

# *Jefferson County Agricultural News Flash Network*

*A service of the Jefferson County Agricultural Development Corporation*

The following is a resolution passed by the Jefferson County Agricultural Development Corporation (JCADC) Board of Directors recently regarding the proposed construction of a 50.6 mile electric transmission line from the proposed Galloo Island Wind Power project through Jefferson County to Oswego County where it will interconnect with existing transmission lines. The JCADC Board of Directors is concerned about the negative impacts construction of the transmission line would have on prime agricultural land in southern Jefferson County.

**Requesting the New York State Public Service Commission to Consider an Underwater Route for the Placement of an Electric Transmission Line from Galloo Island, Town of Hounsfield, in Jefferson County, to Nine Mile Point, Town of Scriba, in Oswego County for the Proposed Galloo Island Wind Power Project (NYS Public Service Commission Case No. 09-T-0049)**

**Whereas**, Upstate NY Power Corporation has proposed building a wind power project on Galloo Island in the Town of Hounsfield in Jefferson County, NY and proposes to build a 50.6 mile, 230 kv transmission facility that runs underwater for approximately 10 miles from Galloo Island to Stony Point in the Town of Henderson in Jefferson County, with the transmission facility then coming ashore and being placed on monopole structures through the Towns of Henderson and Ellisburg, entering Oswego County in the Town of Sandy Creek and traveling through the Towns of Richland and Mexico, where it would interconnect through a proposed substation to existing transmission lines, and

**Whereas**, the proposed on-land route for the transmission line will have a negative impact on many landowners and homeowners, directly under or adjacent to the proposed line, including potential effects on real estate values, scenic vistas, and quality of life, and

**Whereas**, the proposed electric transmission line will be constructed through some of the most highly-valued farmland in Jefferson County, conceivably costing the affected farm businesses future development potential, decreasing yields from prime agricultural land and diminishing the quality of life for farm owners and their employees, and

**Whereas**, the proposed route for the transmission line directly crosses the existing Thousand Islands Agricultural Tour route and the National Scenic Byway - The Seaway Trail, and would result in a negative economic impact on tourism destinations due to the effect on scenic vistas, and

**Whereas**, the location of the proposed transmission line has the potential to become a transmission corridor for invasive and some noxious pest plant species such as Pale Swallowwort and Giant Hogweed, causing concern that, especially during construction of the transmission facilities, these species will be inadvertently transmitted from existing locations in the Town of Henderson along the transmission line route to new areas where they will have a negative

impact on ecosystems, local economies, and in the case of giant hogweed, pose threats to public health and safety, and

**Whereas**, Upstate NY Power Corporation has not demonstrated that an adequate and complete comparative feasibility study was done to look at alternative routes, including an underwater route for transmission facilities from Galloo Island to Nine Mile Point, and

**Whereas**, an underwater transmission facility appears to be in the best interest of the people of Jefferson County because it has little to no impact on social/economic systems, local ecologies, and will have minimal impact on the underwater environment after construction.

**Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved**, That the Jefferson County Agricultural Development Corporation requests the New York State Public Service Commission to require that the Upstate NY Power Corporation provide a study of various alternative routes for the aforementioned transmission line, to especially include an analysis for the construction of underwater electric transmission facilities from Galloo Island, Jefferson County to Nine Mile Point, Oswego County, and be it further

**Resolved**, That said study include a cost benefit analysis for placing the transmission facilities underwater versus on-land, including a comparison of the costs of construction, as well as the costs incurred by landowners in and adjacent to the transmission corridor, such as the value of lost business, scenic vistas, and real estate values, as well as the cost of lost tourism business, both current and future, and environmental costs, and be it further

**Resolved**, That if it is demonstrated an underwater route is economically infeasible, then further similar analyses must be performed to review alternative on-land routes to minimize the adverse effects on County residents as detailed above, and be it further

**Resolved**, That copies of this Resolution be sent to Honorable Jaclyn A. Brillig, Secretary, NYS Public Service Commission; Honorable Patrick Hooker, Commissioner, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets; Honorable Peter Grannis, Commissioner, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation; and the elected State representatives of Jefferson County, and the Chairman of the Jefferson County Board of Legislators immediately.

**This resolution was unanimously approved by the JCADC Board of Directors on December 8, 2009, with one abstention.**

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*Assisting in the retention, growth and promotion of agriculture in Jefferson County*