

July 29, 2006

## Power Line Is Delayed Amid Gaps in Application

By ANTHONY DePALMA

A controversial plan to build a 190-mile-long high-voltage power line through upstate New York, skirting the scenic Upper Delaware River, has been temporarily put on hold because the developer's application is incomplete.

The State [Public Service Commission](#) notified New York Regional Interconnect, the Albany-based company behind the \$1.6 billion project, that it could not schedule the public hearings required by law until gaps in the application — which runs more than 1,000 pages — are filled.

Some of the omissions are considered easy to correct. The regulators said the developer neglected to provide a few local officials along the route with copies of the application. The application also included maps that were not drawn to the required scale.

But other gaps are more significant.

The commission asked the developer for a more detailed assessment of the impact the new line would have on the state's existing power grid.

Improving that grid had been one of the developer's central promises. The company said the project would strengthen the state's entire electric system by bringing surplus energy from near Utica to Orange County, where it would be made available for New York City and the metropolitan region.

Jonathan Pierce, a spokesman for the transmission line project, said the company would meet all the commission's requirements, although he could not say how long doing so would take.

The request for additional information was not unusual, Mr. Pierce said.

"Many applications are deemed incomplete," he said.

David Flanagan, a spokesman for the Public Service Commission, said he did not know how many applications were found to be incomplete. "Most are much smaller," he said.

Since New York Regional Interconnect's application was filed in May, local and state officials and property owners have opposed it, questioning the need for the project and criticizing the visual and environmental impact it would have on the rural heart of the state.

Mr. Flanagan said the outpouring of opposition did not affect the way the commission treated the company's application.