

# Climate Change Vulnerability Study and Resilience Plan

Third Climate Resilience Working Group (CRWG)  
Meeting

October 18, 2023

national**grid**





# Today's Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Project Context
- Climate Change Vulnerability Study Recap
- Resilience Journey
- Climate Change Resilience Plan Framework
- Proposed Resilience Measures and Justification
  - Detailed Project Examples
- Questions & Discussion
- Next Steps

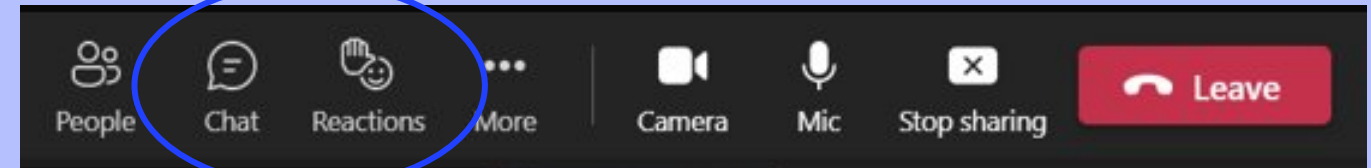




# Meeting Logistics

- Please use the **raise hand function** at any point during the presentation to ask a question or **add it to the chat**.
- The meeting will be **recorded**.
- If you have technical difficulties or need assistance, please **message Marina Mateski in Teams**, or email at [Marina.Mateski@icf.com](mailto:Marina.Mateski@icf.com).

## Example of Toolbar



# Introductions: National Grid Team

Visit our website

<https://www.nationalgridus.com/Our-Company/New-York-Climate-Resiliency-Plan>

Natasha Deschene



VP Electric Asset  
Management &  
Engineering

Casey Kirkpatrick



Director, Reliability and  
Research & Development

Matthew LaFlair



Director, Integrated  
Planning & Solutions

Peter Haswell



Project Manager

[Peter.haswell@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Peter.haswell@nationalgrid.com)

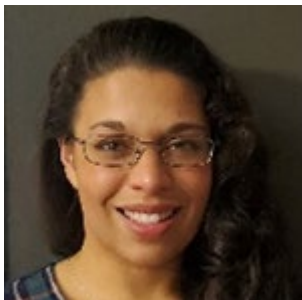
Katie Meyer



Technical Lead

[Kaitlyn.Meyer@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Kaitlyn.Meyer@nationalgrid.com)

Rachel Stowell



Stakeholder Lead

[Rachel.stowell@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Rachel.stowell@nationalgrid.com)

The screenshot shows the National Grid website's 'New York Climate Resiliency Plan' page. The header includes the National Grid logo and navigation links: 'Your Account', 'Billing & Payments', 'Save Energy & Money', 'Safety & Outages', 'Pay Your Bill', and 'Sign In / Register'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Our Company > New York Climate Resiliency Plan'. The left sidebar contains links to 'About National Grid', 'New York Climate Resiliency Plan' (highlighted), 'US Leadership', 'Community Presence', 'Pride at National Grid', 'Environmental Policy', and 'Customer Claims'. The main content area is titled 'New York Climate Resiliency Plan' and contains the following text: 'It is crucial that National Grid maintains the continuity of energy delivery services to our customers and the communities we serve. And building network infrastructure that is reliable and resilient is more important than ever as we face more severe weather events in the face of climate change.' 'National Grid is committed to urgent action to address climate change as we've outlined in our vision for a **fossil free future**, but we all must recognize that climate change is no longer a future threat but a current threat based on the extreme climate hazards we are witnessing today.' 'To address these goals and challenges, National Grid launched its climate vulnerability study to help prepare for the increase in severe weather expected from climate change. The study will provide a new way for us to evaluate the Company's electric infrastructure, design specifications, and procedures to better understand our electric system's vulnerability to climate-driven risks.' 'Based on the study results, we will be creating a Resilience Plan that will be submitted to the New York Public Service Commission (PSC).' 'This page will serve as the central source for our process and plans, aligned to the following timeline:'. Below the text is a timeline with three milestones: 'February 2023 Climate Resilience Working Group (CRWG)', 'September 2023 Climate Change Vulnerability Study', and 'November 2023 Climate Change Resilience Plan'.



# National Grid Working Group Participants

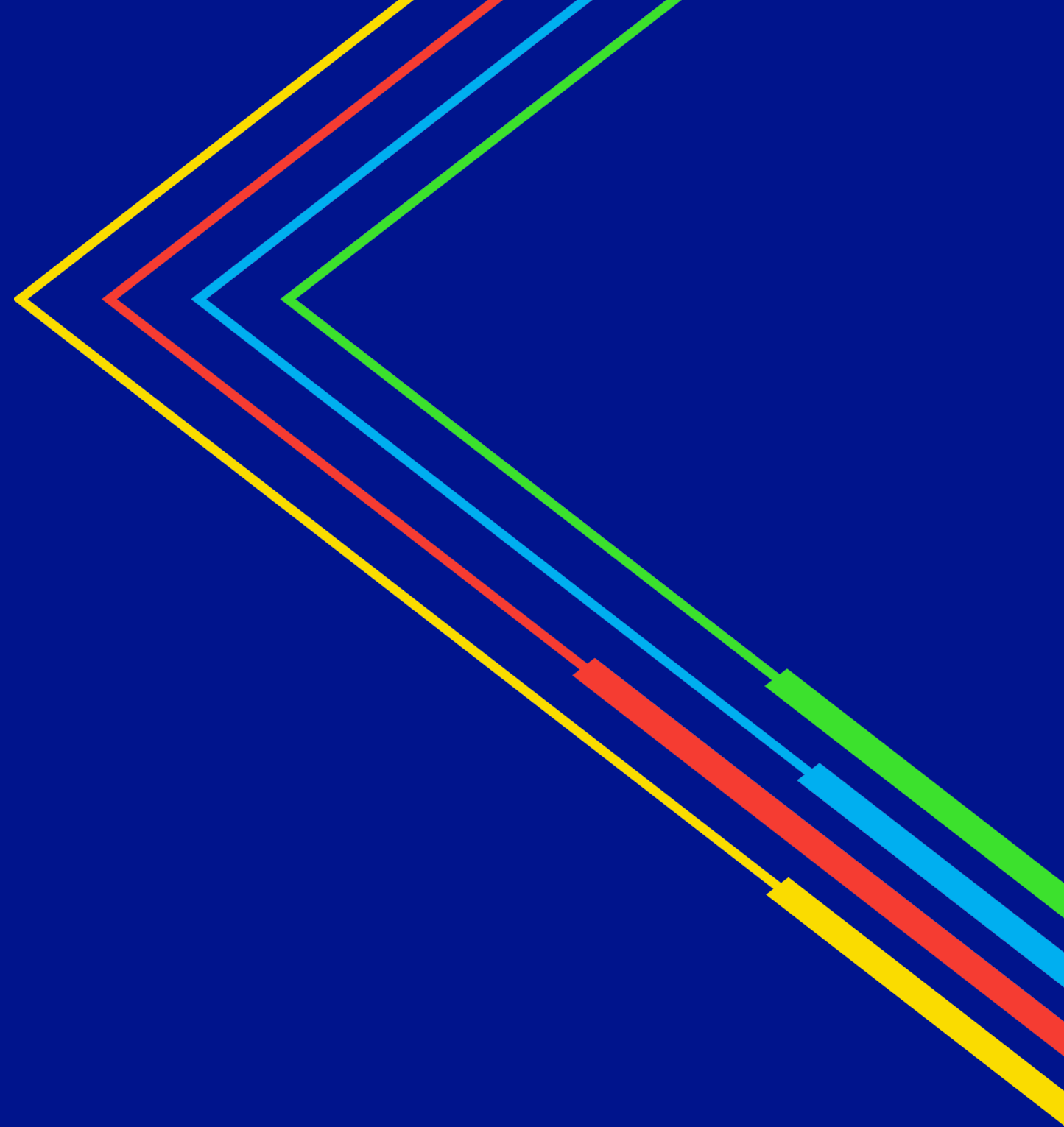
Organization
Office of Environment, Onondaga County
AARP New York
AARP
Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE)
Barclay Damon, LLP
Central NY Regional Planning & Development Board
ChargePoint, Inc.
Citizen Action of New York, Inc.
City of Albany
City of Glens Falls
City of Niagara Falls
City of Syracuse
Columbia County Planning Department
Columbia Economic Development Corporation
Direct Energy Services LLC
Division of Consumer Protection
Environmental Defense Fund
Erie County DHSES
Family Energy, Inc.
Franklin County Government
Greenlots
HOCCPP
Marathon Power LLC
Mission:data Coalition, Inc.
Natural Resources Defense Council
New York Geothermal Energy Org
New York Power Authority

Organization
New York State Department of Public Service (DPS)
New York State Office of General Services
Niagara County
NYGEO
NYSDOT
NYSERDA
Office of Environment, Onondaga County
Onondaga County DOT
Onondaga County
Oswego County
Other Intervenors
Pace Energy And Climate Center
People United for Sustainable Housing, Buffalo
DPS Staff
Public Utility Law Project of New York, Inc.
PULP
Schenectady County
Schenectady Fire Department
Sierra Club
St Lawrence County Emergency Services
Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline
Town of Amherst
Town of DeWitt
Utility Intervention Unit, Division of
Consumer Protection,
Wyoming County Office of Emergency Services
Wyoming County Planning Department

Please provide your name, title, and affiliation in the chat

# Project Context

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# Overview of Public Service Commission Requirements

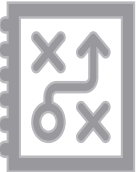
Aims to bolster electric utility planning and resilience by incorporating climate change considerations

## Vulnerability Study



- Evaluate infrastructure, design specifications, and procedures to identify vulnerabilities
- Identify priorities for adaptation measures that will feed into Resilience Plan
- Study to be performed with supporting climate data from NYSERDA and Columbia University

## Resilience Plan



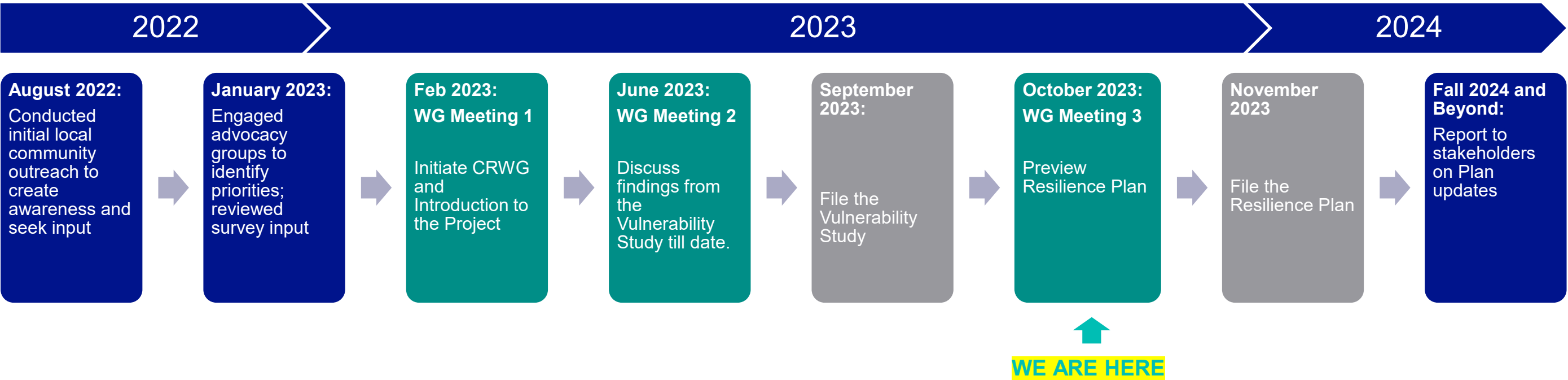
- Propose storm hardening measures for next 10 and 20 years
- Detail how climate change is reflected in planning, design, operations, & emergency response
- Address impacts on costs, outage times, potential for undergrounding lines, etc.
- Utility to establish “Climate Resilience Working Group” by 3/2023 to advise on Resilience Plan to include municipalities, customer advocacy groups, and energy/environmental advocates

## CRWG Role and Engagement Roadmap

### Outreach, Engagement & Initial Feedback

### Study & Plan Development

### Ongoing Engagement & Reporting



# Today's CRWG Focus

- Summarize findings on **priority vulnerabilities** for National Grid
- Discuss the **resilience framework** to achieve a multi-pronged strategy
- Discuss the **business case justification framework** and results
  - System Reliability, Criticality, Community Resilience
  - Consideration of Equity
- Review the **resilience measures** being proposed as part of the CCRP
- 5-, 10-, 20-yr **investment plan**



