

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

4 CASE 22-E-0317 - Proceeding on motion of the  
5 Commission as to the rates, charges, rules, and  
6 regulations of the New York State Electric and Gas  
7 Corporation for electric service.

8 CASE 22-G-0318 - Proceeding on motion of the  
9 Commission as to the rates, charges, rules, and  
10 regulations of New York State Electric and Gas  
11 Corporation for gas service.

12 CASE 22-E-0319 - Proceeding on motion of the  
13 Commission as to the rates, charges, rules, and  
14 regulations of Rochester Gas and Electric  
15 Corporation for electric service.

16 CASE 22-G-0320 - Proceeding on motion of the  
17 Commission as to the rates, charges, rules, and  
18 regulations of Rochester Gas and Electric  
19 Corporation for gas service.

20 PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING

21 DATE: September 28, 2022 at 5:01 p.m.

22 VENUE: WebEx

23 BEFORE: A.L.J. LINDSEY OVERTON

24 A.L.J. ERIKA BERGEN

25 Reported by Anthony McClain

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2 (The hearing commenced at 5:01 p.m.)

3 THE REPORTER: We are on the record.

4 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. We're on the  
5 record. I call a case 22-E-0317, proceeding on  
6 motion of the Commission as to the rates, charges,  
7 rules and regulations of the New York State Electric  
8 and Gas Corporation for electric service.

9 Case 22-G-0318, proceeding on motion  
10 of the Commission as to the rates, charges, rules and  
11 regulations of the New York State Electric and Gas  
12 Corporation for gas service. Case 22-E-0319,  
13 proceeding on motion of the Commission as to the  
14 rates, charges, rules and regulations of Rochester  
15 Gas and Electric Corporation for electric service.

16 And Case 22-G-0320, proceeding on  
17 motion of the Commission as to the rates, charges,  
18 rules and regulations of Rochester Gas and Electric  
19 Corporation for gas service. Excuse me. Good  
20 evening and welcome. My name is Erika Bergen, and  
21 I'm an administrative law judge with the New York  
22 State Department of Public Service.

23 With me tonight is Administrative Law  
24 Judge Lindsey Overton. And together we're  
25 responsible for presiding over the hearings in this

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2 case and the development of a complete record in  
3 these proceedings. We're here today for a public  
4 statement hearing that was noticed on October --  
5 August 19th, 2022.

6 New York State Electric and Gas  
7 Corporation, which I will refer to as NYSEG and  
8 Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation, which I will  
9 refer to as RG&E filed amendments to their electric  
10 and gas tariffs scheduled on May 26th, 2022,  
11 proposing to increase their annual electric and gas  
12 delivery revenues effective May 1st, 2023.

13 NYSEG proposes to increase its annual  
14 electric delivery revenues by approximately  
15 274,000,000 dollars, which is a 31.2 percent increase  
16 in base delivery revenues or a 16.8 percent increase  
17 in total revenues. NYSEG requests an increase in its  
18 annual gas delivery revenues of approximately  
19 43,000,000 dollars, which is a 20.7 increase in base  
20 delivery revenues or a 9.8 percent increase in total  
21 revenues.

22 RG&E requests an annual increase in  
23 electric delivery revenues of approximately 93.8  
24 million dollars, which is a 19 percent increase in  
25 delivery revenue, or an 11.3 percent increase in

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2 total revenue. RG&E also requests an annual increase  
3 in gas delivery revenues of approximately 37 million  
4 dollars, which is a 20.9 percent increase in base  
5 delivery revenues, or a 9.7 increase in total  
6 revenues.

7 We are holding this hearing so that  
8 you can provide your comments on these proposals for  
9 the Public Service Commission's consideration. The  
10 Commission will decide the terms and conditions of  
11 service for NYSEG and RG&E.

12 The Commission consists of seven  
13 members, the Chair Rory Christian and commissioners  
14 Diane Burman, James Alesi, Tracey Edwards, John  
15 Howard, David Valesky and John Maggiore. Tonight,  
16 we're fortunate to have Commissioner Maggiore with  
17 us. Commissioner Maggiore, would you like to address  
18 the participants today?

19 MR. MAGGIORE: Thank you, Judge. I  
20 want to thank everybody who has turned out virtually  
21 to participate in this public statement hearing. As  
22 a commissioner, I find hearing from the public about  
23 matters that have great consequences to their lives  
24 to be a very important consideration for me as I  
25 examine an item comes before the -- the commission.

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2 And I know my colleagues feel the same  
3 way. So I want to thank everybody for taking the  
4 time out of their afternoon to make their voices  
5 heard. It is not a form for me to make my voice  
6 heard. So after this, you're not going to hear from  
7 me again tonight.

8 But I'm going to listen to what  
9 everybody has to say. And again, I appreciate that.  
10 And Judge, thank you very much for allowing me to  
11 introduce myself.

12 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you,  
13 Commissioner. Thanks for joining us. So let me  
14 explain a little bit about the process we're going to  
15 follow today. As I said before and as Commissioner  
16 Maggiore just said, the purpose of this hearing is to  
17 provide you, the public, with an opportunity to tell  
18 the Commission your thoughts on NYSEG and RG&E's rate  
19 proposal

20 The statements you make today will  
21 become part of the case record, as I said, we have a  
22 court reporter on the line who will prepare a  
23 transcript of the hearing, which will be included in  
24 the official record of this proceeding. When it is  
25 ready, the transcript will be available for view

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2 publicly on the Department of Public Service's  
3 website.

4 This hearing is not an evidentiary  
5 hearing. There'll be no cross examination, and there  
6 will not be a question and answer session. This is  
7 really just a forum to hear comments from the public.  
8 This is not the only opportunity for you to comment,  
9 however.

10 If you did not pre-register to speak  
11 today at the hearing, or you're not comfortable  
12 speaking at the hearing, but you would nevertheless  
13 like your views included in the record, there are a  
14 variety of other ways for you to comment as was  
15 explained in the notice for today's events.

16 You can submit your comments to the  
17 department's website, you can submit them by email,  
18 by regular mail or there is a telephone number. For  
19 those of you who have joined via WebEx, this  
20 information is online right now. But for those of  
21 you who are joining my telephone, the phone number is  
22 1-800-335-2120, and the website is [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov).

23 And from there, you can search any of  
24 the four case numbers, and they will bring you to the  
25 case record. All comments will be given equal

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2 consideration, regardless of how they are submitted.  
3 So comments given today are not given any more weight  
4 than comments that are submitted via one of the other  
5 methods.

