

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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Application of Rochester Gas and Electric :  
Corporation for Amendment of the :  
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility :  
and Public Need Issued in Case 03-T-1385 : Case 03-T-1385  
for Construction of the Rochester :  
Transmission Project Enhancement in :  
Monroe County x  
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**APPLICATION**

Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E or the Applicant) submits this application (Application) for an amendment to the Article VII Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need issued on December 16, 2004 in Case 03-T-1385 (Certificate) that authorized it to construct, operate, and maintain the Rochester Transmission Project (RTP), which was comprised of approximately 32 miles of new or rebuilt 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and equipment upgrades at several existing substations in Wayne County and a new 5.7 mile 115kV transmission line and substation and equipment upgrades in Monroe County. As part of the RTP, an existing 115kV line (Existing Line 916) was reconstructed on single-circuit structures and Station 48 in the City of Rochester, Monroe County, underwent equipment upgrades and additions.

The Applicant now proposes to construct the Rochester Transmission Project Enhancement (the Project or RTP Enhancement), which includes the construction of a new 115kV line, to be designated as Line 949 (Proposed Line 949), a total distance of approximately 6.7 miles, from Station 418 in the Town of Gates to Station 48 in the City of Rochester, Monroe County, and the expansions of Stations 48 and 418 to accommodate Proposed Line 949.

The Applicant is requesting amendment of the Certificate because the Project, as more fully detailed herein, includes the reconstruction of a portion of Existing Line 916 and expansion of Station 48, both of which were modified as part of the RTP pursuant to the Certificate.

## **A. Description of the Project**

The RTP Enhancement would include: construction, operation, and maintenance of an approximately 0.3-mile section of Proposed Line 949 on double-circuit structures with Existing Line 916, and the remaining approximately 6.4 miles of Proposed Line 949; expansions of Stations 48 and 418; reconstruction of segments of three existing transmission lines (Existing Lines 910, 916, and 926); reconstruction of segments of three existing distribution lines (Existing Lines 359, 705, and 730); 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.

## **B. Project Location**

Proposed Line 949 would begin in the Town of Gates at Station 418 and continue southeast along the Existing Line 910 right-of-way (ROW) for approximately 1.1 miles. The line would continue parallel to Existing Line 910 for approximately 0.1 miles. At the Existing Line 940 riser, the line would continue for approximately 0.1 miles. Near the Interstate 490 (I-490) overpass, the line would transition northeast and follow Existing Line 730 and Existing Line 705 parallel to the CSX ROW for approximately 2.6 miles. Proposed Line 949 would extend from here north and east, away from the CSX ROW, for approximately 0.5 miles, following Existing Lines 705, 916, and 926. Proposed Line 949 then would travel north/northeast following Existing Line 926, adjacent to the R&S ROW for approximately 1.9 miles. Proposed Line 949 then would cross to the north side of the R&S ROW, following Existing Line 916 for approximately 0.4 miles until its terminus at Station 48 in the City of Rochester.

The Project is primarily proposed along existing electric transmission and railroad ROW, with the exception of a small greenfield area where colocation within existing ROW is not feasible. Where required, new ROW will be obtained to accommodate the Project and maintain required clearances. The Applicant will also acquire additional rights outside of existing ROW to selectively remove danger trees. The location of Project facilities is shown in figures in Exhibit 2 of this Application.

### **C. Description of Reasonable Alternative Routes and Technology**

Exhibit 3 of this Application provides a description of the various alternatives the Applicant considered to address the need for the RTP Enhancement. These include a no-action alternative, alternative transmission line technologies, and non-wires alternatives such as energy efficiency, demand side management, and distributed generation. Moreover, Exhibit 3 identifies alternative route locations for Proposed Line 949, including an evaluation of the comparative merits and detriments of each location.

### **D. Summary of Environmental Studies and Environmental Impact**

Detailed descriptions of the environmental studies and environmental impact assessments for the Project are set forth in the resource specific sections of Exhibit 4 of this Application. In sum, these studies conclude that the construction and operation of the Project will result in limited, temporary adverse environmental effects, which will occur primarily during the construction phase. Because RG&E has designed the RTP Enhancement to be constructed and operated along existing transmission and railroad ROWs, and has proposed certain mitigation measures, it has minimized the potential for the Project to result in adverse impacts in the following areas: Land Use; Visual Resources; Cultural Resources; Terrestrial Ecology and Wetlands; Wildlife; Threatened and Endangered Species; Topography and Soils; Water Resources; Noise; and EMF. The information used to prepare each of the resource specific sections of Exhibit 4 includes extensive field investigations, literature reviews, and agency consultations.

Nearby residences may experience short-term disturbance and traffic inconvenience associated with construction activities. To minimize potential construction effects to adjacent landowners, RG&E will utilize mufflers on all equipment during construction; provide timely information to residents of adjacent property regarding the planned construction activities and schedules; and coordinate with appropriate agencies to develop and implement traffic control measures.

**E. Need for the Project**

The Project is needed for RG&E to continue to ensure reliable service to customers in its Western Division. Specifically, constructing a transmission line to connect Station 48 and Station 418 will allow for the radial condition of Station 418 to be mitigated, reinforce the bulk power supply, allow for the voltage to remain within normal operating range, and ensure reliable service under the N-1 and N-1-1 contingency loss of other New York Bulk Electric System elements.

A more detailed description of the existing transmission system and the need for the Project is set forth in Exhibit E-4 of this Application.

**F. Other Relevant Information**

Exhibit 1 of this Application provides the name, address, and telephone number of the Applicant; the name and address of the principal officer of the Applicant; and the names and addresses of those persons upon whom documents and correspondence are to be served.

**G. Conclusion**

RG&E respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order pursuant to Article VII of the Public Service Law granting the following:

- 1) An amendment to the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need issued to it in Case 03-T-1385 to permit the construction, operation and maintenance of the RTP Enhancement; and
- 2) Such other and further authorizations, consents, permissions, approvals, waivers, and permits as necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project described herein.

Dated: February 11, 2020