

DRAFTNYSRC Guidelines for Communications with Policymakers**Background**

The New York State Reliability Council (NYSRC) was established with the approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 1999.¹ The NYSRC's basic responsibility is, using the standards, regulations, criteria, and established by state and federal regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the reliability of the New York State Power System, to establish, maintain and assure compliance with Reliability Rules it deems necessary to meet the unique reliability needs of the New York State electric power system. The NYSRC Reliability Rules must be complied with by the NYISO and entities engaging in electric power transactions on the New York State Power System.²

The Executive Committee of the NYSRC is comprised of representatives of each of the major electric utilities in New York State, representatives of Large Commercial and Industrial Consumers, Wholesale Electricity Sellers, and Municipal and Cooperative Electric Systems. In addition, the Executive Committee has four members who are unaffiliated with any participant in the NYISO's wholesale electricity market.³ Each of the members of the Executive Committee must have substantial knowledge and/or experience in the reliable operation of bulk power electric systems.⁴ The NYSRC also retains consultants with extensive experience in the operation of bulk power electric systems. The NYSRC has a close working relationship with the

¹ *Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp, et al*, 83 FERC Par. 61,352 (1998)

² NYSRC Agreement, 3.01

³ *Ibid.*, 4.01

⁴ *Ibid.*, 4.03

NYISO, which is responsible for providing the NYSRC its assistance if necessary for the NYSRC to carry out its responsibilities.⁵

NYSRC Policy

Because the NYSRC's basic responsibilities and because it embodies a unique level of expertise and experience concerning the maintenance of the reliability of New York State's electric power system, it may be appropriate, from time to time, for the NYSRC to communicate with policymakers, including the Executive, legislators, and regulatory agencies, on matters that may affect the reliability of the state's electric system.

As a matter of policy, the NYSRC will limit such communications to matters that may have a significant impact on the reliability of New York State's electricity system.

It also is the policy of the NYSRC not to express views concerning state and federal energy policies, except to the extent that they may affect the reliability of New York State's electric system.

NYSRC communications with policymakers will be drafted by the NYSRC counsel with the assistance of Executive Committee members or consultants designated by the Executive Committee. The comments will be submitted to the Executive Committee for its review and approval.

⁵ NYISO/NYSRC Agreement, 3.6