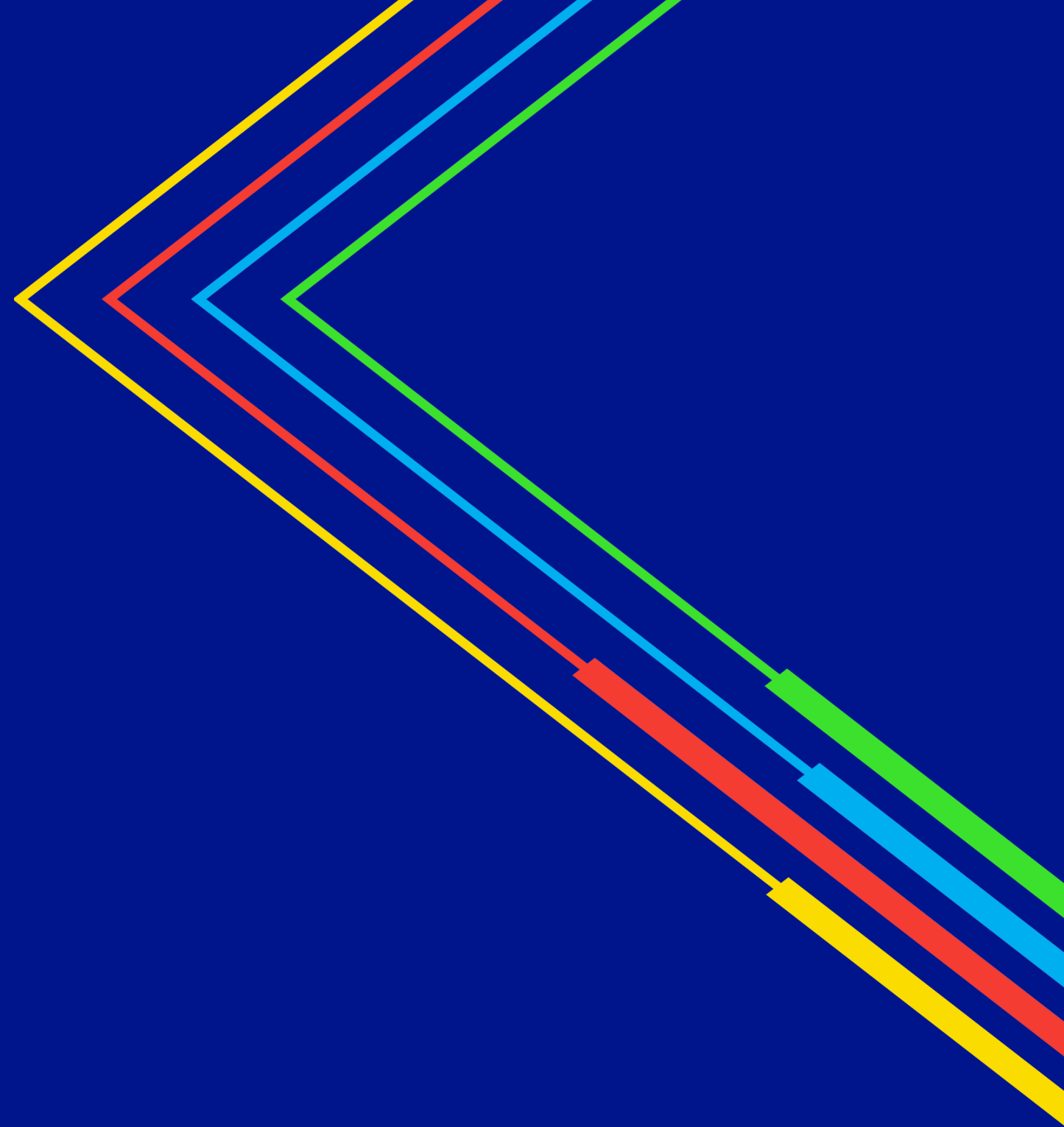


## Stakeholder Input



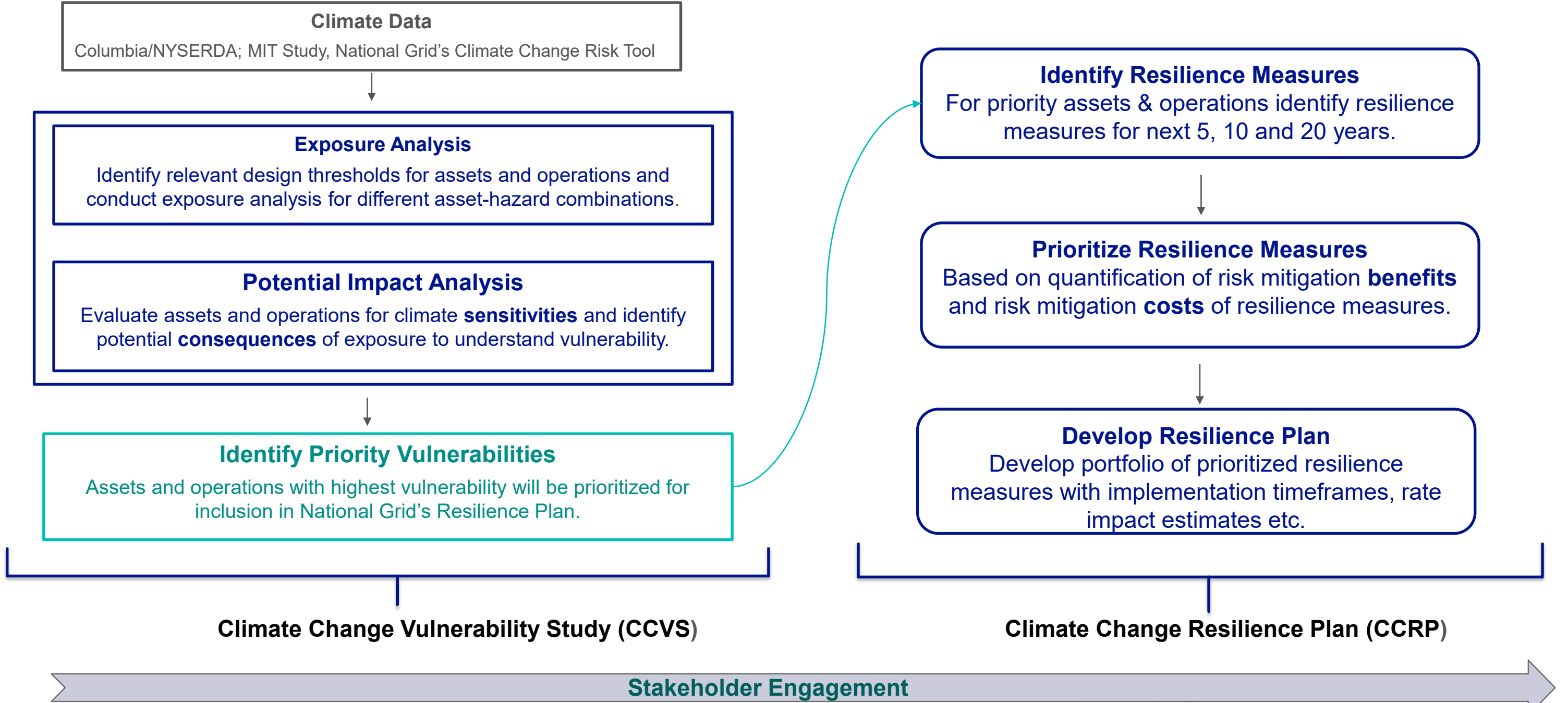
National Grid sees  
CRWG input as **critical**  
and appreciates  
thoughts and questions  
shared in this meeting

# Project Process & Timeline

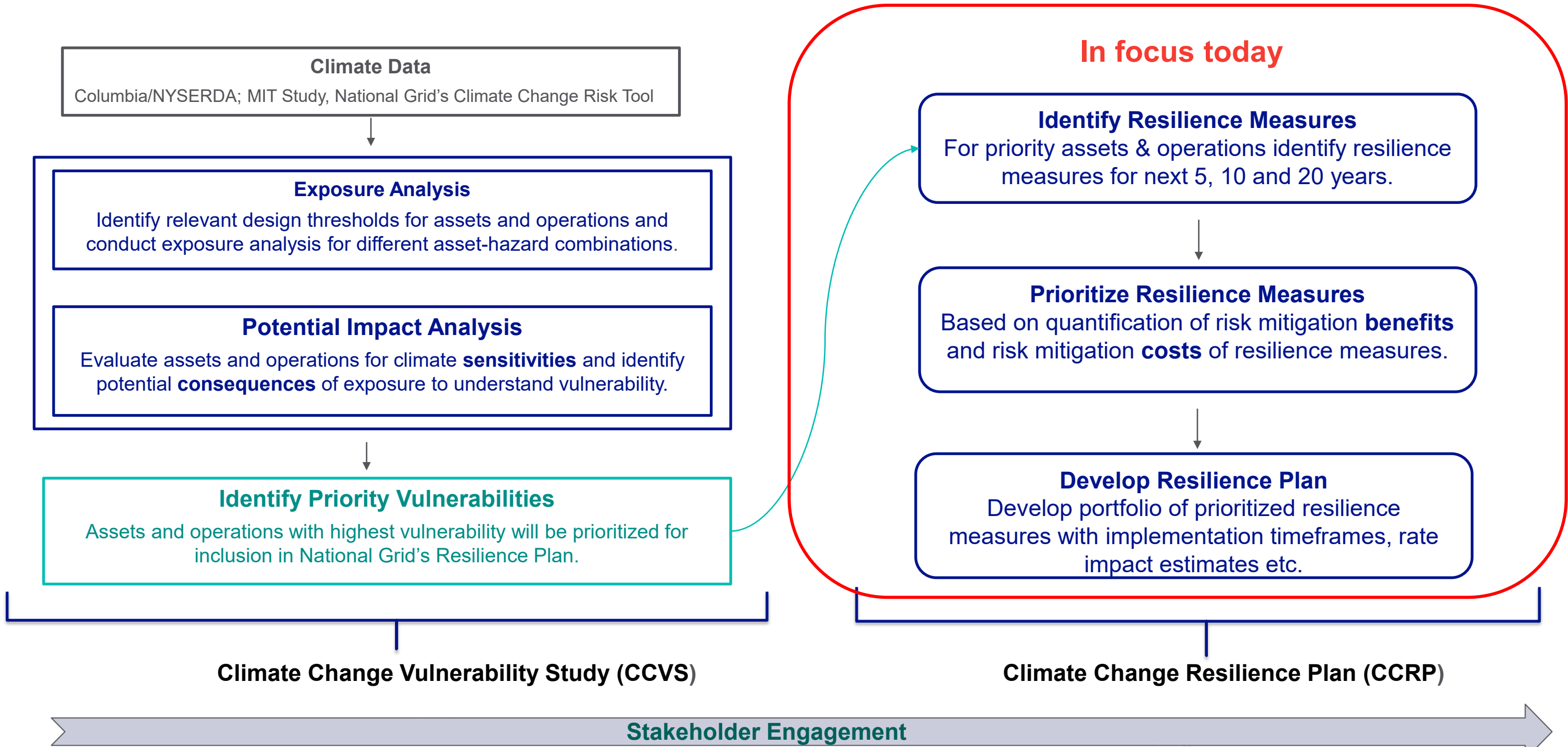




# Climate Change Vulnerability Study and Resilience Plan – Approach Overview



# Climate Change Vulnerability Study and Resilience Plan – Approach Overview





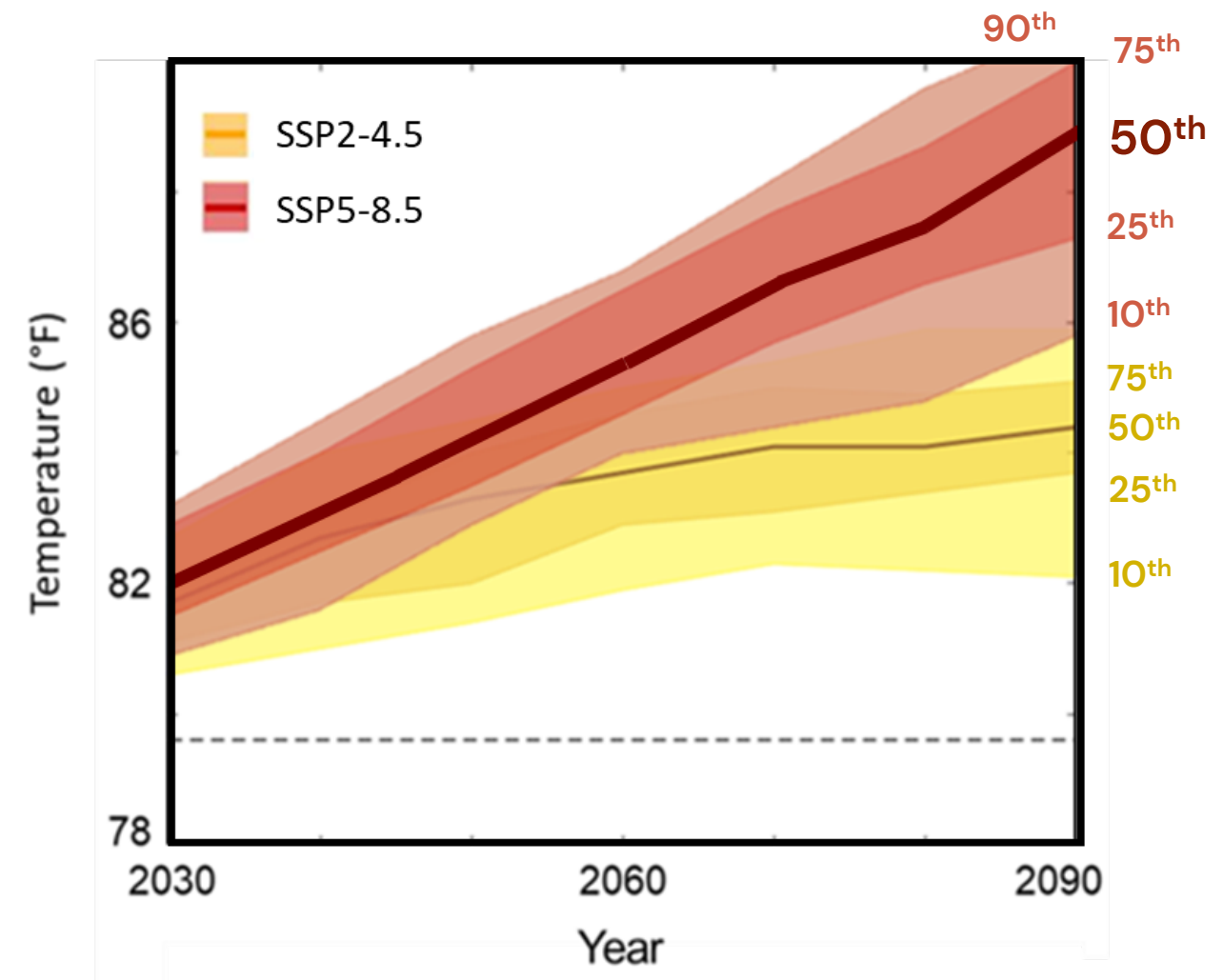
# Climate Change Planning Pathway

Climate change projections provide a range of plausible climate futures reflecting uncertainty around both future emissions trajectories and climate sensitivity.