6 And because we are holding this event  
7 virtually, we did ask people to register to make a  
8 statement. If you have registered, please be mindful  
9 of the other people who have also registered and  
10 summarize any lengthy statements, and then submit the  
11 full written statement by mail or by email.

12 So those -- there are people who are  
13 registered to speak, who registered electronically  
14 and those who sign up and are participating by phone.  
15 In either case, if you're going to speak, you should  
16 only use one audio input and one audio output.

17 In other words, please don't be logged  
18 into the session by both computer and calling in, and  
19 have two different audios going, otherwise you'll  
20 experience feedback when you're speaking. We'll  
21 first call the people who have timely registered to  
22 speak via call in, and then we'll move to the people  
23 who registered timely via WebEx.

24 If you've joined by phone, you will  
25 hear us call your name and we'll ask you to press

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2 star 3 on your telephone keypad, which will raise  
3 your hand so to speak, and we'll be able to recognize  
4 your line to unmute you. If you've registered  
5 electronically, we see you on the screen.

6 After we call your name, we will  
7 unmute your line on our end and let you know that  
8 you're unmuted. In either case, please remember if  
9 you've muted your own telephone or your own audio  
10 system on your computer, you still need to unmute  
11 yourself on your end after we unmute you on our end,  
12 or else we won't be able to hear you.

13 Again, for telephone participants when  
14 we call your name press star 3, I'll remind you  
15 again. All people should speak slowly and clearly so  
16 that the court reporter can accurately capture your  
17 statements for the record. When your line is  
18 unmuted, please state your name.

19 And if you're speaking on behalf of an  
20 organization, please identify that organization. So  
21 as I said, we'll start with those who have registered  
22 by phone. The first speaker is Andrea Porter.  
23 Andrea Porter, if you've joined us today, please  
24 press star 3 on your telephone.

25 MR. WHITE: I'm not seeing a raised



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2 hand, Your Honor.

3 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. Andrea, if you  
4 haven't joined yet, or you're having trouble, what  
5 I'm going to do is when I call somebody if we don't  
6 find them initially, I'm going to mark them, and  
7 we'll come back and recirculate the list at the end  
8 after we've had other people speak.

9 So Andrea, if you're on and you're  
10 having trouble, we'll come back to you. The next  
11 speaker is Matt Slater. Matt Slater, if you're on,  
12 please press Star 3 on your phone. Matt Slater.

13 MR. WHITE: No raised hand, Your  
14 Honor.

15 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. We'll move to  
16 the electronic registration list. The first speaker  
17 is Carly McCollow. Carly McCollow?

18 MS. MCCOLLOW: Hello. Thank you for  
19 this time.

20 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you.

21 MS. MCCOLLOW: I just wanted to share,  
22 I live in Dutchess County. We received NYSEG  
23 services. And my partner and I -- my husband and I  
24 purchased the home before COVID. When we did so we  
25 included all incredibly high efficient heating and

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2 cooling systems.

3 I was -- I was raised with fans and  
4 open windows in the summer and extra layers in the  
5 winter, and so we really don't use much electricity  
6 to heat our home. All of our devices have -- we take  
7 advantage of NYSEG's opportunities to get smart  
8 things that can turn on and off, different power  
9 strips, et cetera, et cetera.

10 We really are very deliberate about  
11 being green. We've also both been lucky enough to --  
12 for the last two years to keep -- to be employed  
13 full-time. And we've been watching our electric  
14 bills go up 20, 30, 40 percent month over month, not  
15 because of how much electricity we're using, but  
16 because of the cost of those services.

17 And so as two people who were -- were  
18 -- our monthly budget, it has really been surpassed  
19 month over month, over month. And we're two people  
20 who work managerial-level positions and are  
21 incredibly intentional about being efficient with  
22 energy.

23 And it's to the point that what we  
24 noticed last year, we even hand-installed a wood  
25 burning stove to try to take some of the chill out of

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2 there, but we didn't turn on the heat last winter,  
3 because we were worried about what the electric bills  
4 were going to be. So I understand that companies  
5 need to make a profit.

6 And I also know that utilities have  
7 special obligations ethically to the community that  
8 they serve. And COVID, the pandemic, its impact,  
9 those layoffs are not over inflation and all those  
10 things are impacting managerial households as well.

11 And so I really hope that -- you know,  
12 I share my thoughts here, because we have class  
13 privilege and we were really alarmed to see this  
14 rate, not because we freak out about things, but  
15 because it would make it very difficult for us to  
16 make our monthly budget work. And so -- and we know  
17 that we are among some of the more fortunate in New  
18 York State.

19 So I really urge some deep  
20 consideration about who -- whose bank accounts and  
21 whose profits should be prioritized at this moment in  
22 time when there are very real survival needs that the  
23 -- these utilities are responsible for delivering  
24 because there aren't alternatives, so to speak.  
25 Thank you for the time.

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2 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you. The next  
3 speaker is Patrick Fox. Patrick Fox.

4 MR. WHITE: Patrick, you've been  
5 unmuted. Go ahead.

6 MR. FOX: Thank you. My name is  
7 Patrick Fox, F-O-X. And I'm a member of A.A.R.P. and  
8 here representing them as a volunteer today, as well  
9 as an RG&E customer. On behalf of the tens of  
10 thousands of A.A.R.P. members in NYSEG and RG&E  
11 service territories like me I appreciate this  
12 opportunity to comment on these gas and electric rate  
13 cases.

14 Many of our members are moderate or  
15 low fixed incomes and we're hard hit by the economic  
16 impacts of the pandemic. These revenue request  
17 increase is the largest in New York state history by  
18 percentage would be shocking even if Upstate economy  
19 was healthy. But they come at a time of spikes in  
20 utility bills and high inflation.

21 Utility bills are already unaffordable  
22 for many NYSEG and RG&E customers. A.A.R.P. members  
23 and other older New Yorkers often struggle to make  
24 ends meet, and are sometimes forced to choose between  
25 paying for prescription drugs, buying groceries and

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2 paying the rent. They cannot afford unjust and  
3 unreasonably large increases to their utility bills.

4 Further, many are behind in their  
5 payments, and others are struggling to cope with the  
6 recent dramatic increases in their bills caused by  
7 surges in the cost of natural gas, as well as  
8 surcharges to fund -- to fund state policy mandates.  
9 Residential taxpayers, NYSEG's proposal would result  
10 in 31 percent higher electric and 19 percent higher  
11 gas delivery charges.

