

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR JOHN W. MANNION
50TH DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE
946 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE 518-455-3511

DISTRICT OFFICE
STATE OFFICE BUILDING – ROOM 800
333 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13202
PHONE 315-428-7632

E-MAIL
mannion@nysenate.gov

CHAIR
DISABILITIES

COMMITTEE MEMBER

AGRICULTURE
EDUCATION
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
HEALTH
LIBRARIES

October 7, 2024

Doreen M. Harris
President and Chief Executive Officer
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

RE: Comments on Draft Blueprint for Consideration of Advanced Nuclear Technologies

Dear President Harris,

I am writing to express my support to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for developing the Draft Blueprint for Consideration of Advanced Nuclear Technologies and for holding the Future Energy Economy Summit last month to discuss the advancement of new renewable technologies, like nuclear generation. These actions help solidify the State's strong position of advancing new, innovative solutions to combat climate change and provide consumer access to renewable energy.

Additionally, I am encouraged by NYSEDA's commitment to help advance the Public Service Commission's (PSC) on-going investigation of potential renewable technologies in support of the Climate Leadership Community Protection Act's (CLCPA) 2040 zero-emissions target. While the PSC has not yet adopted a definition of "zero emissions" we firmly believe existing nuclear generation, and new advanced nuclear technologies, should be characterized as a zero-emissions resource. Preserving the State's existing nuclear facilities should be the highest priority. As Senator of the 50th Senatorial District, I strongly support the State's exploration of a variety of solutions to build a renewable energy future, including the potential for advanced nuclear technologies.

As acknowledged in NYSEDA's Draft Clean Energy Standard Biennial Review, there are challenges to achieving the State's nation-leading decarbonization, renewable energy, and zero emission goals established by the CLCPA.¹ Since these goals were established, a myriad of issues have hindered new renewable development while at the same time, New York State is experiencing unprecedented economic growth.


¹ Department of Public Service | NYSEDA, Draft Clean Energy Standard Biennial Review, (July 1, 2024)

Nuclear energy is available, reliable, and is essential to meeting the State’s electrical demand now and in the future. The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) forecasts a 300 percent surge in electricity demand by 2040 due to the State’s electrification efforts and significant high-load economic developments.² As more intermittent, renewable resources come online, consumer and state need for Dispatchable Emissions Free Resources (DEFERs) will increase as demand grows and traditional, fossil-fueled dispatchable resources are phased out and the 2040, and 2050 net-zero economywide emissions deadlines approach. Already, upstate nuclear facilities currently produce 46% of the state’s carbon-free electricity, which is approximately 32,000 gigawatt-hours (GWh).³

Further, the Scoping Plan assumes the State’s upstate nuclear fleet will be granted license extensions to operate an additional 20 years. Additionally, the Scoping Plan recommends that the State evaluate the role of existing and advanced nuclear facilities prior to the scheduled conclusion of the Zero Emissions Credit program in 2029, while recognizing the time required to relicense and refuel such facilities. We need to ensure nuclear facilities have the policy support to remain environmental and economic engines for our region while also considering new policy mechanisms to incentivize new, advanced nuclear technologies.

I commend the NYSERDA’s Draft Blueprint for Consideration of Advanced Nuclear Technologies for acknowledging the value of the upstate nuclear facilities and for providing a strong vision for the state’s zero-emissions future. I appreciate your highest consideration of the impacts that existing and future nuclear energy facilities will have on the state’s renewable energy goals.

Sincerely,



John W. Mannion
New York State Senator
50th Senate District

² NYISO, 2021-2040 System & Resource Outlook, at 9 (Aug 8, 2022), 99fb4cbf-ed93-f32e-9acf-ecb6a0cf4841 (nyiso.com) (the “NYISO Outlook Report”).

³ Department of Public Service | NYSERDA, Draft Clean Energy Standard Biennial Review, at 9 (July 1, 2024)