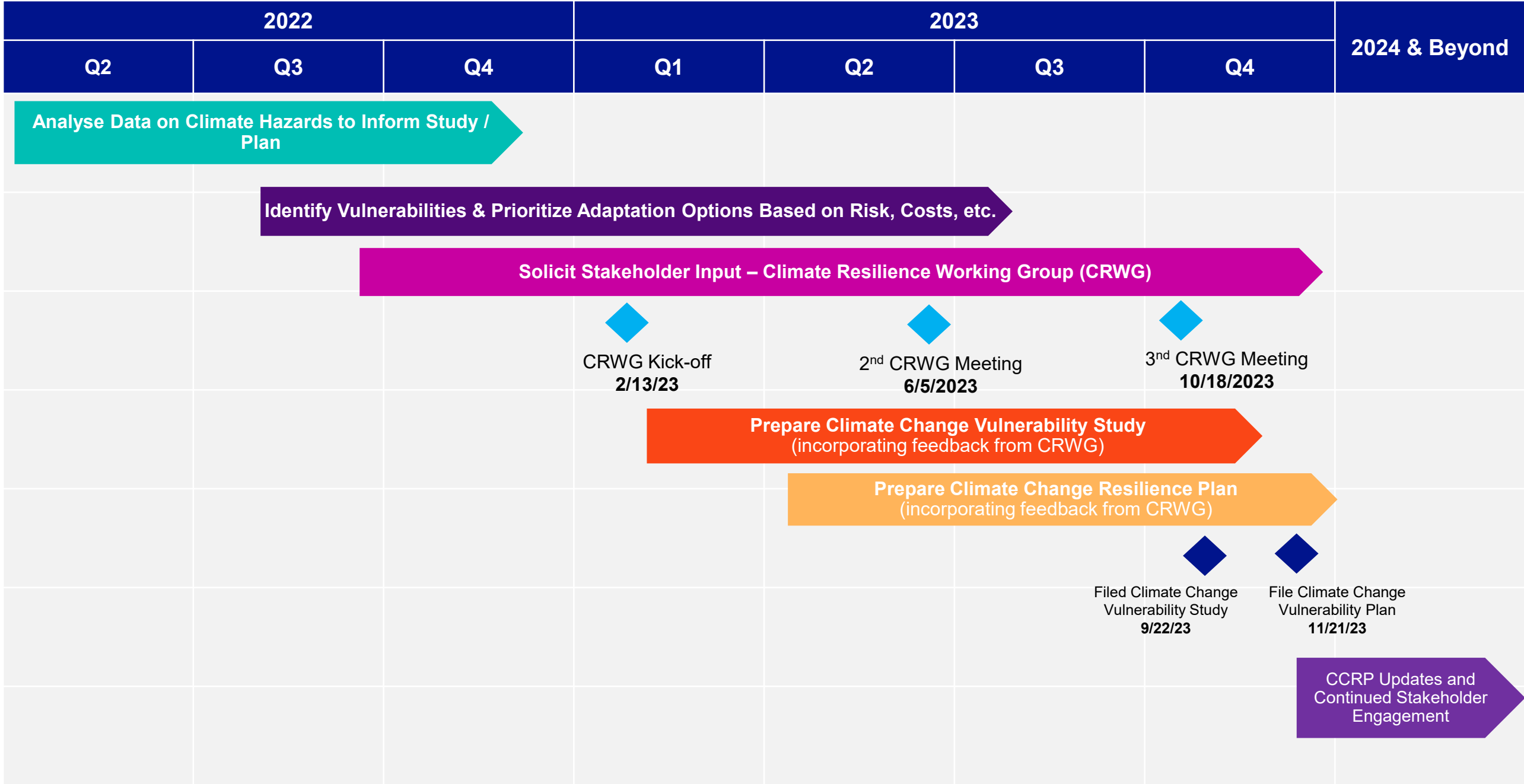
Pathways provide **standardized climate projections and assumed climate conditions in the service area** to which the utility would **plan in order to strengthen resilience** to potential climate change risks.

## National Grid's Selected Planning Scenario - **SSP5-8.5 50<sup>th</sup> percentile**

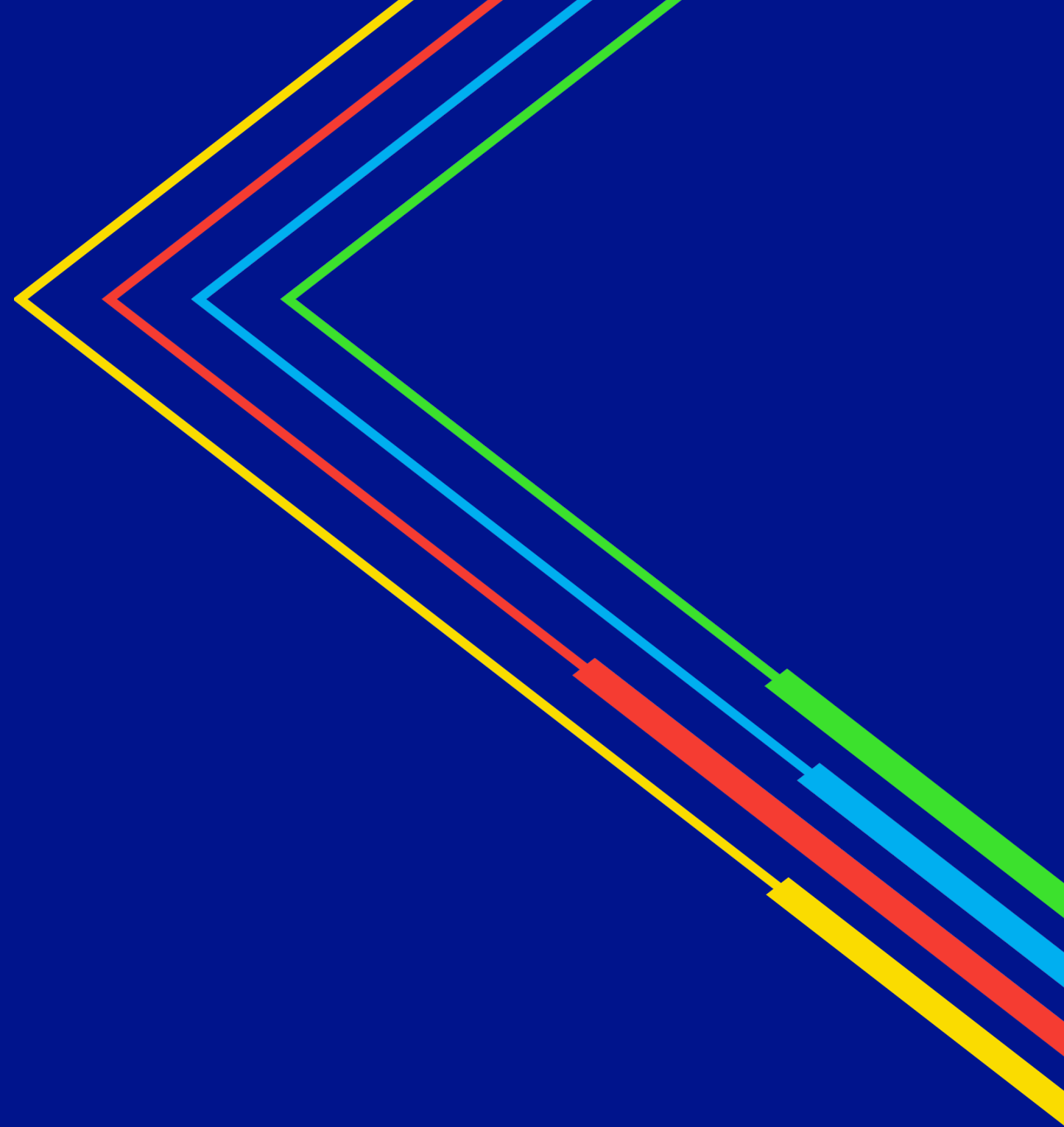
- Utilizing the worst-case climate planning scenario (pathway) and using the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile
- Very high GHG emissions



# Timeline Overview



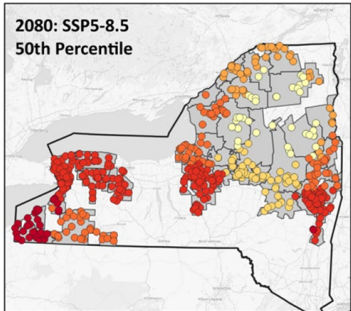
# Vulnerability Study: Recap





# Priority Asset Vulnerabilities for National Grid

- Potential Impact ratings were considered alongside findings from the Exposure analysis to understand priority vulnerabilities for National Grid.



Exposure  
to  
climate  
hazards



High Temperature				
Transmission	Sensitivity	x	Consequence	= Potential Impact
Line structures (poles/towers)		x		
Conductors (Overhead)		x		
Conductors (Underground)		x		
Open-air current carrying components		x		





Potential  
Impacts  
from  
exposure



Vulnerability







- Priority vulnerabilities** represent the asset groups with the highest potential impact from each hazard.
- These priority vulnerabilities will feed into National Grid’s Resilience Plan and will be addressed further in the identification of resilience measures.

ASSET GROUP	High Temperature 	Inland Flooding 	Wind Gusts 	Ice 
Transmission Line	✓		✓	✓
Distribution Line <sup>10</sup>	✓		✓	✓
Substation	✓	✓		

# Potential Impacts on Operational and Planning functions

- Potential impacts on key operational and planning functions were also qualitatively reviewed.
- Climate hazards of most concern were identified for each function.

OPERATIONS AND PLANNING FUNCTION	High Temperature 	Inland Flooding 	High Winds 	Ice 
Emergency Response	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vegetation Management		✓	✓	✓
Workforce Safety and Methods	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reliability Planning	✓	✓	✓	✓
Load Forecasting	✓			
Capacity Planning	✓			



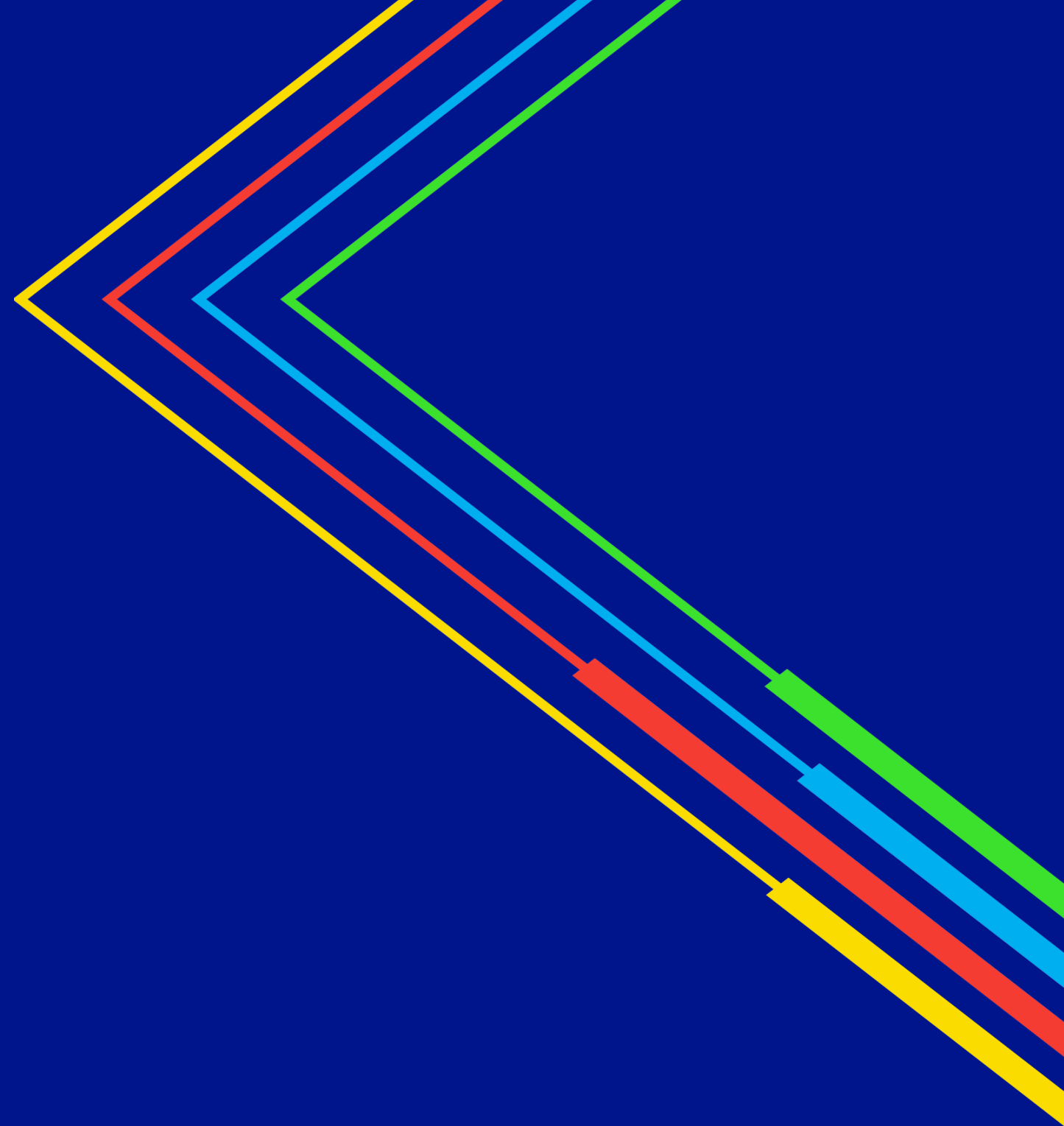
Any questions?