12 And for RG&E residential customers,  
13 electric delivery charge will increase by 19 percent  
14 and gas charges by 21 percent. A.A.R.P. believes the  
15 Public Service Commission should reject the spending  
16 request and bring the rate increases down to a more  
17 manageable level. Programs and capital projects  
18 should be phased in or pilot tested if possible.

19 Federal infrastructure dollars should  
20 be used instead of taxpayer dollars. Esoteric  
21 research projects should be left to groups like the  
22 Electric Power Research Institute. Rapidly rising  
23 utility bills are not sustainable and will just drive  
24 more customers into arrear situations.

25 The commission should limit NYSEG and

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2 RG&E's capital expenditures in operating in other  
3 expenses in these proceedings to the minimum required  
4 to ensure access to safe reliable service at just in  
5 reasonable rates. The commission should also take a  
6 hard look at NYSEG's storm outage and storm  
7 restoration cost problems.

8 The monthly customer charges for both  
9 electric and natural gas services are already too  
10 high and should not be increased. Further, federal  
11 dollars made available by the Infrastructure  
12 Investment and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction  
13 Act should be used instead of taxpayer dollars for  
14 some of the requested spending.

15 I'm grateful for the time you've given  
16 us today. For the people of New York and for the  
17 members of A.A.R.P., we can do this the right way.  
18 We can serve both the needs of the utilities and the  
19 needs of the consumers. Thank you very much.

20 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you. The next  
21 speaker is Christina Field. Christina Field.

22 MR. WHITE: You've been unmuted, Ms.  
23 Field. Go ahead.

24 MS. FIELD: Hi. My name is Christina  
25 Field. So I'm a residential payer from Rochester's

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2 19th Ward. The winters of the polar vortex here in  
3 Rochester, I lived in an apartment that only had  
4 baseboard heating. For even the tiny one-bedroom  
5 apartment, my bills were astronomical and I couldn't  
6 afford to keep the heat on.

7 So I had heard that 55 degrees is all  
8 that the pipes needed to keep from freezing, so I set  
9 the baseboard to 55 degrees. I got a few two-liter  
10 soda bottles and I would fill them with hot water  
11 from the bathtub before bed so I could fall asleep.  
12 Otherwise, the bitter cold would keep me awake.

13 When the pipes in another part of the  
14 building froze and there was no hot water in the  
15 morning to warm up in the shower as it often wasn't,  
16 I'd shiver into my clothes, brush my teeth with  
17 frigid water and hope the bus came early so I could  
18 defrost.

19 I'd burn candles for warmth too. And  
20 thankfully, I survived that winter and I'm here to  
21 tell the tale. Already in Rochester, one in three  
22 people in the United States have problems paying  
23 their energy bills, leading to choices like mine to  
24 keep the temperature at an unhealthy level in my home  
25 in order to afford other necessities like food and

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2 shelter.

3 In Rochester, 44 percent of black and  
4 Latino residents already pay one tenth to one quarter  
5 of their incomes for energy. And RG&E squeezes our  
6 city's residents to guarantee its shareholders a 9  
7 percent return on investment. That money is straight  
8 out of our pockets. An 18 to 24 percent delivery  
9 rate hike would lead to more shut-offs for the lowest  
10 income customers.

11 There needs to be an alternative in a  
12 cold city, a city where the winter weather can kill  
13 you, electricity must be a human right. A public  
14 utility in Rochester would guarantee Rochester's  
15 families energy independence and warm homes no matter  
16 what energy conglomerates choose to do globally.

17 Even 10 to 12 dollars added to a power  
18 bill for no increased power usage is going to affect  
19 Rochester's -- Rochesterian's ability to pay our  
20 bills. Does Iberdrola really need to recoup lost  
21 profits due to COVID or satisfy international  
22 investment firms, or simply ... the pockets of the  
23 backs of local families?

24 I really don't think that these rate  
25 hikes should come into play and it should be denied



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2 by this board. Thank you.

3 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you, Christina.  
4 Our next speaker is Sophia Martinez. Sophia  
5 Martinez.

6 MS. MARTINEZ: Hello guys. Can you  
7 hear me?

8 A.L.J. BERGEN: We can.

9 MS. MARTINEZ: Hi. My name is Sophia  
10 Martinez. I'm with the Rochester for Energy  
11 Democracy. And I'm a resident of Rochester. And I'm  
12 currently against this current rate hike due to a  
13 personal story that I have mainly because I believe  
14 RG&E ... towards these ratepayers like myself.

15 Recently, I had an energy bill that  
16 was roughly 600 dollars. This was after months of  
17 RG&E billing me well above what I was actually using  
18 energy usage. And even though I called multiple  
19 times, I couldn't get a hold of anybody to assist me  
20 and I ended up paying 600 dollars for that month  
21 despite me only being using about 200 dollars for  
22 energy bills.

23 Anyhow, I believe that RG&E is using  
24 COVID-19 as an excuse to increase its prices and  
25 trying to pass off its excess profits on to us, the

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2 consumers. And this is the end result of what  
3 happens when we have a for profit company that is  
4 allowed to be in charge of providing essential needs  
5 to people.

6 RG&E currently makes about 89 million  
7 dollars in profits a year for shareholders rather  
8 than investing it in you know, essential services  
9 like our grid, and providing us with better service  
10 or keeping jobs of their customer service lines  
11 local.

12 They even are now asking to increase  
13 their rate of profits even higher ... while providing  
14 us for ... service. As a result, you get -- as a  
15 result, you get overcharged for your energy  
16 consumptions including myself and improperly invested  
17 in.

18 Currently right now in my account, I  
19 have a negative 905 balance because I would pay  
20 almost 1000 dollars last year for energy usage. This  
21 is ridiculous. Energy is a human rights and will  
22 become increasingly important as our summers will  
23 become hotter and our winters are becoming colder.

24 Regular consumers in Rochester cannot  
25 afford this. They cannot afford RG&E's mistake to

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2 cost them hundreds of dollars that they don't have.

