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Contact: Shannon Baxevanis, New York Transco
518.992.9609 or shannon.baxevanis@nytransco.com

New York Transco Announces Energization of Orange County Clean Energy Transmission Project

Rock Tavern to Sugar Loaf Transmission Project Bolsters Electric System for Delivery of Clean Energy Resources

CHESTER, NY – Electric transmission developer New York Transco today announced the successful energization of the Rock Tavern to Sugar Loaf (RTS) electric transmission project in Orange County – six-months ahead of schedule.

The RTS project plays a critical role in bolstering the backbone of the electric grid while helping New York State meet the nation-leading clean energy goals outlined in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, including 70 percent renewable energy generation by 2030 and a zero-emissions electricity sector by 2040.

The project included a complete rebuild of an aging 115kV transmission line in an existing electric transmission corridor through portions of the New Windsor, Hamptonburgh, Blooming Grove and Chester. The project construction, supported by New York union labor, replaced 100-year-old 115kV transmission lattice structures with new modern monopoles, upgraded the existing Rock Tavern Substation in New Windsor, and rebuilt the Sugarloaf Substation in Chester.

The RTS project complements New York Transco's recently energized New York Energy Solution project by adding capacity to the network to deliver increasing amounts of clean energy. The new and improved infrastructure also provides greater reliability and resiliency to the transmission system on blue sky days and during severe weather.

New York Transco President Victor Mullin said, “The Rock Tavern to Sugar Loaf project represents another piece in building the transmission system of New York’s clean energy future. New York Transco is honored to have had the opportunity to make this important investment in the economy and environment of our great state, and we are thankful for the collaboration that made this project possible, from state agencies and local governments to the neighbors who live along the corridor. Working together is key to successful projects.”

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The RTS project is a part of the AC Transmission Public Policy projects competitively selected by the New York Independent System Operator in April 2019. The project is a complement to the New York Energy Solution (NYES) project that was also put into service six months ahead of schedule. The RTS project was made possible by thorough permitting and thorough regulatory review led by the New York State Public Service Commission and the Department of Public Service staff.

The energization of the project was marked on September 27 with a ribbon cutting ceremony held in the Pavilion Room at Sugarloaf Performing Arts Center in Chester, NY. Dignitaries, partners and honored guests celebrated the Project's success, including representatives from the New York State Public Service Commission, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, area business and economic development leaders, environmental and energy organizations, and Project equipment suppliers and construction companies.

Mullin further stated, "This project is a prime example of innovation and perseverance. In just three years, and in the middle of a global pandemic, a team of top-notch professionals were able to design, procure domestic materials, and efficiently permit and construct a significant infrastructure project while saving consumers money and minimizing area impacts. It's the definition of an all-around win."

New York State Assemblyman Chris Eachus, District 99, said, "Responsible investment in our infrastructure is paramount to our economy and environment. A more reliable and resilient electric transmission network will keep our region growing and improve our residents' quality of life. On top of that, this project was done the right way with New York Transco incorporating our skilled unions, maintaining regular communication with local officials and neighbors, and reaching milestones ahead of schedule. Congratulations to all involved."

Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus said, "Infrastructure improvement projects like the RTS Project are critical for ensuring that electricity can reliably reach homes and businesses in the region and beyond. Replacing aging infrastructure and minimizing impacts on local communities allows the economy in Orange County to continue growing to benefit us now and into the future."

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New York Independent System Operator President and CEO Rich Dewey said, “Expanding the transmission system is essential as we work together to meet New York’s ambitious climate goals. On behalf of the NYISO, I congratulate the Transco team for completing the Rock Tavern to Sugarloaf upgrade ahead of schedule. The energization of this important project will relieve congestion on the grid and help deliver more clean energy downstate where there is the greatest demand.”

IBEW Local 1249 Business Manager Mark Lawrence said, “We are incredibly proud of our skilled men and women that have built yet another segment of New York’s reliable and resilient clean energy future. Our work with New York Transco has not only supported good union jobs, but also resulted in an economic boost throughout the region.”

For more information about the Rock Tavern to Sugarloaf Project, visit rtsupgrade.com or nytransco.com.

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About New York Transco

New York Transco (NY Transco) is a New York-based owner, operator and developer of bulk electric transmission facilities with a mission to safely and efficiently deliver innovative electric transmission solutions that advance clean energy to best serve customers, communities and the environment. NY Transco is owned by subsidiaries of Con Edison, National Grid, Avangrid, and CH Energy Group. Completed projects include Ramapo to Rock Tavern, Frasers-Coopers Corners and Staten Island Unbottling. NY Transco is currently finishing the New York Energy Solution in the Hudson Valley and the Rock Tavern to Sugarloaf Project in Orange County, and is in construction on the Dover Station Project in Dover, NY. NY Transco is also in the early phases of Propel NY Energy, a collaboration with the New York Power Authority that will build out the transmission backbone on Long Island and across parts of New York City and Westchester County. For more information, visit www.NYTransco.com.