

# Letter Writing Guide ~ Power Line Issue

The Public Service Commission (PSC) is the agency that will evaluate utility company proposals for the power grid upgrade. Therefore, you should definitely include the PSC in your communications, whether by letter or email. In addition, you are encouraged to communicate with public officials who will play an important role in the process by putting forward their recommendations to the PSC and governor. The more parties you contact the louder your voice will be heard.

This guide is designed to assist you in your effort to play a role in this important process.

## I. Email or post a comment to the New York State PSC

Below are sample comments sent to the NY State Public Service Commission (PSC). As you can see, your communications need not be elaborate. Honest, heartfelt expressions are what are most effective. You can read all of the comments at any time by clicking or typing in the link below. This will take you to the PSC website, where you can also write your own response by clicking on the “post comments” button at the top of the page.

<http://tinyurl.com/psc-comments>



### ***Sample comments:***

I oppose the proposed upgrade to the electrical grid in its current form and the economic mayhem , health risks, and potential drop in property values that will ensue. Please reconsider other safer alternatives that are available. The fastest way is not always the best way. Thank You

We strongly oppose the additional overhead transmission lines and the expansion of the right of way slated to go through the Town of Clinton.

We would prefer a route avoiding the Town of Clinton.

If it has to be constructed we want the transmission lines put underground utilizing the existing right of way, this will reduce visual impact in our town.

I strongly oppose the increase of above ground power lines and towers. We must have a better solution than this old technology.

I'm a banker and a realist, and understand we need to continually upgrade our infrastructure in order to grow economically. But why would we choose outmoded technology? Underground lines might be more expensive in the short run, but absolutely must make economic sense in the long run. Think of the tax revenue that can be sustainably generated by maintaining the pristine view sheds in Columbia and Dutchess Counties!

Wouldn't this be an ideal opportunity to show the country how modern NYS strives to be? Wouldn't this dovetail with the initiatives trying to lure business back to NYS?

The Hudson Valley is New York State's bread basket and scenic treasure. Defacing the Hudson Valley with these Monster Power Lines -- 100 year old electrical technology would be a disgrace. There are

third world countries with more progressive infrastructure. I request that the existing towers be removed and no further towers placed in the scenic and historic Hudson Valley.

40 years ago, I lived in a tent for six months with two small children to build my farmhouse. I have been building my business for 30 years. It is my present and my future and my children's future. This is more than my land value. If this project is allowed to go through, my business is finished. This farm is my whole life; it is my heart and my soul and why I get up every day. My daughter is a partner in this farm. The Hudson Valley is home to many farmers. Farmers and tourism and the beauty of the Hudson Valley is the reason for our economic vitality. Alternatives to this travesty must be considered. I oppose high voltage overhead transmission lines and encourage the PSC to choose a respondent that does not incorporate in its proposal such electric lines.

Please try to find a different form of energy transmission and less destructive overhead power-lines. I value our scenic views and our natural environment.

I live in the town of Clinton and am outraged at the thought of 120 foot towers polluting our landscape. You must listen to the people of the community the proposals effect. You must consider underground systems even if it will cost more money. People come first, not Power-lines.

The original easements were granted when this area was farmland. This area is no longer farmland, no longer taxed as farmland. We need new (modern) easements. We need the ability to build driveways and other modern items (water, sewer, cable, phone, etc.) so that we are no longer cut off from major portions of our land. It's as if an interstate runs thru our land and we can't subdivide and access it.

I object to the Monster Power Lines which will negatively impact our town in terms of scenic beauty, loss of historic properties, and loss of property value. I would like the option of underground wires to be seriously considered and accepted.

I, along with the vast majority of people I have spoken to in our area, am shocked by the proposed expansion of high voltage overhead transmission lines. While I do not directly own land on which power lines exist or are proposed, I am a citizen of the beautiful Hudson Valley and I am close enough. The Hudson Valley has hundreds of designated scenic and historic roads. The proposals I have reviewed for this project, most of which include provisions for much higher towers and bigger swaths of land dedicated to monster power lines, brazenly ignore the scenic and historic assets that make the Hudson Valley an economic viable community. Proposed development of any kind -- whether electric power, gas, airports, highways -- must be done in a far more sensitive way than these proposals. The Planning, Zoning and Town Boards representing the communities of the Hudson Valley have spent thousands of hours creating laws to ensure sensitive development of this beautiful region, and it is egregious that in one fell swoop, proposals like this can trounce on the will of the people and existing laws, carefully crafted to preserve and protect important assets like vistas, open space, farms recreational areas, can be virtually ignored.