3 So I am here in support against the rate hikes and  
4 hope that they don't receive it. Thank you for your  
5 time.

6 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you. Our next  
7 speaker is Ruth Marchetti. Ruth if you have called  
8 in please press star 3 on your phone, so we can  
9 identify you. Okay. I don't see Ruth, so she --

10 MR. WHITE: I don't see Ruth either.

11 A.L.J. BERGEN: -- she spoke earlier  
12 so she may not have called in again. But I'll go  
13 back to Ruth --

14 MR. WHITE: Okay.

15 A.L.J. BERGEN: -- later. The next  
16 speaker is Sarah Mittiga or Mittiga. Sarah.

17 MR. WHITE: Go ahead. You've been  
18 unmuted.

19 MS. MITTIGA: Okay. Great. Thank  
20 you. So my name is Sarah Mittiga. And I live here  
21 in Rochester. And my statement will focus on the  
22 impacts on our climate resilience in our community  
23 and affordability. And so first, I asked that we  
24 reject the proposed investments in new gas  
25 infrastructure and pipelines.

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2 Fossil fuels are rapidly becoming an  
3 outdated technology. It's something we should be  
4 phasing out, not building more. And no one would  
5 invest money in fax machines or V.H.S. tapes. So  
6 let's stop investing in outdated energy sources that  
7 are harming our health and harming our environment.

8 Let's focus on funding things like  
9 heat pumps, weatherization, geothermal energy  
10 projects, things that help -- help our climate and  
11 help our communities. And also as echoing many of  
12 the other commenters it's essential that ensuring  
13 clean energy is accessible and affordable for  
14 everyone, not acceptable to be increasing rates when  
15 already you know as others have mentioned, people in  
16 Rochester are paying up to 25 percent of their income  
17 towards their energy bill.

18 So we need affordable clean energy to  
19 be the top priority. Thank you.

20 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you. The next  
21 speaker is Barbra McMillon. Barbra. Hello, Barbra?

22 MS. MCMILLON: Yes.

23 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. Please begin.

24 MS. MCMILLON: Good afternoon. My  
25 name is Barbra McMillon. I live in Monroe County and

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2 I work as a secretary. I am a delegate to the Monroe  
3 County Workers Benefit Council. And in that  
4 capacity, I am here today to speak on behalf of more  
5 than 25,000 low income workers and their families  
6 throughout Monroe County.

7 I also have several other speakers  
8 that may not have signed up, but also want to speak.  
9 Kathie Ferrall, Dorothy Warnick, Joanne Lewis, Andrea  
10 Farwell. We the Workers Benefit Council, express our  
11 emphatic opposition to RG&E and NYSEG's shameless 580  
12 million rate hikes request.

13 Furthermore, we demand the Public  
14 Service Commission do its job and deny this  
15 unaffordable and unsustainable rate increase. We are  
16 the home health aide, nurse's aides working in  
17 nursing homes, childcare workers, food service and  
18 retail workers. They started calling us essential  
19 workers during the pandemic, but we don't get paid  
20 enough for the essentials like home energy.

21 And so adding another 20 to 22 dollars  
22 to our monthly bills is absolutely out of the  
23 question. For over 12 years, we called on the Public  
24 Service Commission to follow its own legal mandate to  
25 "protect the utility consumers from the potential

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2 abuse of monopoly power" to protect the rights of New  
3 Yorkers while ensuring access to reliable and low-  
4 cost utility services.

5 But all during that time, the P.S.C.  
6 has broken this mandate choosing to guarantee a  
7 certain rate of return on investment for the utility  
8 monopoly shareholders. The guaranteed profit was 9  
9 percent last we heard.

10 As a result of the state guaranteeing  
11 these exorbitant profits for energy monopolies  
12 compounding with stagnant wages and fixed incomes not  
13 keeping up, New York has seen 300,000 utility  
14 customers being shut off each year, 60,000 of those  
15 right here in our region shut off by Avangrid  
16 subsidiaries, RG&E and NYSEG.

17 But Avangrid's parent company in  
18 Spain, Iberdrola got 4.4 billion in profits for  
19 shareholders and paid its C.E.O. 10 million dollars  
20 year after year. During the pandemic as an emergency  
21 measure, the state instituted a moratorium on shut  
22 offs, which our W.B.C. has already been demanding for  
23 12 years by petition, letters and testifying at  
24 public hearings.

25 However, at the beginning of 2022, the

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2 state lifted the moratorium so shut off began again.  
3 The COVID-19 pandemic made it worse, with thousands  
4 losing their jobs and hundreds of small businesses  
5 closing down. So it's not time to allow shut offs,  
6 but it's time to stop shut offs forever for those in  
7 need.

8                   During the pandemic, according to  
9 RG&E's own 2020 and 2021 financial report, they  
10 successfully increased their net revenue by 32  
11 percent and increased their stockholder wealth by  
12 over 27 percent.

13                   MR. : They don't need a rate hike.

14                   MS. MCMILLON: We know how they did  
15 that. Now 13 percent of all utility customers owe  
16 more than 2.1 billion double what was owed at the  
17 same time in 2021. So the W.B.C. is here today again  
18 after more than a decade of these hearings and  
19 petitions to continue demanding a permanent year  
20 round moratorium on all shut off for low to moderate  
21 income ratepayers.

22                   And this isn't just about financial  
23 debt. Some of us are paying with our lives and our  
24 health. Every winter in central and Western New  
25 York, there's a predictable death toll due to house

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 fires and carbon monoxide poisoning of people who  
3 have resorted to unsafe heating methods after being  
4 shut off by RG&E, NYSEG and other shareholder own  
5 utilities.

6 Every summer, the number of  
7 individuals in the U.S. ending up in emergency rooms  
8 and even dying, heat related deaths kill more people  
9 than hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and earthquakes  
10 combined. It is a silent killer. There is no report  
11 on the deaths from the heat waves that the P.S.C.  
12 allow.

13 The same way we need heating in the  
14 winter months, we need air conditioning in the summer  
15 months as well because both are essential to people's  
16 health and wellbeing, not to mention for keeping  
17 insulin refrigerated and to keep breathing equipment  
18 running et cetera. That is why we need a permanent  
19 year round moratorium on all shut off for low to  
20 moderate income ratepayers.

21 On July 28th of this year, the W.B.C.  
22 just submitted a petition to the P.S.C.'s office in  
23 Albany by fax containing over 1300 signatures and a  
24 dozen endorsement letters from local faith based  
25 groups and nonprofits who are attempting to address



1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 the needs of the poor in our community.

3 The petition demands were, one, enact  
4 a permanent year round moratorium on utility shut  
5 offs for New York residents whose incomes are at or  
6 below 250 percent of the federal poverty level.  
7 Number two, direct RG&E and NYSEG to cancel arrears  
8 for their customers whose incomes are at or below 250  
9 percent of poverty guidelines.

