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Tupper land swap gets final OK

ALBANY — The State Senate gave final approval Monday to a bill that will carry out a voter-approved Tupper Lake land swap.

The swap was authorized by a constitutional amendment passed by state voters in 2009.

"This is the final step in a process that brought a reliable electric supply to the Village of Tupper for the first time," Brian L. Houseal, executive director of the Adirondack Council, said in a news release.

That environmental organization worked with Tupper Lake officials, National Grid, the New York Power Authority and the Department of Environmental Conservation to find a route for the new line that all could agree on.

The roadside line brought power from Stark Falls Reservoir in Colton south to the Village of Tupper Lake.

The route was determined to cause the least environmental disturbance, even though it would cross the Forest Preserve. But, power lines are not allowed on the Forest Preserve, so a land swap was needed.

"That route required the use of six acres of roadside at the edge of the Forever Wild state Forest Preserve along State Route 56 in Colton," Houseal said.

"So we worked with the State Legislature to gain approval for a resolution authorizing a vote on the issue in the 2009 general election."

The amendment authorized the state to swap those six acres of roadside for 10 or more acres of land to be added back into the Forest Preserve.