VII applications. In addition to the outreach described above, DPS will schedule a Public Statement Hearing.

#### **4. FEEDBACK AND MEASUREMENT**

An essential component of NAT'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. NAT 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, NAT's Public Involvement Plan is comprehensive and ongoing, with critical feedback loops that allow for adjustment as new information emerges.