10 Three, transition New York State's  
11 energy grid to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030,  
12 while ensuring services both affordable and  
13 accessible to even the lowest income residents.  
14 Dozens of people in our communities have called the  
15 P.S.C.'s offices to confirm that the petitions have  
16 been received and processed.

17 Eventually, your staff in the Public  
18 Affairs Office told us that they had received them  
19 and forwarded them to Secretary Michelle Phillips.  
20 Then, numbers of our people called her directly and  
21 she eventually indicated that they had been received.  
22 We saw what happened next.

23 The state government claimed debt  
24 forgiveness from those in debt, which is our second  
25 demand. But that -- but what they really did is pay

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 off the utility debts with 567 million dollars that  
3 is coming out of our taxes. Except for the 6 percent  
4 utilities kicked in, but somehow they are allowed to  
5 actually bill us for that 6 percent through  
6 additional surcharges to pay off our debt.

7 The P.S.C. can make utilities  
8 affordable and environmentally sustainable in the  
9 interest of poor and working people throughout New  
10 York State if it was truly a priority to them. This  
11 year, the Public Service Commission has another  
12 chance to live up to its legal mandate and to do what  
13 it was created to do, serve the public.

14 The Monroe County Workers Benefit  
15 Council is here today to demand that the P.S.C., one,  
16 deny RG&E and NYSEG's rate hike request outright and  
17 take the next step and lower the rates. Two, enact a  
18 permanent year round moratorium on utility shut offs  
19 for New York residents whose incomes are at or below  
20 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

21 And -- and lastly, three, transition  
22 New York State's energy grid to 100 percent renewable  
23 energy by 2030, while ensuring services both  
24 affordable and accessible to even the lowest income  
25 residents. Thank you.

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2 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you, Barbra.

3 Our next speaker is Andrea Farwell. I think -- I  
4 think Barbra you mentioned she was with you. Is that  
5 -- is that accurate?

6 MS. MCMILLON: Yes.

7 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. Andrea, you may  
8 begin.

9 MS. FARWELL: Good afternoon. My name  
10 is Andrea Farwell. I represent and I'm here with the  
11 Monroe County Workers Benefit -- Benefit Council. I  
12 too am a consumer of RG&E. And I just like to say  
13 that people have a hard enough time in low income  
14 communities that are already struggling to make ends  
15 meet and are on a very restricted income.

16 And we do not have the luxuries or  
17 they don't have the luxuries of having another rent,  
18 or another mortgage payment which their bill does add  
19 up to that amount. It's very sad. And I don't think  
20 it's our -- our problem if they are going to raise  
21 this rate hikes. And I just say no to that.

22 People are already struggling to try  
23 to make ends meet choosing eating over heating and  
24 those type of things. Okay. And that's why I  
25 endorsed the demands of the Monroe County Workers

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 Benefit Council cancel the rate hike entirely,  
3 install a year-round moratorium and shut offs and  
4 transition to 100 percent renewable energy grid by  
5 2030 while keeping rates affordable for even the  
6 worst -- for even the lowest income ratepayers.

7 Thank you so much for your time.

8 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you, Andrea.  
9 Our next speaker is Katherine Ferrall. Katherine  
10 Ferrall.

11 MS. FERRALL: Right here.

12 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay, great.  
13 Katherine, you may begin.

14 MS. FERRALL: Hello. Yes. Can you  
15 hear me okay?

16 A.L.J. BERGEN: We can.

17 MS. FERRELL: Okay, great. So my name  
18 is Katherine Farrell. And I live -- and I live in  
19 Rochester, New York. I am a freelance sign language  
20 interpreter. And before I give my prepared remarks,  
21 I'd like to just say that I personally -- similarly  
22 to people who have spoken already, I'm experiencing a  
23 raise in my bills.

24 I have had the same charge every month  
25 on average for a year and then just this month, it

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 went up 40 dollars. I certainly was not using 40  
3 dollars' worth of energy more. In fact, I was out of  
4 town for a part of the month.

5 So it really goes to show and to  
6 reiterate that these claims are real and people are  
7 continuing to struggle, but I am here today with as  
8 my peers said the Monroe County Workers Benefit  
9 Council, representing more than 25,000 low -- low  
10 paid working people and families throughout Monroe  
11 County.

12 The W.B.C. opposes any and all rate  
13 hikes on our utility bills as it would only cause  
14 more poverty and economic inequality as well as pain  
15 and suffering in our communities. Avangrid states  
16 that their rationale for this rate hike is  
17 implementing their green energy development plan  
18 called Reliable Energy New York.

19 Well, the W.B.C. supports all sincere  
20 efforts to transition New York's energy grid to one  
21 based 100 percent on renewable energy, we take  
22 exception to the utilities' claim that they must  
23 raise our bills in order to do that.

24 Their claim is essential -- is  
25 especially, excuse me, disingenuous in light of the

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 fact that RG&E increased their revenues and profits  
3 during the pandemic by 32 and 27 percent  
4 respectively. And this while the numbers of  
5 ratepayers were unable to afford their utility bills  
6 doubled to 13 percent of all household collectively  
7 owing 2.1 billion dollars.

8 The claim that the only pathway to  
9 green energy is how you're billed for the ratepayers  
10 is a lie. The concept of sustainable development was  
11 defined and accepted globally at the 1987 World  
12 Commission on Environment and Development Conference  
13 as development that meets the needs of the present  
14 without compromising the ability of future  
15 generations to meet their own needs.

16 In other words, sustainability  
17 includes meeting the people's needs here and now in a  
18 way that allows our children and grandchildren to do  
19 the same. Therefore, sustainability must be  
20 economically viable and socially inclusive, and  
21 equitable as well as ecologically responsible.

22 In 2015, all 193 member states of the  
23 United Nation unanimously adopted the 2030 agenda for  
24 sustainable development with its 17 sustainable  
25 development goal that includes the United States.

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320

2 Later that same year, the Monroe County Workers  
3 Benefit Council officially endorsed the 2030 agenda,  
4 because it is consistent with our program going back  
5 40 years.

6 Sustainable Development Goal number  
7 one is to end poverty in all its forms everywhere.  
8 Goal number seven is to ensure access to affordable,  
9 reliable, sustainable and modern -- modern energy  
10 sources for all. Goal number eleven is to make  
11 cities and human settlements inclusive, safe,  
12 resilient and sustainable.