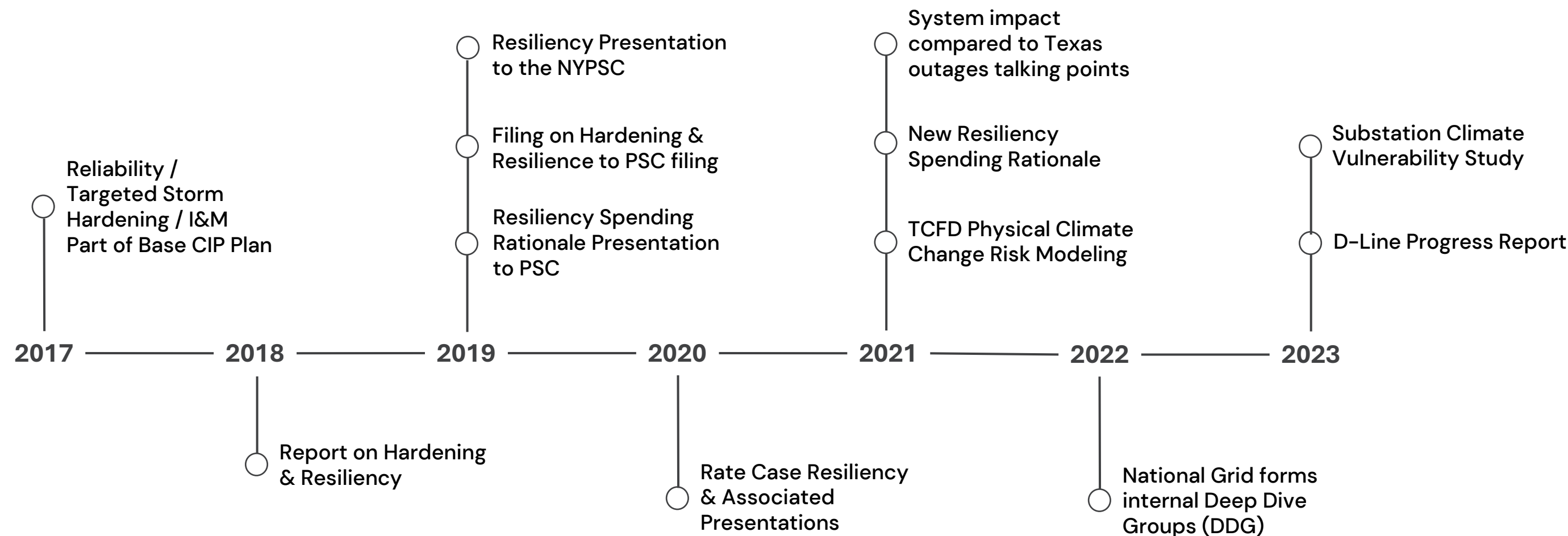


# Climate Change Resilience Plan Overview and Strategies

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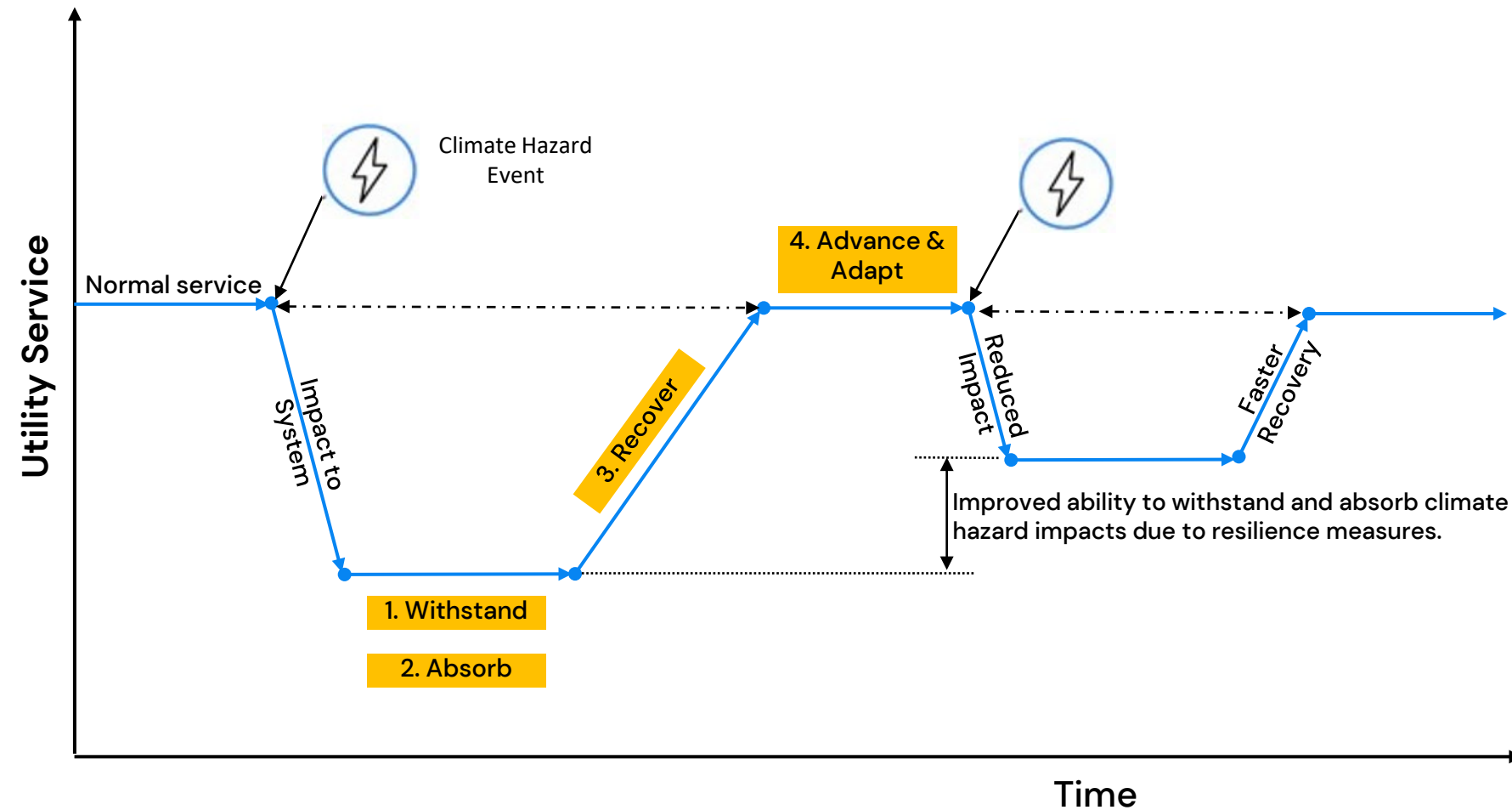


# CCRP Resilience Journey



# Resilience Framework

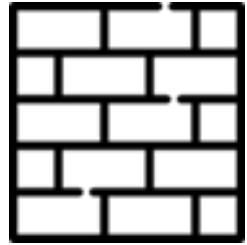
Pursue a multi-pronged resilience strategy with four dimensions: Withstand, Absorb, Recover, and Advance and Adapt.



1. Strengthen assets and operations to withstand the adverse impacts of a climate hazard event.
2. Increase the system's ability to anticipate when a climate hazard event may occur and absorb its effects.
3. Bolster the system's ability to quickly respond and recover in the aftermath of a climate hazard event.
4. Advance and adapt the system to address a continuously changing threat landscape and perpetually improve resilience.

# Physical and Operational Resiliency Measures

## Strengthen & Withstand



### Physical Measures

- Distribution and Transmission Substation flood risk mitigation
- Updating design standards for transformers
- Distribution line structure upgrades
- Sub-transmission structure upgrades
- Transmission structure upgrades
- Sub-transmission upgrades
- Distribution line upgrades

## Advance & Adapt



### Physical Measures

- Distribution and sub-transmission targeted undergrounding
- Increase T&D structure standards

### Operational Measures

- Substation Transformer Specification changes
- Increase distribution structure standards
- Increase transmission structure standards

## Respond & Recover



### Physical Measures

- Additional high strength spare structures

### Operational Measures

- Strategic Spares Program

## Anticipate & Absorb

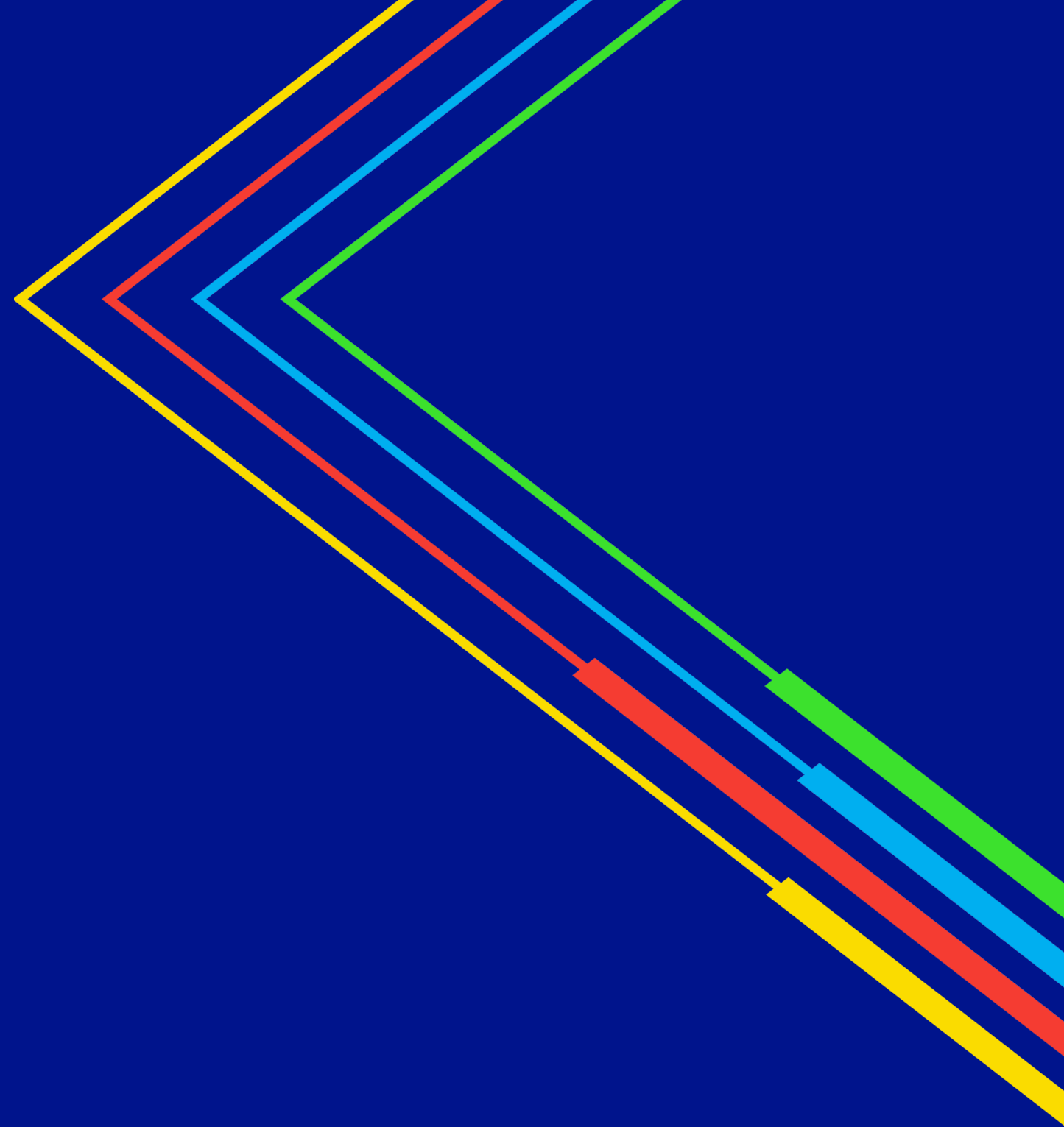


### Operational Measures

- Electric load forecasting



# Business Case Justification



# Business Case Justification (BCJ) Overview

The BCJ process helps National Grid characterize the benefits, to the company and community, of the selected resilience projects and programs. The BCJ is scored by three considerations: System Reliability, Criticality, and Community Resilience.

## System Reliability (scored from 1 to 5)

- Provides insight on whether a resilience measure being proposed is in an area with historically lower reliability relative to others in the service territory.

## Criticality (scored from 1 to 5)

- Based on the count of critical facilities that provide health- and safety-related services to the community (e.g., hospitals, police stations, water treatment plants, shelters) associated to each substation.

## Community Resilience (scored from 1 to 5)

- Provides insight into the extent of the economic impact on the region due to an electrical outage. It is based on the count of critical facilities and the population they serve, and the number of customers served.

