

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 21-T-0574 - Application of Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Construction of the Monroe County Reliability Project, Approximately 22.5 Miles of 115 Kilovolt Transmission Lines in the Village of Spencerport and the Towns of Gates, Greece, Ogden, and Parma in Monroe County.

NOTICE OF JOINT PROPOSAL AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

(Issued December 4, 2025)

On November 25, 2025, a Joint Proposal was filed by Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E). The Joint Proposal was signed by all active parties to this case (meaning, RG&E, trial staff of the New York State Department of Public Service, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Joint Proposal contains the terms, conditions, practices, and guidelines recommended by the signatory parties for inclusion in a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate). The Certificate, if granted, would authorize RG&E to construct, operate, and own the Monroe County Reliability Project (the Project).

The Project would replace RG&E's four existing 115 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines (existing lines 947, 946, 945, and 917) with new 115 kV lines (Proposed Lines) over an aggregate distance of approximately 22.5 miles from RG&E's Station 418 to its Station 7, with connections to: RG&E's Station 113; the Spencerport Municipal Electric Substation; and RG&E's Stations 70, 71, 69, and 93. The Project also includes the reconstruction of segments of several lower-voltage lines that are, and would remain, underbuilt in the same right-of-way (ROW) as the Proposed Lines. The rebuilding of

each 115 kV transmission line will include reconductoring, replacing all insulators, and replacing existing structures with taller, single-circuit steel structures that would hold the Proposed Lines. The rebuilding of the lower-voltage lines will likewise include reconductoring, replacing all insulators, and underbuilding the lines on the new structures supporting the Proposed Lines. The Project also includes installation of stormwater management features; establishing one or more temporary laydown/staging areas and marshaling yards; and constructing or improving supporting access roads.

A summary of the Joint Proposal, prepared by the Applicant, is attached to this Notice. The full Joint Proposal and all related documents may be viewed on the Department of Public Service's (Department) website by going to [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov), clicking on "File Search" (located under the heading "Commission Files"), and entering "21-T-0574" in the "Search by Case Number" field.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that interested persons are invited to submit comments pertaining to the Project and the terms of the Joint Proposal. Comments should refer to "Case 21-T-0574" and be submitted **by December 31, 2025**. Comments may be submitted using one of the following methods:

**Internet or Mail:** Go to [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov), click on "File Search" (located under the heading "Commission Files"), enter "21-T-0574" in the "Search by Case Number" field, and then click on "Post Comments" at the top of the page.

Alternatively, comments may be mailed to the Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary, Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 1223-1350; however, electronic filing of comments is strongly encouraged. Written comments submitted in accordance with this Notice will be posted on the Department's website. Please be advised that the Commission may not consider

untimely comments. Comments may be accessed on the Department's website by searching the case number, as described above, and clicking on the "Public Comments" tab.

**Toll-Free Opinion Line:** Individuals may choose to submit comments by calling the Commission's Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This number is set up to receive in-State calls 24-hours a day. These comments are not transcribed verbatim, but a summary is provided to the Commission.

(SIGNED)

MICHELLE L. PHILLIPS  
Secretary

## **Summary of MCRP Joint Proposal**

### **(Case 21-T-0574)**

#### **Background**

On November 23, 2021, Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (“RG&E” or “Applicant”) filed application documents (collectively, the “Application”) in Case 21-T-0574 seeking an Article VII Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for a project (“Project”), called the “Monroe County Reliability Project,” to replace four existing 115-kilovolt (“kV”) lines (existing lines 947, 946, 945, and 917) with new 115kV lines (“Proposed Lines”) over an aggregate distance of approximately 22.5 miles from Station 418 in the Town of Gates to Station 7 in the Town of Greece, with connections to: Station 113 in the Town of Ogden; the Spencerport Municipal Electric Substation in the Village of Spencerport; Station 70 in the Town of Greece; Station 71 in the Town of Parma; Station 69 in the Town of Greece; and Station 93 in the Town of Greece; all in Monroe County. The rebuilding of each 115kV transmission line includes reconductoring, replacing all insulators, and replacing existing structures with taller single-circuit structures that would hold the Proposed Lines. The Project also includes installation of stormwater management features; establishment of one or more temporary laydown/staging areas and marshaling yards; and construction or improvement of supporting access roads. RG&E proposes to locate the Project primarily within and along existing electric right-of-way (“ROW”) corridors; however, some new ROW would be required to accommodate the Project, maintain required clearances, and minimize impacts. RG&E would also acquire additional rights outside of the ROW to remove danger trees, as necessary. The Project will enable RG&E to meet North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) requirements and improve reliability in the western portion of RG&E’s service territory.

#### **Joint Proposal**

Following extensive settlement negotiations with numerous settlement participants, the Applicant filed a Joint Proposal in this case. The Joint Proposal, which includes five appendices, was signed by RG&E, Staff of the New York State Department of Public Service designated to represent the public interest in this proceeding (“DPS Staff”); and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“NYSDEC” and (collectively with RG&E and DPS Staff, the “Signatory Parties”)), which comprised all of the active parties to this Article VII proceeding.