13 While we take urgent action to fight  
14 climate change, we must do so in a way that  
15 eliminates economic and social inequality. There is  
16 nothing sustainable about a multibillion-dollar  
17 energy holding company like Iberdrola and Avangrid,  
18 owner of RG&E and NYSEG paying for their so-called  
19 green energy initiative by raising customers bill  
20 over 20 dollars per month.

21 If it is not affordable for all  
22 utility customers, then it may be green, but it is  
23 not sustainable. There's nothing stainable about  
24 forcing us to let them put their smart meters in our  
25 home to charge us more money for using electricity at

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 peak hours of the day so just when a working mom gets  
3 home from work at 5 p.m. and must cook dinner for the  
4 kids and do the laundry while they get started on  
5 their homework.

6 And if we choose to opt out of their  
7 smart meter program, they will add an additional 12  
8 dollars a month to our bill all in the name of going  
9 green. While it may be green -- while it may be  
10 green, this type of profit driven environmentalism is  
11 creating more poverty in our community, and so we say  
12 that it is not sustainable.

13 Again, there's nothing sustainable  
14 about a deregulated energy market that allows the  
15 largest investment banks in the world to drive up the  
16 price of a life necessity, such as heat in the winter  
17 when weather experts predict extreme winter weather  
18 on the horizon, and they all start buying gas ...  
19 expecting to make a profit.

20 When the P.S.C. throws hundreds of  
21 thousands of our families under the bus by allowing  
22 utility rate hikes in the name of going green, we  
23 must fight for sustainable development and not  
24 policies that harm the majority of the benefit of the  
25 already wealthy and powerful.



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2 We, the Monroe County Workers Benefit  
3 Council demand the P.S.C. and the New York State  
4 government set an example for others to follow and  
5 adhere to the letter and spirit of the 2030 Agenda for  
6 Sustainable Development and transition our state's  
7 energy grid to a clean, renewable, modern energy grid  
8 by 2030 for the sake of our children and  
9 grandchildren and for generations to come.

10 We demand that the P.S.C. achieve this  
11 while ensuring that utility rates remain affordable  
12 for even the lowest income ratepayer. To achieve  
13 this, the P.S.C. must take whatever action is  
14 necessary to ensure that those who have been  
15 profiteering off our energy grid and energy markets  
16 be required to ... the bill for this transition to  
17 renewable energy.

18 They have the money to cover the  
19 necessary costs. We do not. We have tightened our  
20 belts year after year after year, and it is time for  
21 them to share the burden. Thank you.

22 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you, Katherine.  
23 The next speaker is Mersin or Mersin Capillary, M-E-  
24 R-S-I-N, Mersin Capillary.

25 MR. WHITE: They may have called in,

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320

2 Your Honor, if they're not with the group.

3 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. I didn't hear  
4 that name as part of the group before. So Mersin, if  
5 you have called in, please press star 3 on your  
6 telephone so we can identify you. And it's Mersin or  
7 Mersin Capillary. I don't see any raised hands.

8 MR. WHITE: I concur. No raised  
9 hands.

10 A.L.J. BERGEN: But I did see that  
11 Matt Slater, who we had called on earlier, who was  
12 not available has joined. Can we go to Matt Slater,  
13 please?

14 MR. WHITE: We're going to need you to  
15 raise a hand, please.

16 A.L.J. BERGEN: Matt Slater.

17 MR. SLATER: Yeah. Good evening.  
18 Matt Slater here. Supervisor of the Town of  
19 Yorktown. Can you hear me?

20 A.L.J. BERGEN: Yes. Please begin.

21 MR. SLATER: Thank you very much. I'm  
22 -- I'm going to be very brief with my comments  
23 tonight. The proposed increase for -- for the NYSEG  
24 rate hike is substantial. I hear now almost daily  
25 from residents, not just in my town, but in

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 surrounding towns in places like Somers and Carmel,  
3 Patterson, Brewster, and they're concerned.

4 They're concerned about how they're  
5 going to keep their houses warm this winter, let  
6 alone keep the electricity on. Our seniors who are  
7 on a fixed income aren't seeing an increase in that  
8 income. They're not seeing an increase in their  
9 social security checks, but yet, there's -- the --  
10 the proposal of a 31 percent increase will have a  
11 significant impact, putting them in a position to  
12 choose between keeping the lights on and keeping  
13 their houses warm or paying for medication or other  
14 essential needs.

15 This needs to be rejected by the  
16 Public Service Commission. There needs to be a more  
17 focused conversation about an energy policy for New  
18 York State and energy policy that recognizes the  
19 affordability crisis that many of our residents are  
20 fearing and facing.

21 But today, I speak to you on behalf of  
22 the Town Board of Yorktown that's already passed a  
23 resolution opposing the rate hike as proposed. And  
24 we ask that the Public Service Commission take the  
25 necessary action to reject the proposed rate hike for

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 NYSEG customers. As a reminder, this is just the  
3 delivery cost.

4 We have all seen and we've heard the  
5 projections for the production cost. So really, what  
6 we're talking about is a significant increase for  
7 people in our region to turn their lights on, to heat  
8 their homes and to enjoy a somewhat decent quality of  
9 life.

10 This is unsustainable the trajectory  
11 (sic) that we're going in and it really needs to be  
12 looked at, revised and this rate hike needs to be  
13 rejected. I appreciate the Public Service Commission  
14 allowing me to speak.

15 I also do want to just make note that  
16 I was disappointed that the P.S.C. did not grant our  
17 requests that I made with Assemblyman Byrne to hold  
18 an in-person public hearing in the Town of Yorktown  
19 as you did in 2019. Our residents feel slighted by  
20 that. We are at the end of the NYSEG territory, and  
21 they would have appreciated and enjoy the opportunity  
22 to speak to you tonight.

23 But I'm happy to speak on their  
24 behalf. And it's very clear that our residents want  
25 a rejection of the NYSEG rate hike. Thank you very

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 much.

3 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you. We're  
4 going to go back to Andrea Porter who is a call in  
5 registrant. Andrea Porter. If you've joined, please  
6 press star 3 on your phone. Andrea Porter, press  
7 star 3 on your phone if you've joined us.

8 MR. WHITE: So I'm sorry, Your Honor,  
9 I have to mute somebody in the -- there we go.

10 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay.

11 MR. WHITE: There's no Andrea Porter,  
12 Your Honor.

13 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. Thank you. And  
14 again, Mersin or Mersin Capillary, if you've joined  
15 by phone, please press star 3 on your telephone.  
16 Mersin or Mersin Capillary. No hands?