# Business Case Justification Example

## System Reliability Scoring – worst performing

Substation Name	Number of Events*	SAIFI*	SAIDI*	Feeder Rank*	Reliability Score
North Creek	45	0.71	2.75	7035	5
Belmont	17	2.74	6	7848	5
Buffalo Station 56	3	.38	.84	4685	3

\*worst performing feeder associated with substation

## Criticality Scoring – critical facilities

Substation Name	Tier 1 Critical Facilities Count	Tier 2 Critical Facilities Count	Safety Score
North Creek	5	8	5
Belmont	2	2	4
Buffalo Station 56	2	1	4

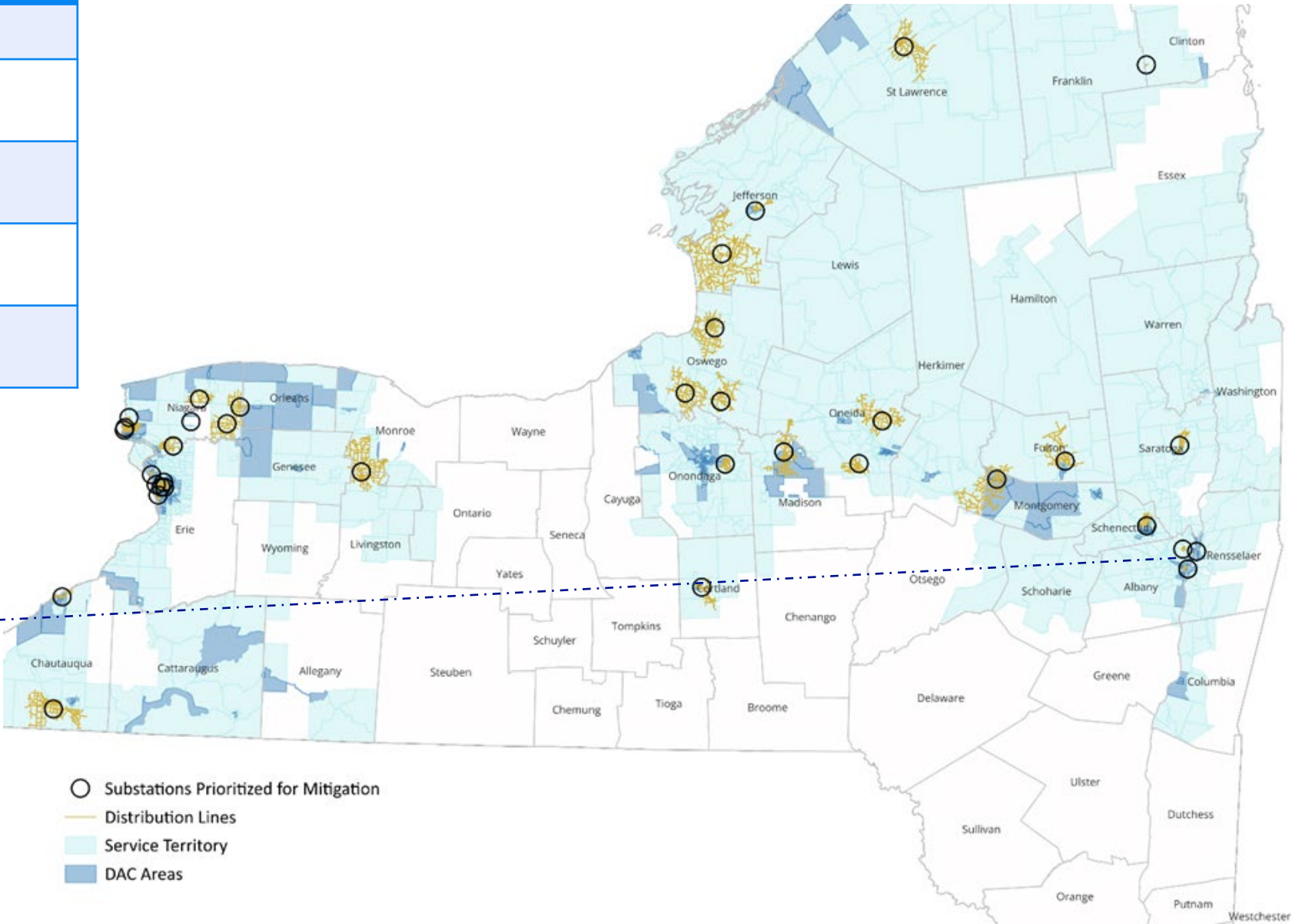
## Community Resilience Scoring – most regional impact

Substation Name	Outage Duration (days)	Total Critical Facilities (Tier 1, 2, 3)	Population by Region	Resilience Score
North Creek	2.42	29	383,692	5
Belmont	1.91	6	1,603,241	5
Buffalo Station 56	2.30	2	580,596	4

Substation Name	BCJ Score
North Creek	100%
Belmont	93%
Buffalo Station 56	73%

# Equity Considerations

Substation Name	BCJ Score	Serving DAC?
Front St Station 360	100%	Yes
Gloversville Station 72	100%	Yes
Riverside Station 288	93%	Yes
West Monroe Station 274	93%	No
Peterboro Station 514	87%	Yes











Any questions or suggestions?



# Proposed Resilience Investments

Project	Mitigated Climate Hazard	Description
1. Overhead Distribution and Sub-transmission Line Design Upgrades*	Wind Gusts and Ice 	Update distribution line standards to move from type class 3 poles to class 1 for main lines and poles that carry heavy equipment (8,000 poles/year) and update sub-transmission line standards to use class 1 poles for single circuit structures, class H1 for double circuit structures, and class H2 for double circuit with distribution underbuilds (900 poles/year).
2. Overhead Transmission Line Design Upgrades*	Wind Gusts and Ice 	Build T-Lines to withstand 120 MPH wind gusts in high wind areas (46 total) by using more steel and larger foundations. Projects include 44 – 115kV lines and 2 – 230KV lines (1,300 circuit miles covered).
3. Distribution and Sub-transmission Targeted Undergrounding	Wind Gusts and Ice 	Targeted undergrounding of 1-2 miles per year of 3-phase main line in highest wind and icing areas.
4. Spare Transmission Line Structures	Wind Gusts and Ice 	Purchase 10 T-Line spare structures per division designed for 120 MPH gusts to speed restoration.
5. Substation Flood Walls	Flooding 	Install flood walls at 18 substations in high -risk areas (17,000 linear feet of flood walls total).
6. Distribution and Transmission Substation Transformer Specification Upgrades*	Extreme Heat 	Update transformer spec from 32°C (90°F) to 35°C (95°F). There will be 35 distribution projects (81 transformers) and 24 transmission projects (37 transformers) with installs and replacements.

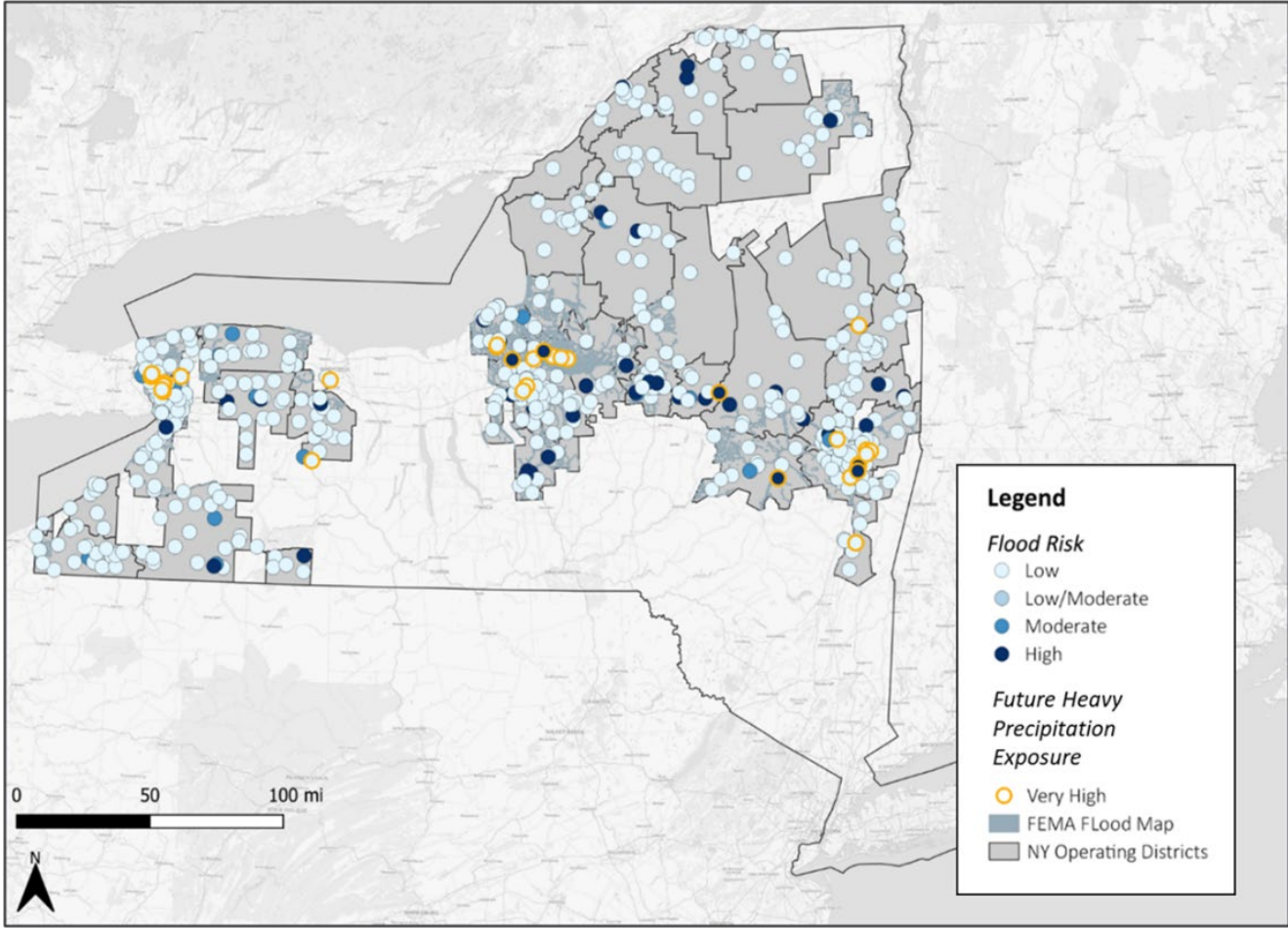


\* Additional to existing projects

# Substation Floodwalls

- A Comprehensive evaluation was performed by SMEs using **FEMA** and climate change risk tool (**CCRT**) information to identify substations at high risk for flooding
- **18 substations (8 distribution, 10 transmission)** were recommended for flood mitigation
- **Flood walls determined to be most cost-effective solution**, although other options such as relocating or raising substation equipment were evaluated
- Substation flooding can damage critical substation equipment such as transformers, breakers, and protection & control systems and **interrupt service to 10's of thousands of customers for long durations**
- Resilience Plan (CCRP) Proposal:
  - **Over the next 10 years**, install flood walls at 18 Substations in high-risk areas
    - Install **17,000 linear feet** of flood walls, total

Substation Flood Risk

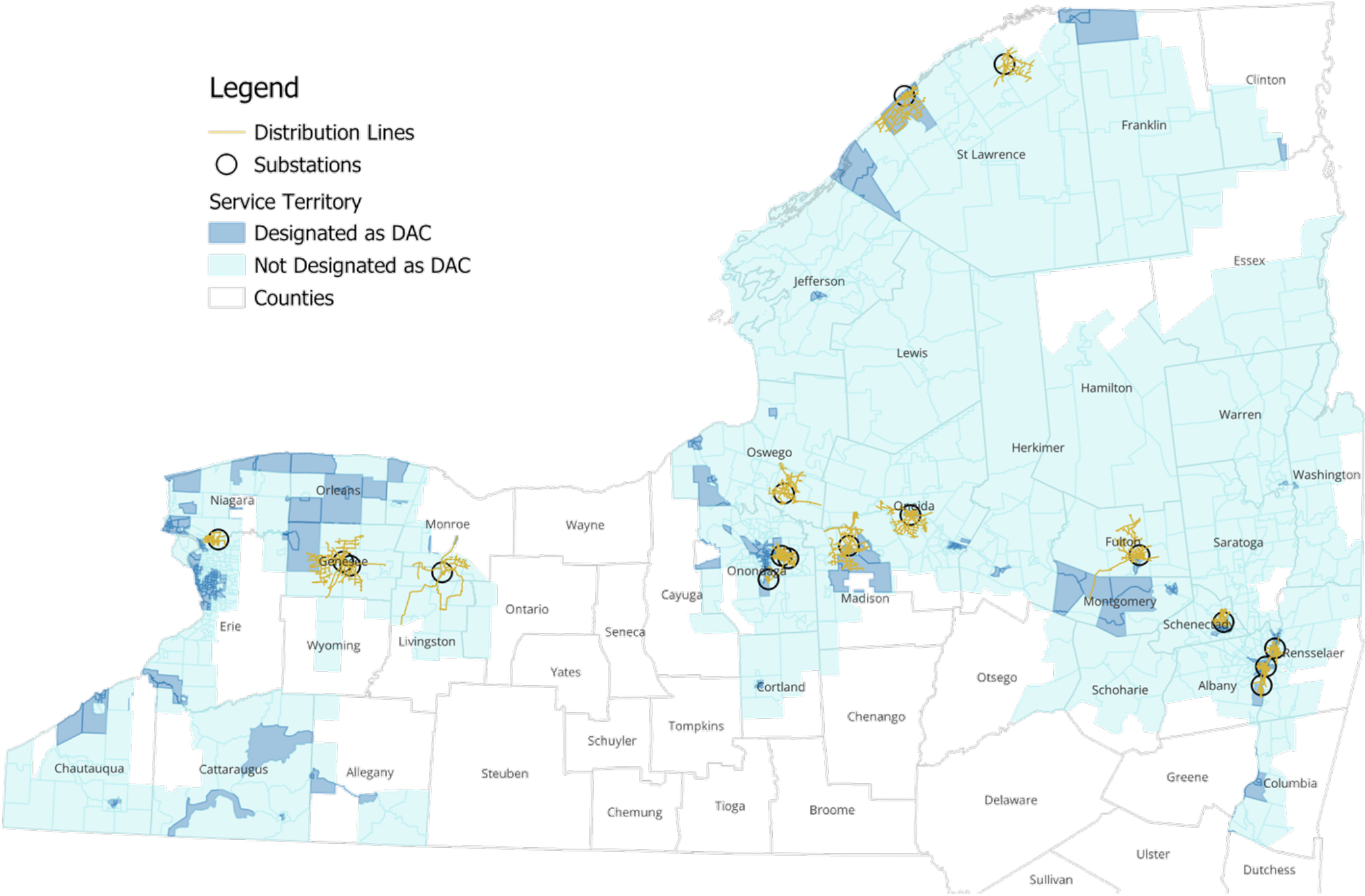


Project Costs (Capex - \$M)	Rate Case FY26-29	5 Year FY26-30	BP23 FY24-33	10 Year FY26-35	20 Year FY26-45
Distribution Substations	5	7	11	12	12
Transmission Substations	10	12	16	16	16
TOTAL	15	19	27	28	28

