



SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

Draft Minutes
Regulatory Programs Committee
February 1, 2018 Agency Meeting

**MINUTES OF THE REGULATORY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING
February 1, 2018**

The Committee meeting convened at 9:20 a.m.

Regulatory Programs Committee Members Present

Arthur Lussi, John Ernst, Daniel Wilt, Lynn Mahoney.

Other Members and Designees Present

Robert Stegemann, Bradley Austin, Chad Dawson, Karen Feldman, William Thomas, Sherman Craig and Fred Monroe, LGRB.

Agency Staff Present

Terry Martino, Sarah Reynolds, Shaun LaLonde, Colleen Parker, Richard Weber, and Thomas Saehrig.

Approval of Draft Committee Minutes for January 2018

A motion to approve the draft committee minutes was made by Lynn Mahoney and was seconded by John Ernst. All were in favor.

Deputy Director Report

Mr. Weber reviewed the Director's report.

Project P2016-0058 (Thomas Saehrig) NYSEG – Saranac/Clinton County

NYSEG proposes to rebuild the 46kv transmission line in Circuits 871 & 872, running from Kent Falls substation to High Falls substation. This project is Phase 2 of the rebuild and is approximately 6.3 miles long. The project includes wetland impacts caused by access routes and construction. The project is located entirely within an existing utility right-of-way, and partially within the Saranac River Recreational River Area.

Mr. Saehrig reviewed the project location and the adjoining land uses as well as the project description. He then reviewed the visual assessment that was done for the project.

Mr. Lussi asked about the color of the pole. Mr. Saehrig responded that staff asked the applicant to use the self-oxidizing steel color option.

Mr. Stegemann asked why the pole was proposed to be built to 59 feet in height. Mr. Saehrig responded that clearance was needed to span the river crossing.

Saehrig stated that NYSEG has agreed to allow more shrubby vegetation to be retained in and around river crossings which will help mitigate some of the impacts to the river area.

Mr. Lussi asked if the poles were wooden. Mr. Saehrig responded that only the corner poles are constructed of steel material and set on a concrete foundation. All other poles are of wood set in augured holes.

Mr. Ernst asked if herbicides were used for maintenance of the vegetation. Mr. Saehrig stated that cutting of vegetation is the primary means of right-of-way maintenance and that no herbicides are used near wetlands, streams or river areas.

Mr. Lussi asked why eight lines are proposed now instead of the former seven. Mr. Saehrig replied that eight lines are needed to maintain two separate circuits.

Mr. Craig asked if any work would be undertaken during the winter months. Mr. Saehrig responded no. Mr. Craig stated that earlier in the presentation Mr. Saehrig noted the quality of work that was done by the applicant which seemed to facilitate staff's review. Mr. Saehrig concurred.

Ms. Feldman stated staff seemed to have done all they could to mitigate the visual impacts of the project. Mr. Saehrig responded affirmatively.

Ms. Reynolds reminded the Board that all three statutes implement the undue adverse impact language and benefits of a proposal can be considered. Mr. Saehrig stated that in this instance he believes the public benefit outweighs any undue impacts.

Mr. Lussi asked if the proposed lines will be more efficient. Mr. Saehrig responded that they will be more reliable than the 70 year-old lines they are replacing.

Mr. Wilt noted that the present lines date back to the 1940s. The current proposal enables work to continue on the lines while maintaining service which adds to the efficiency of the service.

Motion was called by Mr. Wilt to approve the draft permit with conditions. Motion was made by Mr. Lussi and was seconded by Ms. Mahoney. All were in favor

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The Committee meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.