

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

Maureen O. Helmer, Chairman

Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223

Further Details: (518) 474-7080

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

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

02070/01T1160

NYPSC Seeks Comments on Niagara Mohawk Proposal to Construct Gas Transmission Line in Schenectady and Saratoga Counties

Albany, NY – 9/11/02 – The New York State Public Service Commission will conduct two public statement hearings on September 24, 2002, to seek the public's views on an application by the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (Niagara Mohawk) to construct a natural gas transmission line in the Towns of Rotterdam and Glenville in Schenectady County and the Town of Charlton in Saratoga County.

A New York State Department of Public Service Administrative Law Judge, assigned to the Commission's proceeding established to examine the proposal, will preside over two hearings to be held as follows:

**Tuesday, September 24, 2002
1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
First Reformed Church
224 North Ballston Avenue
Scotia, NY**

The hearings will provide opportunities for interested members of the public to comment and express their opinions on Niagara Mohawk's proposed gas transmission line project. Each hearing session will remain open for at least one hour after its starting time and will continue until all persons wishing to comment have been heard or other reasonable arrangements are made. It is not necessary to make an appointment in advance or to present written material in order to speak. Speakers ordinarily are called on after completing a card requesting time to speak at the time of the hearing. Persons not wishing to speak may nevertheless comment in writing. Both written and oral statements will be considered by the Commission. The Commission ultimately may grant or deny Niagara Mohawk's application, and may adopt, reject or amend the route presented by the company or may approve a route not proposed by the company.

TDD users may request that a sign language interpreter be present. To make a request, please call the New York State Department of Public Service's Human Resources Management office at (518) 474-2520 through the New York Relay Service at 1-800-662-1220 or have a representative call collect directly to the office. Disabled persons who require special accommodations other than a sign language interpreter also may place a collect call to the Department of Public Service's Human Resources Management office at (518) 474-2520. Requests for a sign language interpreter or special accommodations should be made at least one week in advance of the hearings.

Other Ways to Share Views and Obtain Information

Persons not wishing to speak at the public statement hearings, or who are unable to attend the hearings, may comment in writing by mailing their statements to Janet Hand Deixler, Secretary, New York State Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223. These letters should specifically refer to the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation Application to Construct a Gas Transmission Line in the Towns of Rotterdam, Glenville and Charlton (Case 01-T-1160).

The following are other alternatives available for submitting comments as part of the case record:

Toll-free Opinion Line: Interested citizens may call a special toll-free Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120 to present their comments. This phone line is set up to receive taped messages from in-state callers, 24 hours a day.

The Internet: If one has access to the Internet (many libraries offer free Internet access), comments may be submitted via the "Consumer Comment Form" in the "Consumer Assistance" file on the Department's website. The Website address is <http://www.dps.state.ny.us> and comments will be downloaded regularly.

About Niagara Mohawk's Proposed Gas Transmission Line

Niagara Mohawk proposes to construct a 24-inch fuel gas transmission pipeline, approximately 9.16 miles in length, to meet expected growth in local customer demand in Northern Saratoga County as well as in the Glens Falls area. The pipeline would have a maximum allowable pressure of 900 pounds per square inch (psi). The pipeline would, if approved, be located along existing electric rights-of-way and placed almost entirely on Niagara Mohawk property.

Niagara Mohawk's application (Case 01-T-1160) can be viewed at the Department of Public Service's Files Room, 14th Floor, 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY. The application also can be viewed at the following locations:

Schenectady County Library
Rotterdam Branch
Schenectady, NY

Schenectady County Library
99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY

Schenectady County Library
Scotia Branch
14 Mohawk Avenue
Scotia, NY

Ballston Spa Public Library
21 Milton Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY

Schenectady County Library
Glenville Branch
20 Glenridge Road
Scotia, NY

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