\*Added scope to existing projects



# Substation Flood Mitigation Projects

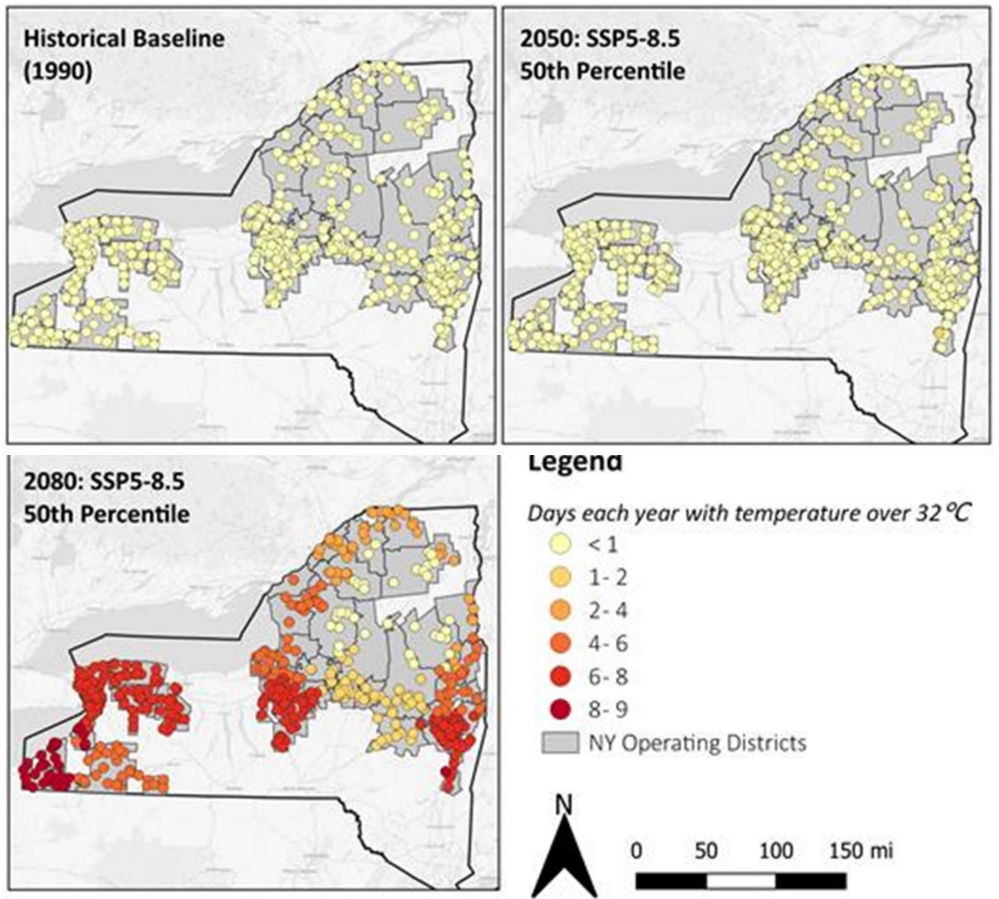




# Substation Transformers Upgrades

- Substation transformers presently specified for maximum daily average of 32° C (90° F)
- Temperatures projected to increase, with some areas reaching 35° C (95° F) by the 2050s
- Temperatures above specified levels will **reduce capacity, equipment lifespan** or cause **damage** up to and including a **transformer failure** and resulting **customer outages**.
- Resilience Plan (CCRP) Proposal:
  - **Update transformer spec from 32° C (90° F) to 35° C (95° F).**
  - This will result in a **3-5% cost increase** for most transformers
  - Projects in 5-year plan w/ transformer installs & replacements
    - **Distribution: 35 projects, 81 transformers**
    - **Transmission: 24 projects, 37 transformers**

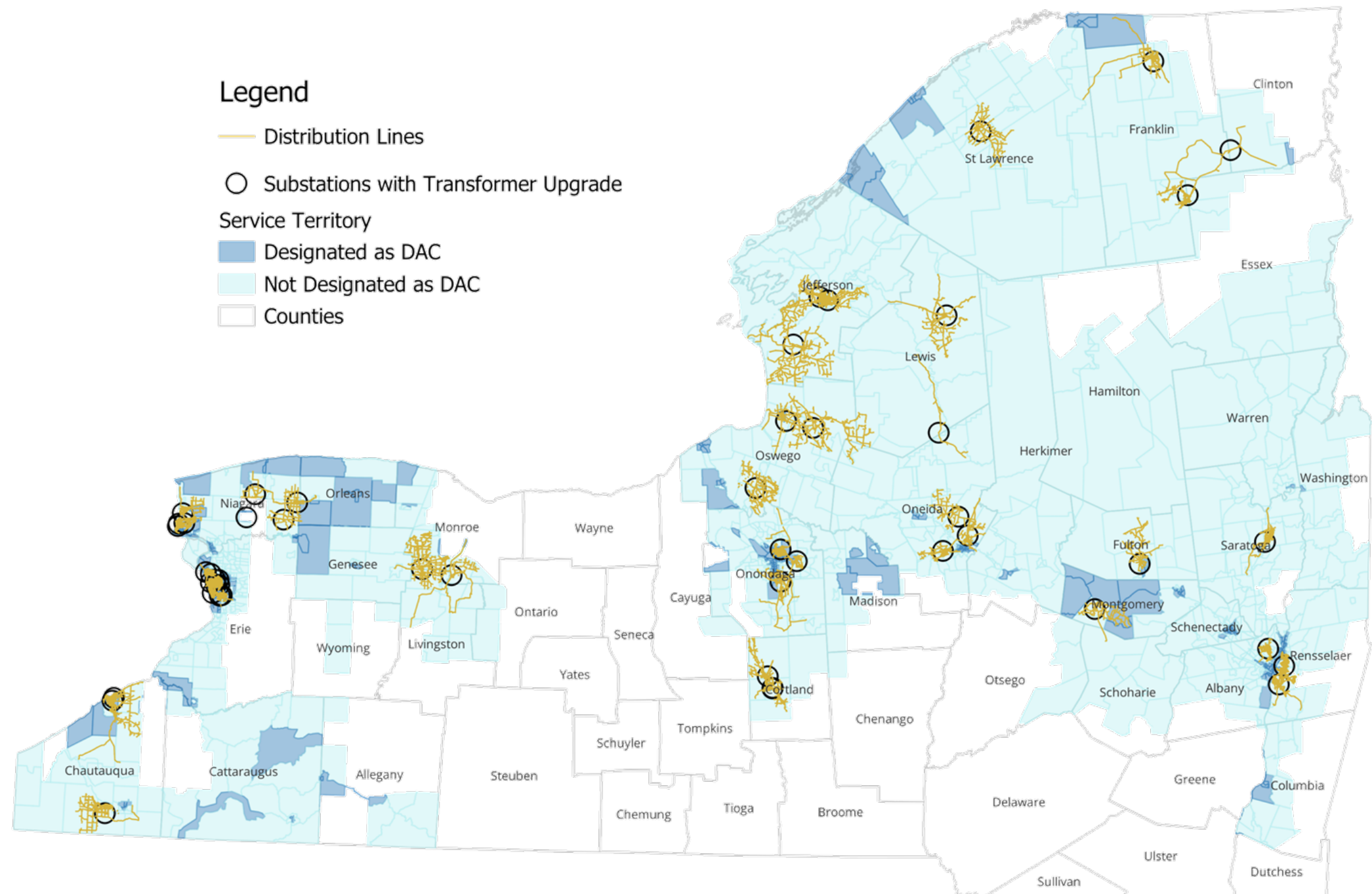
Substation Average Ambient Temperatures Above 32° C



Project Costs (Capex - \$M)	Rate Case FY26-29	5 Year FY26-30	BP23 FY24-33	10 Year FY26-35	20 Year FY26-45
Distribution Transformers*	4	5	8	10	18
Transmission Transformers*	2	2	3	4	7
TOTAL	6	7	11	14	25

\*Added scope to existing projects

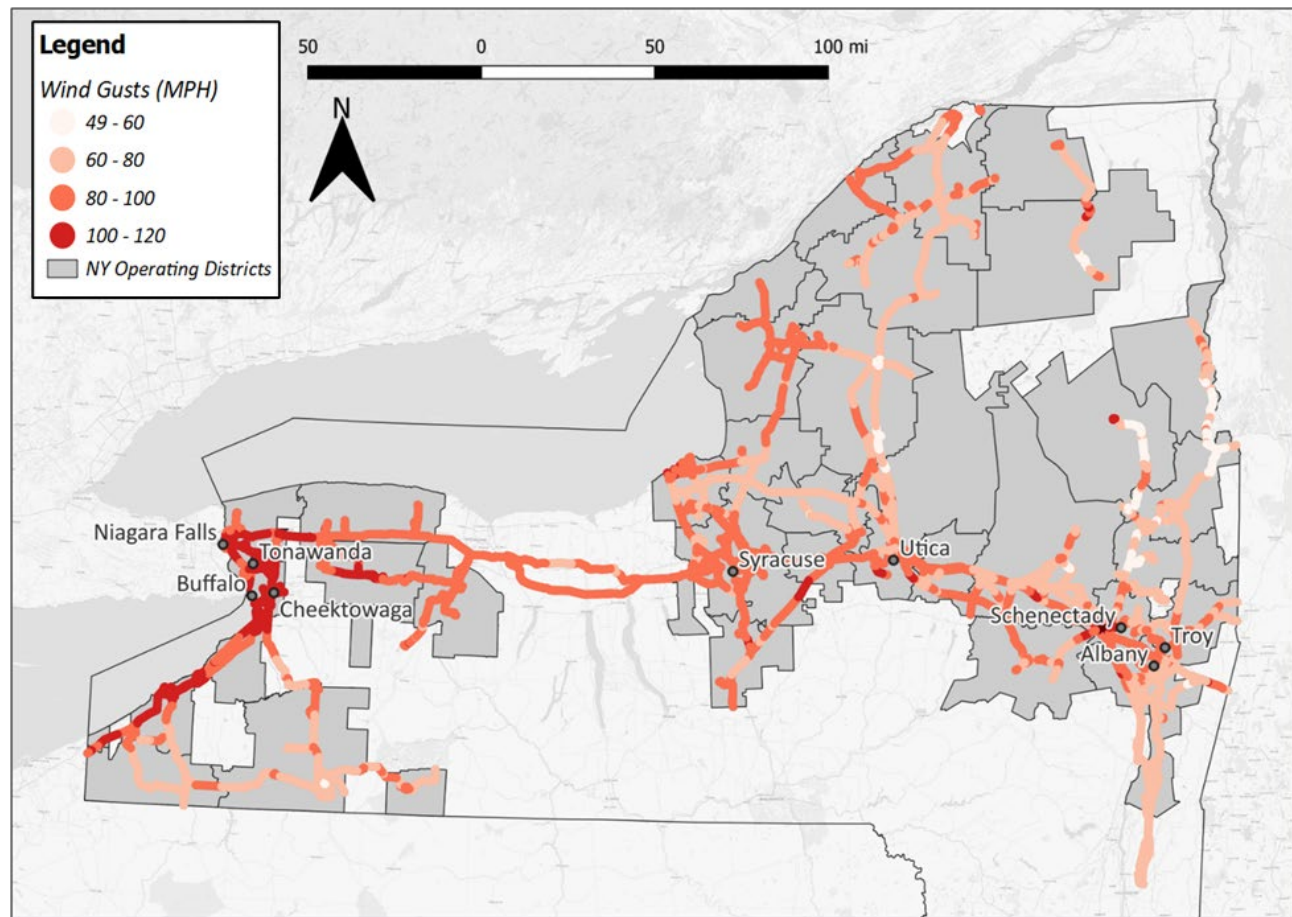
# Substation Transformer Upgrade



# Overhead transmission line structure upgrades

- Transmission lines are **presently** designed to withstand **95 MPH** gusts (per NESC standard)
- MIT Study **projects** winds may reach up to **120 MPH** gusts in some areas
- T-Line outages due to structure failures can result in outages to entire substations, potentially impacting 10's of thousands of customers for long durations.
- Resilience Plan (CCRP) Proposal:
  - Build T-Lines to withstand 120 MPH wind gusts in high wind areas
    - **43 T-Line projects** presently in our 5 & 15 year plans fall in high wind areas
    - Projects include **44 – 115kV lines** and **2 – 230KV lines** covering about 1,300 circuit miles
    - More steel, larger foundations
  - Purchase **10 T-Line spare structures** per division (East, Central, West) designed for 120 MPH gusts to speed restoration

