



CLIFFORD W. CROUCH  
Assemblyman 122<sup>nd</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

COMMITTEES  
Agriculture  
Economic Development, Job Creation,  
Commerce and Industry  
Labor  
Ways and Means  
Rules

March 22, 2016

Jim Finch, Supervisor  
TOWN OF CONKLIN  
P.O. Box 182  
1271 Conklin Road  
Conklin, New York 13748

Dear Jim:

This is in response to your inquiry concerning the New York State "Prevailing Wage Law" and its effects on local municipalities.

Under New York State Labor Law, contractors and subcontractors must pay the prevailing rate of wage and fringe benefits to all workers under a public work contract. Employers must pay the prevailing wage rate set for the locality where the work is performed. Prevailing wage is the pay rate set by law for work on public work projects. Wage schedules are on a county-by-county basis.

This is one of the many reasons why the cap should be modified. It is wrong for the State to issue a mandate on a municipality and not allowing it to raise taxes or revenue to cover the costs associated with the mandate. I have always questioned the requirement for "prevailing wage" for small municipalities because of the extra cost.

There is legislation in the State Assembly that would waive the requirement to pay prevailing wage on municipal construction projects. A. 3698 waives the prevailing wage requirement for municipal projects with a total anticipated cost of less than \$5 million. I continue to urge legislative leaders to assist our town and villages by bringing this bill to the floor for immediate approval.

Thank you for sharing with me your concerns regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

CLIFFORD W. CROUCH  
Member of Assembly  
122<sup>nd</sup> District

CWC/dwp



**Department of  
Public Service**

Public Service Commission  
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[www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov)

March 10, 2016

Dear Community Leader/Elected Official:

The New York State Public Service Commission is sponsoring public statement hearings regarding proposed increases to delivery rates for New York State Electric & Gas Corporation and Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation electric and gas customers. In February 2016, the Companies, the Department of Public Service and multiple parties signed a Joint Proposal seeking Commission approval of a three year rate plan, which would begin on May 1, 2016.

To ensure full public participation, the Commission will hold the public statement hearings to solicit input and comments from your community regarding the Joint Proposal. These hearings are open to the public who wish to participate and comment on the rate case proceedings. Information received at the public statement hearings will be transcribed and will be included in all of the case records. The public comments will be considered by the Commission in deciding these cases.

The dates, times and locations of the **public statement hearings** are as follows:

Tuesday, March 29, 2016	Binghamton City Hall Council Chambers 38 Hawley Street Binghamton, NY	Afternoon Hearing: 3:00 PM Evening Hearing: 7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 30, 2016	City of Rochester Council Chambers 30 Church St., Room 300A Rochester, NY	Afternoon Hearing: 3:00 PM Evening Hearing: 7:00 PM
Thursday, March 31, 2016	Town of Plattsburgh Town Hall 151 Banker Road Plattsburgh, NY	Afternoon Hearing: 3:00 PM Evening Hearing: 7:00 PM
Wednesday, April 13, 2016	Town of Southeast Town Hall 1360 Route 22 Brewster, NY	Afternoon Hearing: 3:00 PM Evening Hearing: 7:00 PM

The enclosed fact sheet provides detailed information on how to participate in the public statement hearings and available options to submit comments on the proceedings. A copy of the Joint Petition, as well as additional information about the proceedings can be found at the Commission's [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov) web site. From the homepage, click on "Search," and enter any of the case numbers (15-E-0283, 15-G-0284, 15-E-0285 or 15-G-0286) in the "Search by Case Number" field.

I would appreciate your assistance with informing your constituents about the public statement hearings and encouraging them to provide comments. It is the Commission's intent to facilitate and encourage active and meaningful participation throughout all of its proceedings. We hope you will consider joining us at one of these hearings.

Sincerely,



Michael Corso  
Consumer Advocate and Director,  
Office of Consumer Services

Enc.



# Public Service Commission

## Factsheet and Notice of Public Hearing

### New York State Electric & Gas/Rochester Gas & Electric Proposed Electric and Gas Rate Increase

Cases 15-E-0283, 15-G-0286, 15-E-0285 & 15-G-0284

In May 2015, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation (RGE) requested the New York State Public Service Commission (Commission or PSC) to approve proposed increases to electric and gas delivery rates.

The parties to the proceeding entered into negotiations in October 2015 and on February 19, 2016, a Joint Proposal (JP) was filed by NYSEG and RGE (the Companies) that proposed to resolve all matters relating to their rate requests. In addition to the Companies, the JP was signed by seven parties representing different interests, including Staff of the Department of Public Service (DPS). The JP, if adopted, would apply to the Companies' electric and gas rates and services through April 30, 2019 and would result in a revenue increase for the Companies.

#### PSC Seeking Public Comment

The Commission is seeking comment on the JP. Assigned Administrative Law Judges will preside over the gathering of public comments and all evidence relating to the proposal. The JP and formal record, including public comments, will be presented to the Commission for consideration. The Commission may adopt or reject the JP in whole or in part.

