New York State Electric & Gas Corporation

Columbia County Transmission Project

Exhibit E-5

Effect on Communications

EXHIBIT E-5: EFFECT ON COMMUNICATIONS

NYSEG is proposing to construct a new 115-kV transmission line in the towns of Chatham, Ghent, and Stockport and a new switching station in the Town of Ghent, all within Columbia County, New York. The proposed facilities and improvements include a new 115-kV switching station (Ghent Switching Station), a 2.5-mile extension of the National Grid Trunk #15 115-kV transmission line into and back out of the Ghent Switching Station, and 8.6 miles of new 115-kV transmission line (Circuit #726). A portion of the new 115-kV transmission line between the Klinekill Substation and the new Ghent Switching Station would be built parallel to the existing Circuit #984 115-kV transmission line. New communication and protection system upgrades will also be required within the existing control buildings at the Klinekill Substation in the town of Chatham.

The new transmission lines and new switching station are expected to have no adverse effects on communications (e.g., television, radio) during either construction or operation. NYSEG will comply with applicable sections of the latest version of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) related to appropriate spacing between power and communication cables. A review of the FCC databases revealed that there are a total of seven registered towers located within five miles of the proposed line and switching station. These towers include one FM radio tower, one paging communications tower, three cellular telephone towers, and two other towers of a type not specified in the FCC database. During the final design, all existing communication facilities will be identified and the owners will be consulted to ensure that proper clearance is maintained between the existing facilities and the proposed transmission line.

Radio and television interference results from corona around a line, which is a tiny electrical discharge that creates ionized air close to transmission line conductors. The corona results in a small amount of noise that could conflict with radios and televisions. Generally, transmission lines do not cause interference in radio or television reception because the level of interference is very low at the right-of-way edge. The transition of television broadcasts to digital signals further reduces the likelihood of noise interference from a transmission line. NYSEG will investigate any complaints of suspected interference from the proposed transmission line and resolve any interference determined to be the result of the proposed transmission line or substation.

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