Wind Gust Projections for T-Lines

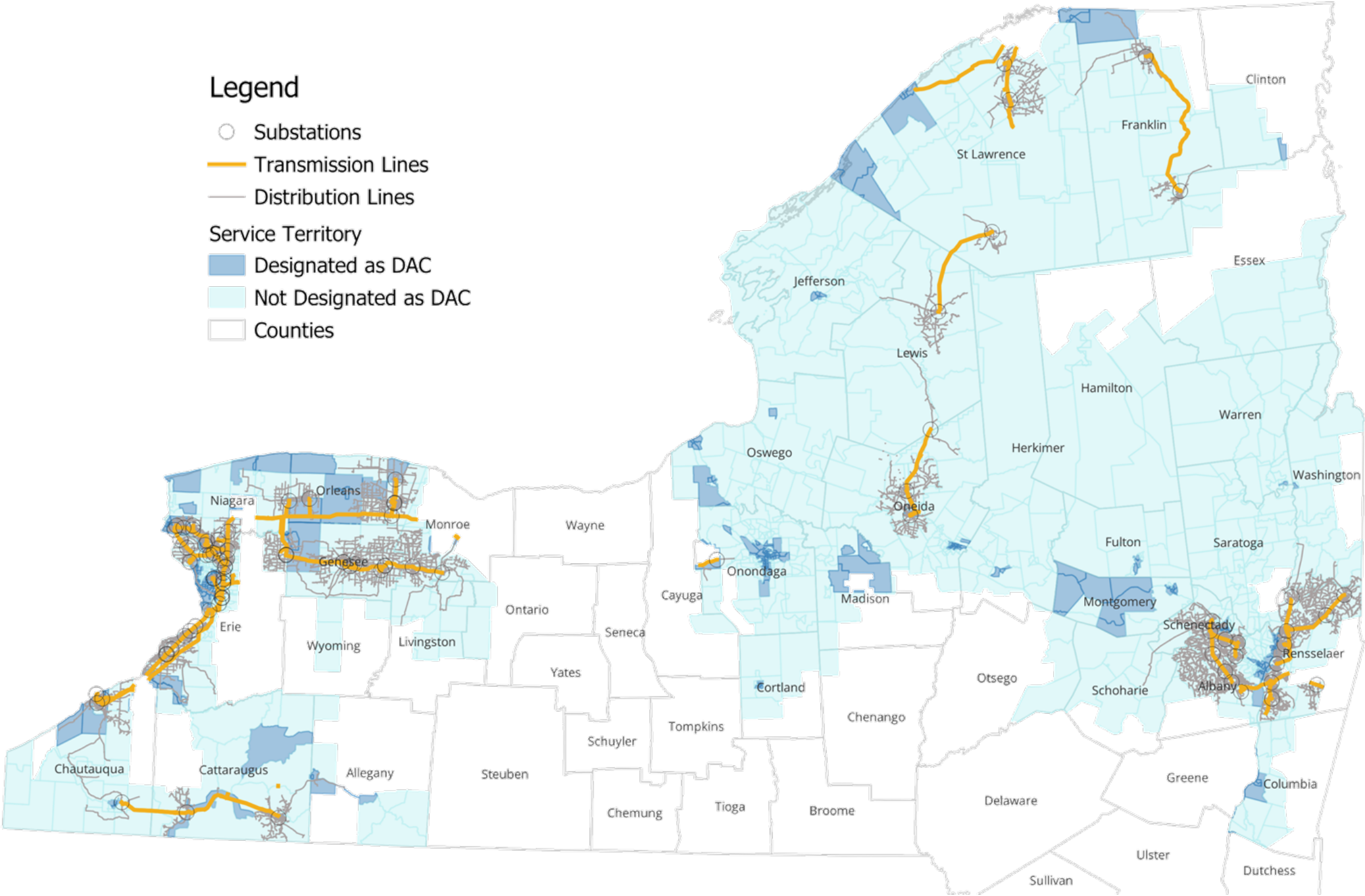


Project Costs (Capex - \$M)	Rate Case FY26-29	5 Year FY26-30	BP23 FY24-33	10 Year FY26-35	20 Year FY26-45
T-Line Upgrades*	27	33	55	63	115
Spare T-Line Structures	2	2	2	2	2
TOTAL	29	35	57	65	117

\*Added scope to existing projects



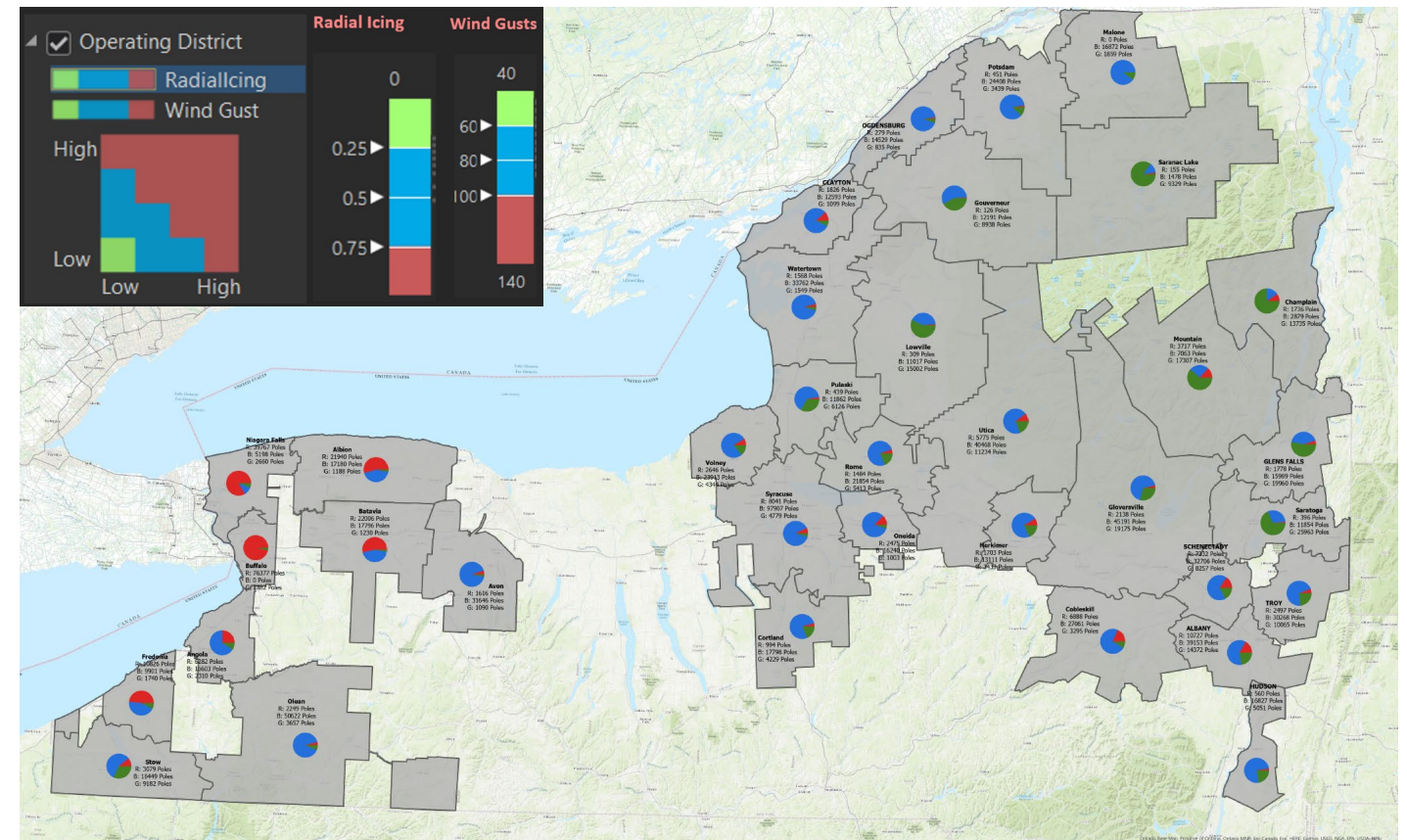
# Transmission lines for structure class upgrade



# OH Distribution and Sub-transmission Line Upgrades

- D & Sub-T lines are **presently** designed to withstand combined **40 MPH wind gusts** and **0.5” Icing** (per NESC standard)
- Only 16% of existing poles are designed to withstand projected wind and ice levels, with some areas **projected** to see over **100 MPH gusts** or over **0.75” of icing**
- Pole failures due to wind & icing can result in outages to thousands of customers for long durations.
- Resilience Plan (CCRP) Proposal:
  - For **D-Line** projects going forward, update standards to move from typical class 3 poles to class 1 for main lines (3 phase backbone) and poles that carry heavy equipment – **8,000 poles** / year on average
  - For **Sub-T** projects going forward, update standard designs to use class 1 poles for single circuit structures, class H1 for double circuit structures, and class H2 for double circuit with distribution underbuilds – **900 poles** / year on average
  - **Targeted undergrounding of 1-2 miles** per year of 3-phase main line in highest wind and icing areas

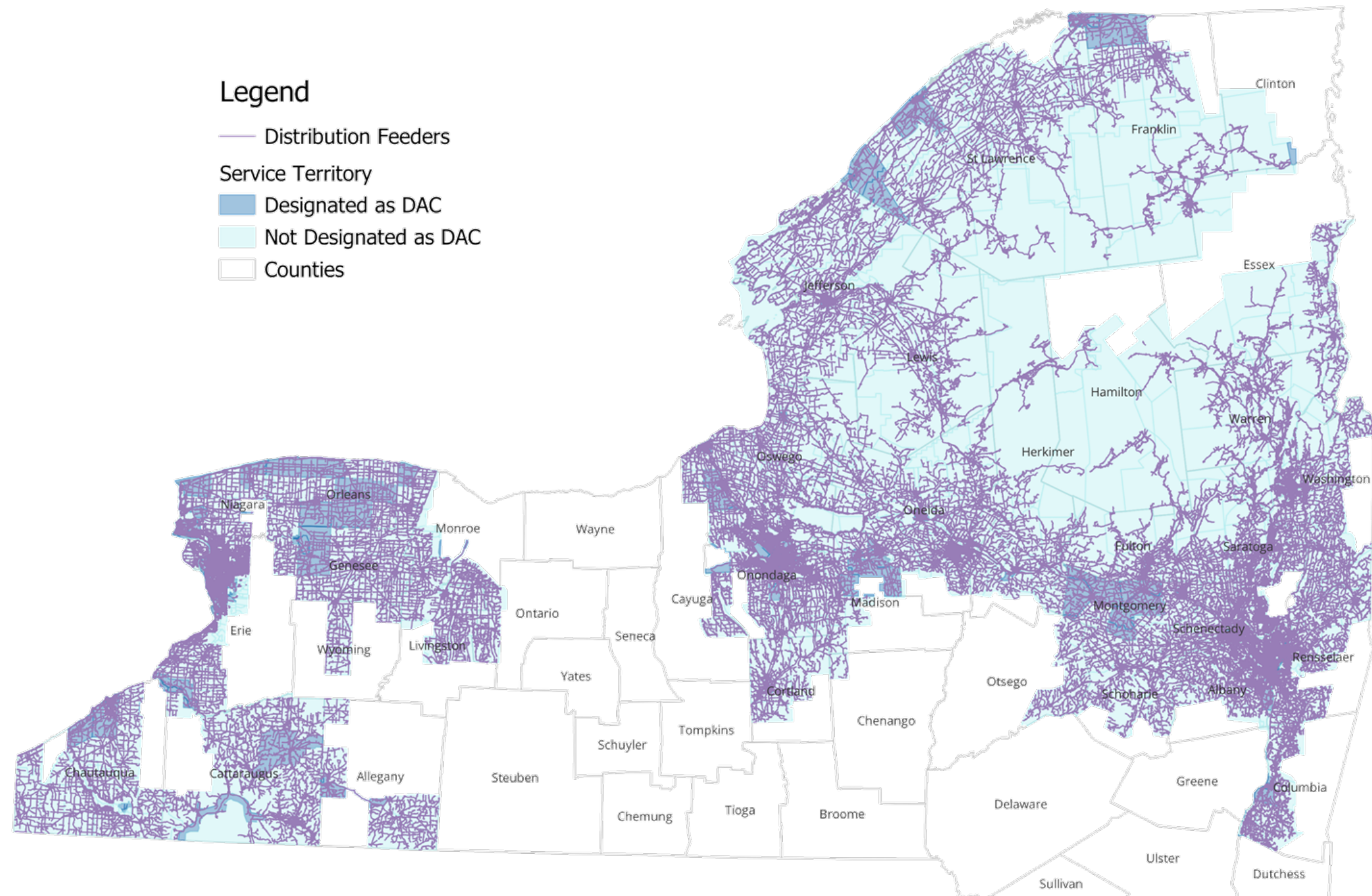
## Combination of Wind & Icing Impact on Poles for D-Line