The Joint Proposal includes numerous proposed ordering clauses that the Signatory Parties recommend the Commission adopt. These are located in Appendix D. Most of these are standard Article VII Joint Proposal clauses that would impose stringent requirements on RG&E to address important concerns such as public notice, health and safety, the contents of the Environmental Management and Construction Plan (“EM&CP”), ROW restoration, and protection of environmental resources. The Joint Proposal reflects the Settlement Parties’ recommendation that the Commission also certify slight variations of the routing from that proposed in the Application which resulted from consultations with the landowners where the Project was proposed to be located in Heritage Park and on the property of the Spencerport Central School

District, both in the Town of Ogden. As a result of the settlement negotiations among the Signatory Parties, the Joint Proposal also includes several Project-specific environmental resource avoidance, minimization and mitigation provisions.

### **Project-Specific Environmental Protection Provisions**

While the Joint Proposal (including its Appendices) reflects the agreement of the Signatory Parties that the overall environmental impacts of the Project are expected to be minimal and generally limited to temporary, construction-related disturbances, it would impose certain Project-specific environmental resource avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures, including:

- By locating the Project predominantly within existing electric transmission ROW and transportation corridors, the Project preserves the natural landscape and minimizes conflicts with present or known future planned land use and minimizes potential visual impacts, to the maximum extent practicable.
- RG&E will limit clearing of natural vegetation to that material which poses a hazard or hindrance to the construction, operation, or maintenance of the facility.
- While approximately one-third of the total length of the Project area overlaps with buffer zones classified by the NYS Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as archaeologically sensitive, due to the Project's location within and along existing electric transmission ROW and transportation corridors, there is a low archaeological sensitivity for the Project.
- RG&E will comply with various requirements to protect, and avoid or minimize unavoidable impacts to, wetlands and water resources, including required setbacks from such resources for activities such as equipment refueling and repair as well as chemical storage tank placement.
- Should the Project not be fully constructed within five (5) years from the date of any Certificate issued in this proceeding, RG&E must consult with NYSDEC and DPS Staff to determine whether a freshwater wetlands jurisdictional determination pursuant to the amended Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) regulations is required.
- RG&E will comply with various requirements for sediment and erosion control, which may include silt fencing, use of equipment mats, and planting/seeding/mulching of exposed soils, to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation in nearby wetlands and surface waters due to runoff. Site-specific control measures will be prescribed on the EM&CP and will adhere to the NYSDEC New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control.
- Herbicide will not be used during construction of the Project. Post-construction, herbicide application within state-regulated wetlands and the 100-foot adjacent areas will be performed consistent with NYSDEC-approved methods for use in New York State and in Monroe County and the then-most recent version of RG&E's commission-approved vegetation management plan.
- In the EM&CP, RG&E will develop a detailed Least Bittern Protection Plan which describes how the Project will minimize impacts to the State threatened least bittern and includes a construction schedule that takes into consideration the importance of minimizing construction activity during the marsh bird breeding period.

- RG&E will comply with various requirements to protect, and avoid or minimize unavoidable impacts to, the Northern long-eared bat (“NLEB”) and Little brown bat, as well as their hibernacula and tree roosts. Should the tri-colored bat become federally listed under the Endangered Species Act, RG&E will consult with DEC and DPS Staff to confirm that the requirements applicable to the NLEB and Little brown bat are appropriate for protection and avoidance of impacts to the tri-colored bat and, upon receiving such confirmation, will comply with such conditions for this species.
- For each road crossing and location where construction vehicles will access the Project ROW frequently from local roadways, the Applicant will implement a Maintenance and Protection of Traffic Plan that identifies procedures to be used to maintain traffic and provide a safe construction zone for those activities within the roadway ROW.
- RG&E will work with the New York State Canal Corporation to ensure that the Project will allow for adequate clearances and setbacks to accommodate continued vessel traffic on the Erie Canal.
- To minimize noise effects during construction, the Project will limit construction activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. If, due to safety or continuous operation requirements, construction activities are required to occur outside of these hours or on Sundays, advance notice will be provided to the Commission and the affected municipality unless safety considerations prohibit making such advance notice.
- While no agricultural impacts are anticipated, as the Project is proposed primarily within existing ROW, the ROW does traverse a very minor area of active agricultural lands within one designated New York Agricultural District so applicable provisions of the Department of Agriculture & Markets guidelines will be applied.

### **CLCPA Consistency**

In addition to resolving asset condition issues and to improving reliability, the Joint Proposal reflects the Signatory Parties’ agreement that the Project is designed to support achievement of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (“CLCPA”). As required by the CLCPA, the Applicant considered Project impacts, if any, on Disadvantaged Communities. The Project itself does not directly emit greenhouse gas (“GHG”) nor is it associated with electric generation that emits GHG. While approximately 2.4 miles of the Project ROW are in locations designated as Disadvantaged Communities, because much of the route of the new line will be on the same ROW as the existing line and in other portions of the route the new line will be shifted to a nearby route, which helps to mitigate EMF impacts, the Signatory Parties agree that the Project has no increased adverse impacts on these Disadvantaged Communities and does not disproportionately burden them with increased emissions.