

Washington, DC - U.S. Representatives Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Michael A. Arcuri (D-NY), and John Hall (D-NY) today urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to deny a request by New York Regional Interconnect, Inc. (NYRI) that would pave the way for NYRI to receive special ratepayer subsidies for its suspended power line proposal. NYRI is appealing a previous FERC ruling that refused to overturn the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) voting provision which effectively blocks NYRI from receiving ratepayer subsidies for its proposal. The company suspended its pending application with the New York Public Service Commission following that decision, citing the fact that without ratepayer subsidies, the project was not economically viable.

In the joint letter to FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff, Hinchey, Arcuri, and Hall reiterated their longtime and vehement opposition to NYRI's proposal for a 190-mile high voltage direct current (HVDC) electric transmission line. The proposed line would stretch through eight counties in upstate New York, including environmentally-sensitive areas, and require the seizing of private property for construction.

The full text of the letter from Hinchey, Arcuri, and Hall follows:

July 7, 2009

The Honorable Jon Wellinghoff
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Wellinghoff:

We are writing to convey our deep concerns with the ongoing efforts of New York Regional Interconnect, Inc. (NYRI) to seek special rate recovery treatment for its suspended electricity transmission proposal in New York State. We remain steadfastly opposed to NYRI's continued efforts to entitle its company to full recovery of its revenue requirement through the New York Independent System Operator's (NYISO) cost allocation provisions. Further, we support the

Commission's prior decisions declining to overturn the NYISO's supermajority voting provision and urge the Commission to dismiss NYRI's most recent protest of the May 19, 2009 filing.

As you know, the Commission recently granted NYRI an extension until July 9, 2009 to file comments regarding the May 19, 2009 compliance filing. In this May filing and a prior order in October 2008, the Commission rightly rejected NYRI's request to overturn the NYISO's policy in regard to cost allocation provisions and its supermajority voting provision. Despite these prior rejections and the suspension of its application to the New York Public Service Commission (NYPSC) in April 2009, NYRI continues to solicit a more favorable order that might allow its failed project to attract needed investment and restart its application with the NYPSC. Previously, the Commission correctly rejected NYRI's assertion that transmission projects cannot be funded outside of NYISO's cost allocation process had no merit and were "speculative." We appreciate the Commission's prior positions in this matter and hope that the Commission will continue to dismiss NYRI's disingenuous attempts to obtain undue consideration for their poorly conceived proposal, which is widely and vehemently opposed throughout New York State.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance or provide any additional information on this project.

Sincerely,

Maurice D. Hinchey

Michael A. Arcuri

John Hall