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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### Historic Blackout Anniversary Sunday & Monday; Experts Available

New York, NY/August 11, 2017 – In the midst of another hot and humid August, calls for energy conservation, and uncertainty about the region’s long-term energy supply, New York residents will mark the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the massive 2003 blackout on Monday.

On August 14, 2003, overgrown trees in Ohio fell on three transmission lines, causing a chain reaction that ultimately shut down more than 100 power plants and caused massive electricity failures throughout the Northeast, Midwest, and southern Canada. In New York City alone, 90 deaths were attributed to the blackout, as well as a \$1 billion loss in economic activity.

The New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA), a coalition of New York’s best-known business organizations, labor unions, and independent energy experts, is dedicated to assuring that our state will never again suffer this kind of catastrophic blackout. Our experts have unrivaled expertise on issues relating to electricity supply, demand, and transmission, and they are available to discuss:

- The likelihood of another major blackout today and the steps that should be taken to prevent it.
- The current status of New York’s electricity transmission infrastructure.
- The need to keep clean sources of power, and add to them, amid strong and projected growing electricity demand.

Available experts include:

- **Arthur “Jerry” Kremer**, a former chairman of the New York Assembly Ways and Means Committee and an original author of New York’s power plant siting law, and chairman of New York AREA.
- **Dr. Matthew Cordaro**, former CEO of the Midwest ISO, the non-profit transmission grid operator for several states, and New York AREA Advisory Board member.
- **Rob DiFrancesco**, executive director of New York AREA and author of several issue briefs on New York’s energy challenges.

To arrange interviews, please contact Mr. DiFrancesco at 914-450-9707 or [difrancesco@nyarea.org](mailto:difrancesco@nyarea.org).

**About New York AREA:** Founded in November 2003, the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA) is a diverse organization of business, labor, and community groups whose mission is to ensure that New York has an ample and reliable electricity supply, and economic prosperity for years to come. New York AREA helps to educate policy makers, businesses, and the general public regarding the necessity and importance of safe, low-cost, reliable, clean electricity.

For additional information, visit [www.nyarea.org](http://www.nyarea.org).