

**Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) In-Person Public Statement Hearings Procedures**

**Updated: 11/13/2020**

Please check the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) website at [www.ores.ny.gov](http://www.ores.ny.gov) periodically for updates in the event that a public statement hearing needs to be canceled, rescheduled or postponed.

- The public have an opportunity to formally submit comments at <https://ores.ny.gov/regulations> on the draft regulations Chapter XVIII Title 19 (Subparts 900-1 – 900-5; 900-7 – 900-14) and the draft uniform standards and conditions Chapter XVIII Title 19 (Subpart 900-6) until **December 7, 2020**.
- The Office of Renewable Energy Siting will seek public comment **only** on the proposed draft uniform standards and conditions or Chapter XVIII Title 19 (Subpart 900-6) at the in-person public hearings as well as virtual public hearings. To find more information on the public hearings, please check the ORES website at [www.ores.ny.gov](http://www.ores.ny.gov).
- Any person wishing to comment on the proposed draft uniform standards and conditions or Chapter XVIII Title 19 (Subparts 900-6) on the record at the in-person hearings must register by sending an email to [General@ores.ny.gov](mailto:General@ores.ny.gov) no later than **5 P.M. on Friday, November 13, 2020**.
- The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will use a registration list to call each person who has requested to provide a statement. The hearings will continue until everyone wishing to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements have been made to include their comments in the record.
- A three (3) minute time limit will be set for each speaker to afford all attendees an opportunity to be heard. It is recommended that lengthy comments be submitted in writing and summarized for oral presentation. A verbatim transcript of the hearings will be made for inclusion in the record.
- Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should call (518) 474-2520 as soon as possible. TDD users may request a sign language interpreter by placing a call through the New York Relay Service at 711. Individuals with difficulty understanding or reading English are encouraged to call 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this notice.

**Health Screenings & Contact Tracing**

- All hearing attendees from the public and members of the state agency staff are required to complete a health screening form either in advance of or upon entry to the facility.
  - Links to the forms used for each facility will be posted online at [www.ores.ny.gov](http://www.ores.ny.gov).
- If a pre-registered participant is feeling unwell on the day of the hearing, the individual must refrain from attending and plan to participate in a virtual hearing on November 24, 2020 or November 30, 2020 or to submit comments in writing.



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- All participants will have their temperatures taken upon entering the hearing facility; any individual who has a temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher will not be permitted to attend the hearing.
- Contact information will be collected from all participants and retained by ORES and the host facility for twenty-eight (28) days after the hearing in the event that contact tracing is necessary.

#### **Facilities Protocol**

- All participants must wear an acceptable face covering at all times inside the hearing facility or they will be asked to leave by security.
  - Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth masks and surgical masks.
  - The face covering must cover the nose, mouth, and chin at all times.
- All participants must remain six (6) feet apart from one another unless they are members of the same household.
- Room capacities have been adjusted to ensure adequate distancing can be achieved and total capacity cannot exceed fifty (50) individuals, including state agency staff. Members of the public are encouraged to leave the venue once their remarks are delivered, in order to make room for additional speakers.
- Hearing rooms will be organized such that seats in the audience are at least six (6) feet apart in all directions.
- No congregating in lobby areas prior to or after the hearing will be allowed.
- No food or drink will be permitted inside the hearing facilities.

#### **Hygiene & Cleaning**

- Microphone covers will be available and must be changed between each speaker.
- An alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol will be available at the registration table.
- Writing utensils will be disinfected between each user.
- Extra masks will be available at the registration table.
- To minimize risk, ORES will forego handouts for these hearings – all materials will be available at [www.ores.ny.gov](http://www.ores.ny.gov)