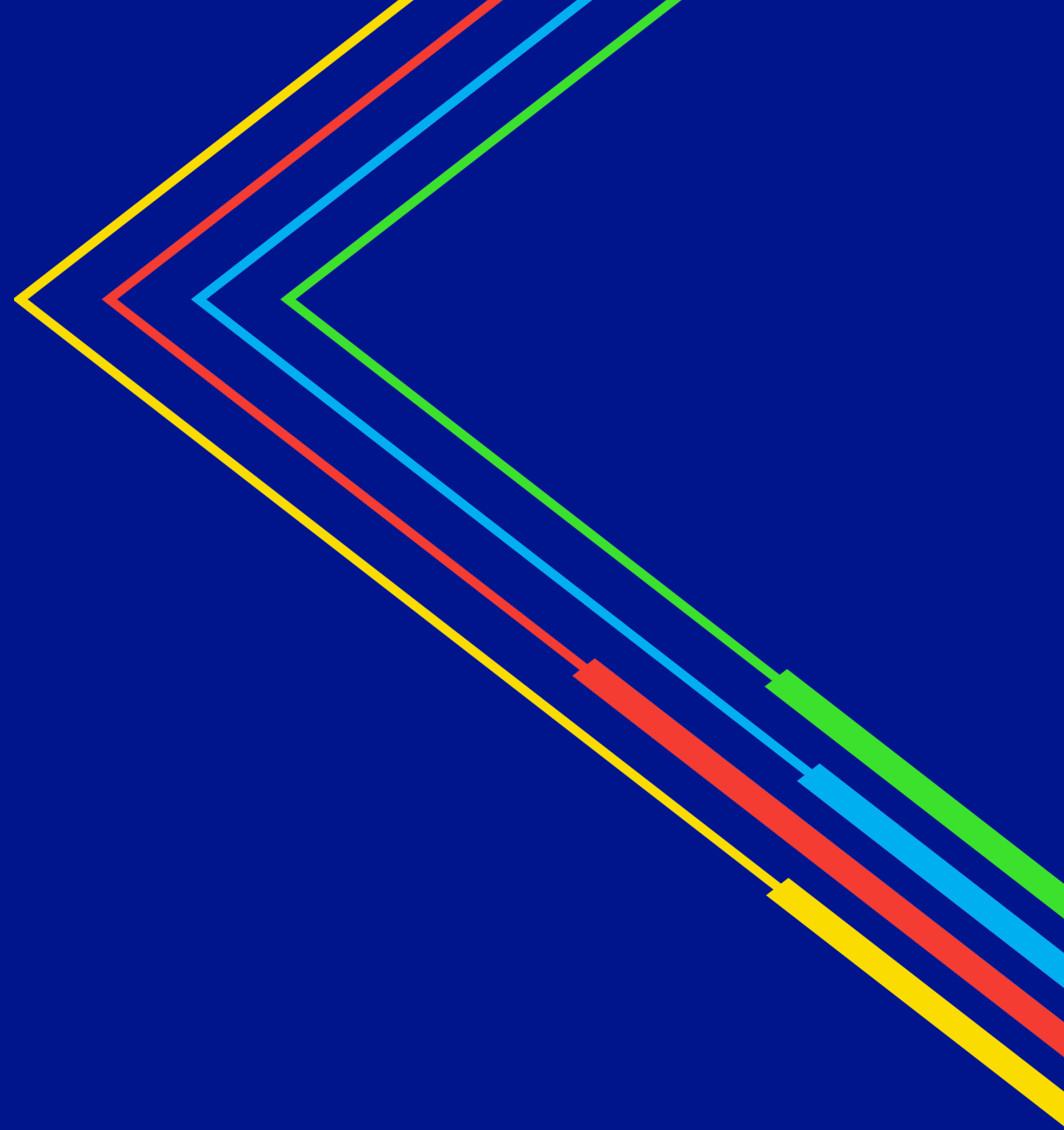
Project Costs (Capex - \$M)	Rate Case FY26-29	5 Year FY26-30	BP23 FY24-33	10 Year FY26-35	20 Year FY26-45
D-Line Upgrades*	89	118	207	292	775
Sub-T Line Upgrades*	11	14	23	35	104
Targeted Undergrounding	36	51	96	138	348
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>1,227</b>

**\*Added scope to existing projects**





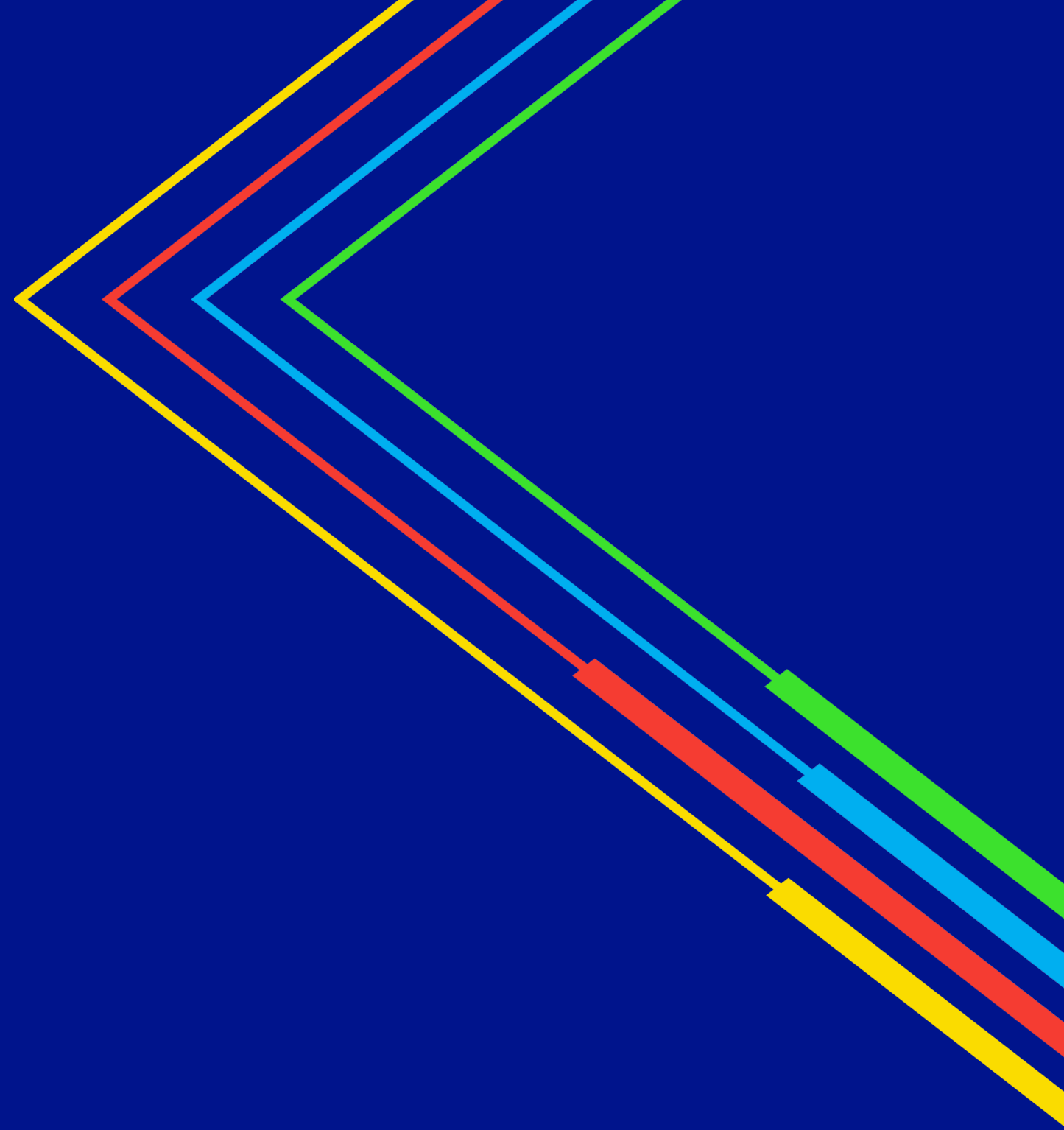
Discussion and Questions?





# Next Steps

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# Meeting Follow Up

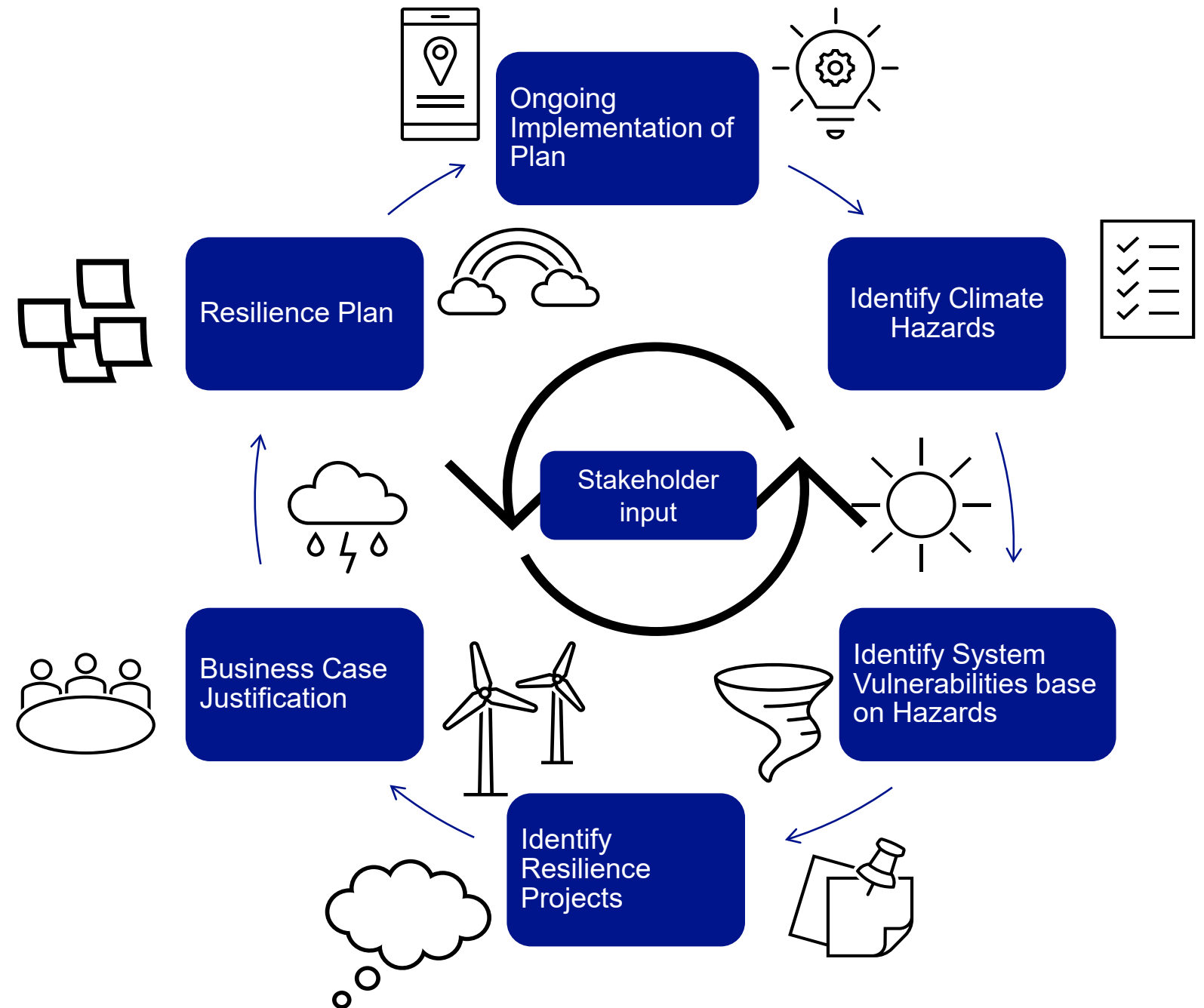
## Looking ahead:

- We will share our final version of the CCRP with you
- Please share your comments with us on the filing at the PSC website (Docket 22-E-0222):

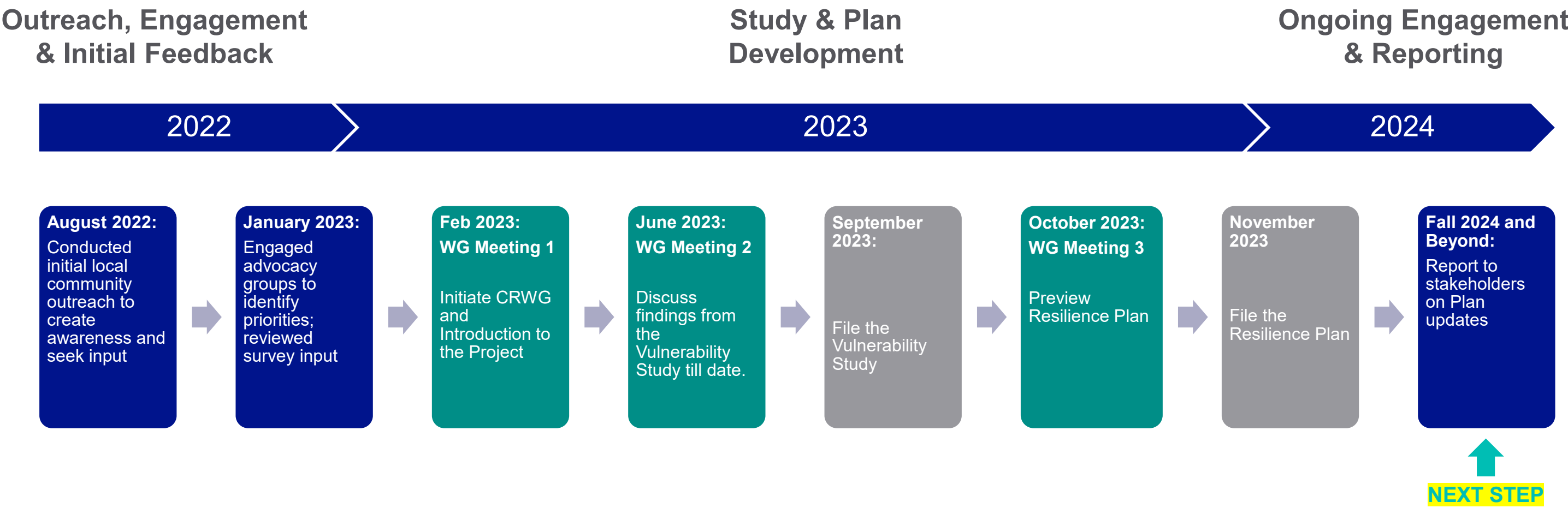
<https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterSeq=67333&MNO=22-E-0222>

- Please visit our website for more information:

<https://www.nationalgridus.com/Our-Company/New-York-Climate-Resiliency-Plan>



# CRWG Engagement Roadmap



**Thank you!**

**nationalgrid**

