

# Broome County Environmental Management Council

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## **BROOME COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (EMC) ADVISORY RESOLUTION ENDORSING BROOME COUNTY'S OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED NEW YORK REGIONAL INTERCONNECT INC. POWER TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT (RESOLUTION NO. 76)**

**(Adopted at EMC General Meeting, 6/8/06)**

WHEREAS, at the June 8, 2006 general meeting of the Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC), the EMC endorsed Resolution No. 76, Resolution of Opposition to the New York Regional Interconnect, Inc. Power Transmission Line Project, introduced to the Broome County Legislature's County Administration Committee and attached hereto, and

WHEREAS, the EMC offers points of opposition in addition to those outlined in said resolution, and

WHEREAS, alternative strategies for alleviating energy congestion in New York have not been fully explored, and

WHEREAS, the proposed power line does not promote power generation close to the source of consumption which, according to the World Alliance for Decentralized Energy, would reduce the need for costly transmission, lower associated line losses, and increase the efficiency of the overall grid, and

WHEREAS, the concept of the proposed power line encourages excessive energy use, rather than promoting energy efficiency and conservation, and

WHEREAS, improvements in technology and energy efficiency may render the proposed technology obsolete, serving as a short-term, temporary solution with long-term consequences for the potentially affected areas, and

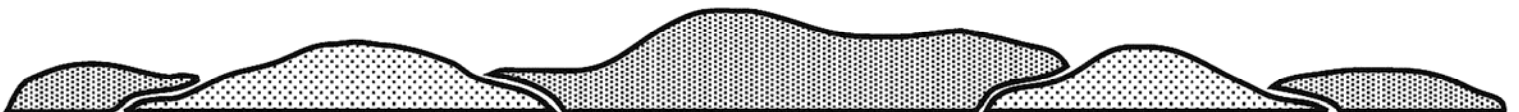
WHEREAS, rapid approval of such a large scale project will prevent proper review and careful consideration of environmental and community impacts, and

WHEREAS, studies have shown an increase in childhood leukemia among those living near power lines and an increase in chronic adult leukemia among those who work in electricity-intensive industries, and

WHEREAS, based on these studies, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences has stated that electromagnetic fields, such as those surrounding electric power lines, should be regarded as possible human carcinogens, and

WHEREAS, according to the HVDC Power Transmission Research Institute, the type of line proposed has been shown to cause radio interference and emit a constant 40-50 decibels of sound, and

WHEREAS, at over 100 feet tall, the proposed towers will be visible for long distances, and



WHEREAS, negative impacts on the landscape of the affected areas may interfere with tourism and promotional efforts stressing the scenic beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities in upstate New York (“I Love NY” campaign), thus hindering efforts to improve the financial climate of the region to be traversed, and

WHEREAS, the power line could potentially conflict with comprehensive plans in place for Broome County and its municipalities, especially for the proposed alternate route, and

WHEREAS, approval of the proposed power line could potentially allow a private company, with little or no background, to take private land for the power line route and/or the extensive area needed for clearance, and

WHEREAS, the energy transported by the proposed power line will benefit generally wealthier regions with damaging impacts felt by less wealthy regions, and

WHEREAS, economic disadvantage could make it particularly difficult for parties living near the route to protest and/or obtain proper compensation for the way it impacts their lives, thus being a potential environmental justice issue, and

WHEREAS, NYRI has applied for early federal designation as a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC), and

WHEREAS, designation of an NIETC could potentially put strong pressure on the state to expeditiously consider and approve applications for proposed transmission projects, such as that proposed by NYRI, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the EMC endorsed County Resolution No. 76, introduced to the County Administration Committee, and the aforementioned points in opposition of the certification and approval by the New York State Public Service Commission of the proposed transmission line, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the EMC calls upon members of the full Broome County Legislature to support and pass Resolution No. 76 and consider these additional points outlined above, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this advisory resolution be distributed to Broome County Executive Barbara Fiala, Deputy County Executive Patrick Brennan, members of the Broome County Legislature, Legislative Clerk Louis Augostini, County Attorney Joseph Sluzar, and Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development Rita Petkash.

bae and cw

6/9/06

Enclosure