17 MR. WHITE: Not that I've seen, Your  
18 Honor.

19 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. We've come to  
20 the end of the registered speakers. Is there anybody  
21 on the line who'd like to make comment? If you're  
22 joining by phone, please press star 3 on your phone  
23 to raise your hand so we can identify you.

24 And if you've joined by WebEx, there's  
25 a small icon in the bottom-right screen that says

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 raise hand. You can click that to raise your hand  
3 and we'll identify you as someone who'd like to make  
4 a comment.

5 MR. WHITE: We have a -- we have  
6 someone, Your Honor.

7 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. Great. Please  
8 unmute that person.

9 MR. WHITE: Unmuted.

10 MR. RUSSELL: Hello. Good afternoon -

11 -

12 A.L.J. BERGEN: Hi.

13 MR. RUSSELL: -- Commissioner  
14 Maggiore, Administrative Law Judges Bergen and  
15 Overton. My name is Daniel Russell. And I'm an ...  
16 with the Public Utility Law Project of New York. My  
17 pronouns are he and him. PULP is a 40 year old  
18 nonprofit with the mission of educating, advocating  
19 and litigating on behalf of New York State low income  
20 utility consumers.

21 PULP thanks the Department of Public  
22 Service for the opportunity to testify in relation to  
23 New York State Electric and Gas Corporations electric  
24 -- electric and gas rate cases 22-E-0317 at el. PULP  
25 is an active party in all four cases. And we have

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 filed our expert testimony this Monday.

3 PULP has several concerns that we will  
4 address in today's hearing and that will be expanded  
5 upon in our testimony. When the companies filed on  
6 May 26th they proposed double digit increases in  
7 revenues across the companies. These proposed  
8 increases would put further strain on ratepayers,  
9 particularly low income consumers.

10 On May 26th, Governor Hochul released  
11 a press statement in response to NYSEG, RG&E's 2022  
12 rate case. Governor Hochul stated, it's outrageous  
13 and unacceptable that the utility companies are  
14 proposing the largest rate increase in recent history  
15 for more than 1.2 million consumers in Upstate New  
16 York.

17 Additionally, Governor Hochul urged  
18 the Department of Public Service to scrutinize every  
19 number and word of this proposal to protect New York  
20 families from unjustified and unfair rate increases.  
21 PULP thanks Governor Hochul for her strong response  
22 as customers of NYSEG, RG&E simply cannot afford to  
23 pay more for their electricity and natural gas.

24 And PULP has pulled financial  
25 statistics from New York State Community Action

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 Association 2022 Poverty report, United Way Alice  
3 Report and the New York State Department of Education  
4 County Statistics. And the reality is that many  
5 people in the territory -- service territory cannot  
6 pay.

7 And in Thompson County for example,  
8 17.5 percent of residents are living below the  
9 poverty line with 4.9 percent of seniors age, 65  
10 percent or more living in poverty, 23.9 percent of  
11 female-headed families with children live in poverty,  
12 and 40 percent of children qualify for free or  
13 reduced school lunches under federal guidelines.

14 When you consider working poor and  
15 then it's approximately 46.2 percent of residents of  
16 Thompson County are unable to pay their bills and  
17 must often choose which bills remain unpaid at the  
18 end of the month. This is even worse than the city  
19 of Ithaca, where 37.5 percent of the residents are  
20 living in poverty.

21 And this includes 12.5 percent of  
22 seniors and 18.6 percent of children who live in  
23 Ithaca. NYSEG's own collections activity reports  
24 shows that as of June 2022, 106,328 residential  
25 consumers are behind on their bills by 60 days or



1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 more for a total of 58,698,477 million dollars in  
3 residential arrears.

4 RG&E's collective activity --  
5 collections activity report shows that as of July  
6 2022, 65,274 residential customers are behind on  
7 their bills by 60 days or more. That equate to a  
8 total of 43,664,256 million dollars in residential  
9 arrear. The Commission has set important targets for  
10 affordability with the goal that no low income  
11 customer will spend more than 6 percent of their  
12 income on energy.

13 Even before any rate increases that  
14 may result from the company's ... low income  
15 customers and territories are already spending much  
16 more than 6 percent of their income on energy bills.  
17 PULP is working on -- PULP has filed their testimony  
18 that will show the average low-income NYSEG spends  
19 9.7 percent of their income on energy.

20 This is 62 percent higher than the  
21 target set by the Commission. Our testimony will  
22 also show that the average low income RG&E customers  
23 spend 9.1 percent of their income on energy. This is  
24 52 percent higher than the target for affordability.

25 These burdens may be even more

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 exaggerated in disadvantaged communities as defined  
3 by the Climate Justice Working Group. The effects of  
4 the COVID-19 pandemic are still heavily ... across  
5 the company's territories and everyday ratepayers are  
6 struggling with their bills that are unaffordable.

7 In these unprecedented times, PULP ask  
8 the Commission to follow Governor Hochul's requests  
9 and scrutinize RG&E and NYSEG's rate requests to make  
10 sure the rate -- consumers are paying are just  
11 reasonable and fair. Thank you for your time.

12 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you. I see we  
13 have another hand raised.

14 MS. LOOMIS: Hi. Good afternoon. My  
15 name is Rebecca Loomis. And I live in Rochester,  
16 New York. So I did a lot of work with families ...  
17 And a lot of things that they were dealing with was  
18 that they weren't able to pay their rent and feed  
19 themselves or get books or ... for the kids.

20 So -- and that they would have to pay  
21 the RG&E so they wouldn't freeze and their kids. So  
22 that's a little hard you know, to listen to, but it  
23 happens. So and that is why I endorse the demands of  
24 Monroe County Workers Benefit Council, cancel this  
25 rate hike entirely,, install year round moratorium on

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 shut off and transition to 100 percent renewable  
3 energy grid by 2030 while keeping rates affordable  
4 for even the lowest income ratepayers.

5 A.L.J. BERGEN: Rebecca, are you --

6 MS. LOOMIS: Huh?

7 A.L.J. BERGEN: Are you continuing?

8 MS. LOOMIS: No.

9 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. Thank you.

10 Thank you for your comment.

11 THE REPORTER: Is it -- Excuse me. Is  
12 it possible if I can get your last name as well?

13 MS. LOOMIS: Loomis.

14 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. Can you  
15 spell that, please?

16 MS. LOOMIS: L-O-O-M-I-S.

17 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

18 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you. And is  
19 there anybody else in your group who called in with  
20 Barbra that would like to make a statement?

