

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

[joint with COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT]

MINUTES: February 22, 2010

MEMBERS (ENERGY): Chair: Rogowsky; Legislators: Abinanti, Harckham, Kaplowitz, Maisano, Myers, Testa.

MEMBERS (ENV'T.): Chair: Harckham; Legislators: Abinanti, Kaplowitz, Maisano, Myers, Rogowsky, Testa.

IN ATTENDANCE: STAFF: C. Crane; K. Delgado (CEO); S. Glass (COWPUSA); Supervisor S. Siegal (Yorktown); Dep. Mayor M. Berard (Pleasantville); S. Miller, M. Blair, M. Amato, G. Cziernewski (Con Edison); J. Van Nostrand (PECC); M. Gilliland, A. Jaffe Holmes (GEF Lorax working group) [list of other attendees on file]

Committees on Energy, Environment called to order at 3:07 pm.

Item(s) Discussed: **Electric Transmission Line Vegetation Management**

Chairs Rogowsky and Harckham opened the joint meeting with discussion of vegetation management. Con Edison representatives first described aspects of its transmission line vegetation management program (TVMP), including revisions to its homeowner notification procedures. Mr. Kaplowitz stated that Con Edison contractors must also be informed of such modifications, with an appropriate amendment to its specifications/contract.

Mr. Glass and Mr. Crane then presented photographs showing tree cutting within various right-of-way (ROW) locations in the county. Supervisor Siegel and Deputy Mayor Berard informed the Committees of previous ROW activities within their municipalities. Mr. Gilliland and Ms. Jaffee Holmes expressed support for a proposed resolution calling for a moratorium of activities and review of the NYSPSC guidelines. James Van Nostrand, director at Pace Energy & Climate Center, noted that federal reliability standards are now enforceable, but much discretion is afforded to utilities on developing a vegetation management program.

Chair Harckham noted that committee action would not occur because of time constraints, and an upcoming committee meeting would revisit this subject. Chair Harckham stated that the Subcommittee on Septics would reconvene, with a meeting to occur in March 2010. Leg. Testa and Leg. Kaplowitz expressed their willingness to participate on the subcommittee. Upon the motion of Leg. Kaplowitz, seconded by Leg. Harckham, the Committee approved the reconstitution of the Subcommittee on Septics (all in favor).

Upon the motion of Leg. Kaplowitz, seconded by Leg. Myers, the Committee voted to adjourn (all in favor, both committees). The meeting ended at approximately 4:20 p.m.

[audio recording of the meeting is on file]