

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

William M. Flynn, Chairman

Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223

Further Details: (518) 474-7080

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

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

04029

PSC Seeks Public Comment on Besicorp's Proposal To Construct A Natural Gas Transmission Line in the City of Rensselaer

Albany, NY – 4/14/04 – The New York State Public Service Commission has scheduled an information session and public hearing to receive public comment concerning a proposal by Besicorp-Empire Development Company (BEDCO) to construct and operate a pipeline to deliver natural gas to the proposed BEDCO Power Plant in the City of Rensselaer. The proposal will include construction of a 4.5 mile, high-pressure, natural gas pipeline from the Town of Schodack to the City of Rensselaer to fuel the proposed 500-megawatt (MW) cogeneration power plant. Pipeline construction is proposed to commence and be completed in 2005.

BEDCO's proposed power plant itself is not the subject of the hearing. The proposed power plant is being examined in a separate public proceeding being conducted by the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment distinct from the state Public Service Commission. The information session and public statement hearing on BEDCO's proposed natural gas pipeline will be held as follows:

Thursday, April 22, 2004

VFW Post

100 Hayes Road

East Greenbush, NY

Information Session - 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Public Statement Hearing - Starting at 7:15 p.m.

. At the information session, Department of Public Service staff will informally discuss, with interested persons, the Commission's public review process initiated to examine the proposal. Staff personnel will be available to answer questions during the information session. BEDCO representatives will also be available to answer any questions regarding the gas line proposal. Following the session, the public will have an opportunity to make comments at the hearing before an Administrative Law Judge assigned by the Commission to this case. A

verbatim transcript of the hearing will be made for inclusion in the record of this proceeding and will be considered in the Commission's review process.

It is not necessary to make an appointment in advance or to present written material in order to speak at the public statement hearing. Speakers will be called after completing a card requesting time to speak. The hearing will remain open for at least one hour and will continue until everyone wishing to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements are made.

TDD users may request that a sign language interpreter be present at the public statement hearing. 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 1-800-622-1220 or have a representative call collect directly to the office. Disabled persons who require special accommodations other than a sign language interpreter may place a collect call to the Department of Public Service's Human Resources Management office at (518) 474-2520. All requests should be made as soon as possible.

Other Ways to Comment

Persons not wishing to speak at the public statement hearing, or who are unable to attend the hearing, may comment (in English or Spanish) on BEDCO's gas line proposal by mailing their written statements to the Honorable Jaclyn A. Brillling, Secretary, New York State Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350. These letters should reference "Case 04-T-01121 – BEDCO Pipeline Proposal" and should be mailed in as soon as possible.

Other alternatives are available for submitting comments for consideration by the Commission:

Toll-free Opinion Line: Interested persons may call a special toll-free Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120 to voice their opinion. This phone line is set up to receive comments about the proceeding from in-state callers, 24 hours a day. Callers should press "1" for "electric and gas" to leave comments on the proposal.

The Internet: Comments may be submitted via the Commission's website, located at www.AskPSC.com by filling in the electronic "Comment Form" located in the "Contact Us" file. Comments are downloaded regularly. Many libraries offer free Internet access.

All statements and comments received by the Administrative Law Judge and the Commission will be placed in the public case file and be made available for public inspection in the Commission's file room. BEDCO's application for the proposed gas transmission line can be viewed at the Commission's offices, Central Files, 14th Floor, Three Empire State Plaza or at any of the following libraries:

East Greenbush Community Library
225 Columbia Turnpike
Rensselaer, NY 12144

North Greenbush Public Library
138 Main Avenue
Wynantskill, NY 12198

Albany Public Library
161 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12210

Rensselaer Public Library
810 Broadway
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Troy Public Library
100 Second Street
Troy, NY 12180

BEDCO's application is also available at the company's local office at 11 Second Avenue, Rensselaer which is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on the internet at <http://www.besicorp.com/empire/Article7GasApp.htm>.