

NYPA Sequestration Protocol

The New York Power Authority [NYPA] is preparing to implement a Sequestration In Place [SIP] protocol to ensure the uninterrupted operations of its transmission and generation facilities during the COVID emergency.

The SIP protocols require a total separation of living, sleeping, cooking, laundry and rest/entertainment areas for the individual work crews. NYPA has procured trailers equipped with beds, showering facilities, kitchens and food supplies [frozen, canned, and/or secured arrangements with local restaurants for food deliveries], cleaning supplies and entertainment supplies on each site.

NYPA also procured laundry machines for use by the crews.

Management at each NYPA site conducted a critical analysis of its workforce to determine the minimum number of essential employees needed to ensure the uninterrupted operation of its power plants.

Each site was tasked with creating a list of essential employees by classification/function. Management then devised crews from that list and assigned each employee to a crew. Each crew will work a 12-hour shift [day and night crew].

Each crew functions as a separate unit to eliminate the need for the crew to interact with each other while sheltering in place.

The size and composition of the crews will vary depending upon the size and function of the site, but each crew for the generation sites will consist of a mix of shift supervisors, Senior Operators and Journeyman Operators as well as Security and Buildings and Grounds Attendants. The crew at our transmission site will consist of Security, a Substation Operator and Buildings and Grounds Attendants.

In the unlikely event an employee, who is not part of the established crews, is called onto the site for an emergency repair, the crews are directed to practice social distancing and limit all interaction with this employee.

All employees are required to wear appropriate PPE while working.

Work areas will be thoroughly sanitized at each shift change and whenever circumstances warrant.

Volunteers solicited for SIP were notified that the expected duration is 4 weeks.

Volunteers were notified that if a full, healthy crew was available, the duration of the SIP may be shortened to allow for a switch out of a crew.

As a condition of eligibility to SIP, all volunteers, prior to being sheltered, were required to be tested for COVID19 for the initial and any subsequent deployments.