Interested members of the public are invited to attend a series of public statement hearings and provide comments regarding the proposal. The hearings are being held as follows:

Date	Location	Time
Tuesday, March 29	Binghamton City Hall Council Chambers 38 Hawley St. Binghamton, NY	Afternoon Hearing: 3:00 PM Evening Hearing: 7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 30	City of Rochester Council Chambers 30 Church St., Room 300A Rochester, NY	Afternoon Hearing: 3:00 PM Evening Hearing: 7:00 PM
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It is not necessary to make an appointment in advance or present written material in order to speak at the hearings. All comments given at the hearings will be transcribed and become part of the Commission's formal record. The hearings will remain open until everyone wishing to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements have been made.

Disabled persons requiring special accommodations should contact the DPS Human Resources Management Office at (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 the Commission at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this factsheet.

## Summary of the Joint Proposal

Under the JP, a set of terms and conditions were developed for a three-year rate plan for the Companies electric and gas service. The three-year plan is proposed to become effective May 1, 2016 with the Rate Year 1 ending on April 30, 2017, Rate Year 2 ending on April 30, 2018 and Rate Year 3 ending April 30, 2019.

### Proposed Rates:

#### NYSEG:

For NYSEG, the JP proposes phased in rate increases for both electric and gas delivery service to levelize the rate impact over the three-year period. The proposal would produce annual delivery rate increases of 4.1% for electric customers and 7.3% for gas customers. These increases would result in an average overall (i.e. both commodity and delivery) bill increases for customers of approximately 2.7% for electric and 4.1% for gas.

	NYSEG Electric			NYSEG Gas		
	Rate Increase (\$000)	Delivery Rate Increase (%)	Average Bill Increase (%)	Rate Increase (\$000)	Delivery Rate Increase (%)	Average Bill Increase (%)
RY 1	\$29,601	4.1%	2.7%	\$13,068	7.3%	4.1%
RY 2	\$29,889	4.1%	2.7%	\$13,880	7.3%	4.1%
RY 3	\$30,297	4.1%	2.7%	\$14,796	7.3%	4.1%

#### RGE:

For RGE, the JP proposes rate increases that vary by rate year for both electric and gas delivery service. The chart below shows the proposed increases to delivery rates as well as the average overall bill impact for each rate year.

	RGE Electric			RGE Gas		
	Rate Increase (\$000)	Delivery Rate Increase (%)	Average Bill Increase (%)	Rate Increase (\$000)	Delivery Rate Increase (%)	Average Bill Increase (%)
RY 1	\$3,000	0.7%	.5%	\$8,819	5.2%	2.8%
RY 2	\$21,600	5.0%	3.4%	\$7,661	4.4%	2.4%
RY 3	\$25,856	5.7%	3.9%	\$9,455	5.2%	2.9%

The actual bill impacts for NYSEG and RGE customers will vary by customer class based upon revenue allocations and rate design.

### **Additional JP Components:**

The JP includes other terms that may affect customers, including:

- acceleration of the Companies' natural gas leak prone main replacement programs;
- electric vegetation management practices to provide continued safe and reliable service;
- implementation of an Energy Smart Community Project in the Ithaca region to test Reforming the Energy Vision initiatives;
- neighborhood and community gas expansion programs; and
- an expansion of the Companies' Low Income Programs.

The full text of the JP, including a breakdown of expected bill impacts by customer class, may be viewed online at DPS's [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov) website. From the homepage, click on "Search," and enter any of the case numbers (NYSEG electric: 15-E-0283, NYSEG gas: 15-G-0284, RGE electric: 15-E-0285 or RGE gas: 15-G-0286) in the "Search by Case Number" field.

### **Additional Methods for Commenting on the Case**

In addition to providing comments at public statement hearings, members of the public may also provide comments for the Commission's consideration as follows:

- **Via Mail/E-Mail:** Submit comments electronically to Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary, at [secretary@dps.ny.gov](mailto:secretary@dps.ny.gov) or by mail or delivery to Secretary Burgess at the Department of Public Service, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350. Comments delivered in these manners should reference the associated case number (NYSEG electric: 15-E-0283, NYSEG gas: 15-G-0284, RG&E electric: 15-E-0285 or RG&E gas: 15-G-0286).
- **Via the Department's Website:** Comments may also be entered directly into the case by locating the case via the home page of the Commission's website, [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov), by clicking on "Search," and entering the associated case number (noted above) in the "Search by Case Number" field. After clicking to open the case, enter comments in the "Post Comments" section located at the top of the page.
- **Via Toll-Free Opinion Line:** Individuals may choose to submit comments by calling the Commission's toll-free Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This line is set up to receive in-state calls 24-hours a day. Callers should press "1" to leave comments about Case 15-E-0283, 15-G-0284, 15-E-0285 or 15-G-0286 "Joint Petition of New York State Electric & Gas Corporation and Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation". Comments received via the Opinion Line are not transcribed, but a summary is provided to the Commission for their consideration.

All comments will become part of the record considered by the Commission. Comments will be accepted at any point while this proceeding is pending, but are requested by April 20, 2016 to ensure full consideration.