My name is Emma, and I'm a 12 year old girl. I live close to the power-lines. My landscape and views of the mountains will be affected by bigger power-lines. All my friends hate the power-lines, and are very sad that the scenic views of the Hudson Valley will be destroyed. Along with this, a girl who lived in my house before me got leukemia back in the 80s. We may never know if it was because of the existing monster power-lines, but if it was, expanding height and voltage of the power-lines will surely make more kids sick.

## II. Talking points for letters to the PSC and other important officials

- ❖ utilities should not use eminent domain in their plans to upgrade the grid.
- ❖ the same old technology used in the 1930s is not good enough for 2013.
- ❖ in affected towns we have already seen reduced value of homes and land even miles from the proposed towers.
- ❖ free charging stations in Albany for electric cars but dangerous, ugly monster towers for Columbia County – unacceptable.
- ❖ underground power lines must be seriously considered.
- ❖ lines will impact adversely the productive farmland of our community.
- ❖ discourages one of the few growing economic sectors of upstate.
- ❖ rate payers pay the cost of the power line expansion in their rates while area residents pay secondary costs in property devaluation for many decades.
- ❖ involves 153 miles of expansion, 30 miles in Columbia County.
- ❖ possible increase to rights of way of 125' horizontally and up to 50' vertically is unacceptable.
- ❖ dangerous to the working farms and natural resources.
- ❖ devastating to the historical features and bucolic nature of towns, including many homes on the National Historic Register.
- ❖ blight on scenic views and tourism to the area.
- ❖ strength of the community: diverse wildlife habitats that exist with local streams, wetlands, wooded areas, and open areas.
- ❖ advocate a viable alternative that would minimize the negative effects to the environment, farms, historical homes, and health that would be caused by such high voltage electric transmission lines.

**The Public Service Commission welcomes your hard-copy and emailed letters and offers the following guidelines for effective communication with them:**

1. Your signature must be legible or your letter will be discarded.
2. Anonymous letters will be thrown out.
3. It is helpful to have your return address on the letter and envelope.
4. Refer to case number 13-E-0488 to ensure that your letter is properly filed.
5. Write as many times as you wish, but only one time on each point you wish to make.

### III. Addresses of important public officials for letters

<p><b>Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess</b>          Secretary to the Commission          New York State Dept. of Public Service          Agency Building 3          Albany, NY 12223-1350  <a href="mailto:secretary@dps.ny.gov">secretary@dps.ny.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Representative Chris Gibson</b>          2 Hudson Street          PO Box 775          Kinderhook, NY 12106  <a href="http://gibson.house.gov/contact/">http://gibson.house.gov/contact/</a></p>
<p><b>Hon. David Prestemon</b>          Administrative Law Judge          New York State Dept of Public Service          Agency Building 3          Albany, NY 12233-1350  <a href="mailto:david.prestemon@dps.ny.gov">david.prestemon@dps.ny.gov</a></p>	<p><b>State Sen. Kathleen Marchione</b>          Room 306          Legislative Office Building          Albany, NY 12247  <a href="mailto:marchione@nysenate.gov">marchione@nysenate.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Gov. Andrew Cuomo</b>          New York State Capital Building          Albany, NY 12224  <a href="http://www.governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php">http://www.governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php</a></p>	<p><b>Senator Kirsten Gillibrand</b>          464 Russell Senate Office Bldg.          Washington, DC 20510-3201  <a href="http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/">http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/</a></p>
<p><b>Senator Charles Schumer</b>          313 Hart Senate Office Building          Washington, DC 20510-3203  <a href="https://www.schumer.senate.gov/Contact/contact_c_huck.cfm">https://www.schumer.senate.gov/Contact/contact_c_huck.cfm</a></p>	<p><b>Assemblywoman Didi Barrett</b>          Legislative Office Building 532          Albany, NY 12248  <a href="mailto:BarrettD@assembly.state.ny.us">BarrettD@assembly.state.ny.us</a></p>

#### Local Newspapers

<p><b>Letters to the Editor</b>          Register Star          One Hudson City Centre          Suite 202          Hudson, NY 12534  <a href="mailto:Editorial@registerstar.com">Editorial@registerstar.com</a></p>	<p><b>Albany Times Union</b>          Box 15000, News Plaza          Albany NY 12212.  <a href="mailto:tuletters@timesunion.com">tuletters@timesunion.com</a>          The Times Union prefers letters to be in the text of the message, not as attachments.</p>	<p><b>Columbia Paper</b>          The Columbia Paper          P.O. Box 482          Ghent, NY 12075-0482  <a href="mailto:letters@columbiapaper.com">letters@columbiapaper.com</a></p>
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