

STATE OF NEW YORK

# Public Service Commission

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<http://www.dps.state.ny.us>

09073/08-G-1392

## **PSC SEEKS COMMENT ON ST. LAWRENCE JOINT PROPOSAL**

### **— Proposed Delivery Rate Increases for Residential, Commercial Customers —**

Albany, NY—08/07/09—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today announced it was seeking public comment on a Joint Proposal submitted in the St. Lawrence Gas Company, Inc. (St. Lawrence) gas service rate proceeding.

On July 30, 2009, New York State Department of Public Service Staff and St. Lawrence submitted a Joint Proposal for Commission consideration. The Joint Proposal recommends terms and provisions that would apply to St. Lawrence's gas rates and service for a three-year period commencing on January 1, 2010 and ending on December 31, 2012. Staff and the company ask that the Commission adopt the Joint Proposal's terms to resolve the issues pending in the St. Lawrence gas rate case.

The Joint Proposal presents two alternative rate proposals. According to Staff and company estimates, under the first rate proposal, delivery rates would increase 20.5 percent for the residential class and 10.5 percent for the commercial class, and would decrease 5 percent for the industrial class, or a total delivery rate requirement of \$1,746,319 for the first rate year.

Under the second rate proposal, delivery rates would increase 12.5 percent in year one, 9.7 percent in year two, and 2.3 percent in year three for the residential class; 5.9 percent in year one, 6.1 percent in year two, and 1.6 percent in year three for the commercial class; and decrease 5.4 percent in year one for the industrial class. Total delivery rate increases would be \$1,174,127 in year one, \$785,596 in year two, and \$213,337 in year three.

The Joint Proposal recommends a 10.5 percent return on common equity and an earnings sharing mechanism that calls for equally sharing between the company and ratepayers for earnings over 11 percent. The Joint Proposal also contains numerous other provisions designed to ensure safe and adequate service.

The Massena-based St. Lawrence, a wholly owned subsidiary of Enbridge Gas Distribution of Canada, distributes natural gas to approximately 15,200 residential, commercial and industrial customers.

Members of the public (other than the active parties) are encouraged to submit comments concerning the reasonableness of the Joint Proposal's terms and provisions as soon as possible and no later than the close of business Wednesday, September 9, 2009, as follows:

**Mail:** You may comment by writing to Hon. Jaclyn A. Brillling, Secretary, Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350 or by e-mail to [secretary@dps.state.ny.us](mailto:secretary@dps.state.ny.us). Such comments should refer to "Case 08-G-1392 – St. Lawrence – Gas Rates."

**Toll-Free Opinion Line:** You may call the Commission's Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This number is set up to take comments about pending cases from in-state callers, 24 hours a day. Callers should press "1" to leave comments about the proposal.

**Internet:** Comments may also be made via the Commission's Web site ([www.dps.state.ny.us](http://www.dps.state.ny.us)). From the homepage, click on "AskPSC.com & Consumer Assistance," then "Consumer Forms," followed by "We want to know what you think," then "form." Many libraries offer free Internet access.

A summary of the Joint Proposal, prepared by Staff and the Company, is available on the Department's Web site (go to [www.dps.state.ny.us](http://www.dps.state.ny.us), click on "Search," then search using the case number "08-G-1392"). The Commission may adopt, adopt with changes, or reject any of the terms of the pending proposal. The Commission also may adopt terms other than those proposed.

All comments submitted via one of these alternative means should be received no later than September 9, 2009, and will be placed in the public case file and made available on the Internet and for public inspection in the Commission's file room in its Albany offices, Central Files, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza. All such comments will become part of the record and be reported to the Commission for its consideration.