

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 17-G-0432 - Petition of New York State Electric & Gas Corporation for Authorization to Construct a Natural Gas Compressor Pilot Project in Tompkins County, NY.

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF
NON-SIGNIFICANCE (NEGATIVE DECLARATION)

(Issued November 16, 2017)

NOTICE is hereby given that an Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) was prepared in connection with the approval by the Public Service Commission allowing New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG or the Company) proceed with its natural gas compressor pilot project in Tompkins County, New York and establishing associated ratemaking and reporting requirements. The proposed action is an unlisted action as defined in 6 NYCRR §617.2(ak). This Notice has been prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

Under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) (Environmental Conservation Law Article 8), state agencies are required to determine whether the actions they are requested to approve result in a significant impact on the environment. The Commission is considering authorizing NYSEG to proceed with its pilot project to install electric powered compressors in Tompkins County, in particular, the areas in and around the Town of Lansing, New York. No other agency exercises jurisdiction relating to the proposed action. Accordingly, the Commission assumes Lead Agency responsibilities for the environmental review under SEQRA and determines that a coordinated review is not necessary.

This is based upon our determination, in accordance with Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, that such action will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. This action is an Unlisted Action as defined in 6 NYCRR Section 617.2(ak). The proposed action entails granting authorization to NYSEG for constructing a natural gas compressor pilot project in Tompkins County and addressing associated reporting and accounting. The proposed action is not subject to approvals from any other agencies and as such we are acting as Lead Agency and no coordinated review under SEQRA is necessary.

The pilot project the Commission is allowing the Company to proceed with is an effort to address pressure and reliability issues. NYSEG has identified potential sites, but has not finalized locations. As such, this SEQRA review is limited to granting NYSEG authorization to develop the proposed project and address ratemaking and reporting requirements. When plans for the pilot project are further refined and submitted to the necessary agencies for approvals, those agencies will need to conduct SEQRA reviews that assess potential impacts to the environment, such as noise, based upon specific site locations and project design.

The proposed action is an Unlisted action, as defined in 6 NYCRR §617.2(ak) because the action does not rise to the level of a Type I action and is not listed on the Commission's list of Type II activities (16 NYCRR §7.2) or those found at 6 NYCRR §617.5. As required by SEQRA for an Unlisted action, the Petitioner submitted a long Environment Assessment Form (EAF) Part 1 on October 23, 2017.

Based on a review of the record, including the Petition and completed EAF (Parts 1-3) and the criteria for determining significance (6 NYCRR §617.7(c)), the Public Service

Commission finds that approval of the proposed action will not have a significant adverse environmental impact.

The address of the Public Service Commission, the Lead Agency for the purposes of the environmental quality review of this action, is Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350. Questions may be directed to Jeremy Rosenthal at (518) 474-3897 (jeremy.rosenthal@dps.ny.gov) or to the address above.

(SIGNED)

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS
Secretary