21 MR. : I guess we're all set.

22 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. Thank you very  
23 much. So is there anybody else on the line who'd  
24 like to make a comment? If you've joined by WebEx,  
25 you can press the raise hand button in the bottom-

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 right corner. If you've joined by phone, please  
3 press star 3 on your telephone. Star 3 if you joined  
4 by telephone will raise your hand so we can identify  
5 you.

6 MR. WHITE: I'm not seeing any raised  
7 hands, Your Honor.

8 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. We'll make one  
9 more attempt Andrea Porter. Andrea Porter, if you've  
10 called in, can you please --

11 MR. WHITE: We have a raised hand --

12 A.L.J. BERGEN: -- raise your hand?

13 MR. WHITE: -- Your Honor.

14 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. Great. Can you  
15 unmute the line, please?

16 MS. KROFT: Hello.

17 A.L.J. BERGEN: Hello.

18 MS. KROFT: Hi. My name is Caroline  
19 Kroft. I've been a permanent resident of the City of  
20 Rochester since 2015, where I currently work as a  
21 Patient Care Technician. I'm here today to urge the  
22 Public Service Commission to oppose NYSEG and RG&E's  
23 proposed rate hikes.

24 The fact is that working people here  
25 in Rochester simply cannot afford these increased

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 rates, especially not with inflation the way it is  
3 currently and after the hardships of the past three  
4 years. It's unacceptable that working people should  
5 have to choose between affording food and keeping  
6 their lights on each month.

7 By the same token, someone who's no  
8 longer able to work because of a disability should  
9 not have to worry that they'll freeze to death in  
10 their home this winter because they can't afford to  
11 pay their bill on their fixed income. If that's a  
12 very real danger that people in this city will face  
13 if these rate hikes go through.

14 NYSEG's justification for these rate  
15 hikes are flimsy at best, they need to maintain  
16 infrastructure and replace ... services. Okay. So  
17 they need to take responsibility for that and use  
18 their own exorbitant profits to pay for this and  
19 provide people with the reliable service that they're  
20 owed.

21 They can afford it, we can't. If they  
22 really want to invest in the energy future for their  
23 customers as they said, then they need to commit to  
24 transitioning to a 100 percent renewable energy grid  
25 by 2030, while maintaining the rates at a level

1 9/28/2022 - NYSEG/RG&E - 22-E-0317,0319/22-G-0318,0320  
2 that's affordable to even the lowest income  
3 customers.

4 This summer, NYSEG and RG&E welcomed a  
5 new C.E.O. Trish Nilsen, who said I feel a part of my  
6 role is to reflect the voice of our customer across  
7 our business. What do we need to do to primarily  
8 keep the lights on and the gas flowing for our  
9 customers? Well, I have a simple recommendation for  
10 how she can accomplish that.

11 She needs to keep the lights on and  
12 keep the gas flowing. Listen to what people who came  
13 to hear to this hearing are saying today. You need  
14 to enact a permanent year round moratorium on utility  
15 shut offs for customers who are at or below 250  
16 percent of the federal poverty level, and canceling  
17 utility debts for the same households. Thank you.  
18 That's it.

19 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you, Caroline.  
20 Again, if there's anybody who -- who would like to  
21 make a comment even if you didn't sign up, you can  
22 press star 3 on your telephone if you've called in.  
23 Or press the raise hand icon on the lower right-hand  
24 screen of the WebEx. So Star 3 for the telephone,  
25 raise hand button for WebEx.

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2 If anybody would like to comment, even  
3 if you didn't pre-register.

4 MR. WHITE: Barbra's hand is up again.  
5 Do you want me to unmute?

6 A.L.J. BERGEN: Yes, please. Please  
7 unmute.

8 MR. WHITE: Okay.

9 MS. SHARPTON: Hi.

10 A.L.J. BERGEN: Hello. Please state  
11 your name.

12 MS. SHARPTON: My name is Linda  
13 Sharpton. And I was here -- I'm here in Rochester,  
14 New York. And I just want to say that thank you for  
15 listening and we hope that you help us out. Thank  
16 you.

17 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you. Thank you.  
18 Is there anybody else? Star 3 for the raise-hand  
19 icon.

20 MR. WHITE: Is there someone else from  
21 this group that wishes to speak or can I close down  
22 their line?

23 MS. SHARPTON: No sir.

24 MR. WHITE: Okay, thank you. I don't  
25 see anybody, Your Honor.

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2 A.L.J. BERGEN: I don't think Barbra's  
3 group is muted, so.

4 MR. WHITE: I did mute the line. I'm  
5 not too sure why. Okay, let me try again. Here we  
6 go. All righty, there we go, Your Honor.

7 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. Thank you.

8 MR. WHITE: You're welcome.

9 A.L.J. BERGEN: If there's anybody  
10 else, star 3 on your telephone or raise hands on your  
11 WebEx. Do you see any?

12 MR. WHITE: I do not.

13 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay. Seeing no  
14 additional raised hands, we'll conclude -- we'll just  
15 conclude the public statement hearing. I'd like to  
16 remind everybody on the line if you didn't want to  
17 make a verbal comment today, you can still comment by  
18 the other means we talked about earlier, which is  
19 also found in the August 19th notice.

20 Again, the phone number to make your  
21 comment 1-800-335-2120, the website www.d as in  
22 David, P as in Peter, S as in Sam.ny.gov as in  
23 Victor. When you're on the website, you can search  
24 for any four of these case numbers. And you will be  
25 brought to the page where you can submit your



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2 comment.

3 In addition to this evening's hearing,  
4 we will be holding an additional day of public  
5 statement hearing on October 19th -- 18th, I'm sorry.  
6 That's October 18th, at 1 o'clock and 5 o'clock.  
7 Judge Overton and I thank everyone for your interest  
8 today. Thank you, Commissioner Maggiore for joining  
9 us and participating.

10 Also, thanks to our Consumer Services  
11 Office for administering the session and to our court  
12 reporters today. The public statement hearing is now  
13 concluded. And we are off the record.

14 MR. WHITE: Thank you.

15 (The hearing concluded at 6:01 p.m.)  
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2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 I, ANTHONY MCCLAIN, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
4 was reported by me, in the cause, at the time and place,  
5 as stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1 hereof; that  
6 the foregoing typewritten transcription consisting of  
7 pages 1 through 49, is a true record of all proceedings  
8 had at the hearing.

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
10 subscribed my name, this the 4th day of October, 2022.

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12 ANTHONY MCCLAIN, Reporter

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