

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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Application of New York State Electric & Gas :  
Corporation for a Certificate of Environmental :  
Compatibility and Public Need Pursuant to : Case 24-T-  
Article VII of the Public Service Law for the :  
Jennison Transmission Solution Project :  
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**APPLICATION**

The Applicant<sup>1</sup> submits this Application for an Article VII Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need authorizing it to construct, operate, and maintain the Jennison Transmission Solution Project.

**A. Description of the Project**

In this Application, NYSEG proposes to: rebuild and relocate the Jennison Substation in the Town of Bainbridge, Chenango County, including re-routing several transmission and sub-transmission lines from the substation’s present location to its new location; rebuild Line 946 primarily within existing ROW through the Towns of Norwich, Guilford and Bainbridge in Chenango County, from the Proposed Jennison Substation to the East Norwich Substation in the Town of Norwich, including connecting the rebuilt line to the North Pond Substation in the Town of Guilford<sup>2</sup>; and rebuild Line 949 entirely within existing ROW through the Town of Bainbridge in Chenango County and the Towns of Sidney, Franklin and Hamden in Delaware County, from the Proposed

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<sup>1</sup> For clarity and consistency, the Application includes a Master Glossary of Terms that defines terms and acronyms used throughout the Application.

<sup>2</sup> The Applicant expects that, before construction begins on the Project, the North Pond Substation in the Town of Guilford, Chenango County will be constructed, placed into service and transferred to the Applicant, connecting the High Bridge Wind Farm, an approximately 100 MW (nameplate) wind farm, to the Applicant’s system. The Applicant will own and operate the North Pond Substation upon it being placed in service. The North Pond Substation will connect to Existing Line 946 in the Town of Guilford at a point approximately 6.6 miles south of the East Norwich Substation. It will be located on the east side of County Road 36, north of the intersection of that road and North Pond Road/County Road 37. At the time the North Pond Substation is placed in service, the Applicant intends to renumber the portion of Existing Line 946 between the North Pond Substation and the East Norwich Substation as Line 734. Thus, upon its completion, the North Pond Substation will be connected initially to Existing Line 946 running south and Line 734 running north. Then, upon the rebuilding of those lines as part of the Project, the North Pond Substation will be connected to Proposed Lines 946 and 734.

Jennison Substation to the Eastern Terminus in the Town of Hamden. To keep Line 949 energized while construction activities are performed, it will be necessary to use a temporarily rerouted line for a portion of the rebuild of that line.

The Proposed Jennison Substation will be relocated and rebuilt approximately 0.9 miles west of the Existing Jennison Substation on an approximately 61-acre parcel currently owned by the Applicant in the Town of Bainbridge, Chenango County. The Proposed Jennison Substation will measure approximately 4.6 acres in size and the station's construction will include the construction of an approximately 0.5-mile-long access road connecting to Mount Pleasant Road. Two transmission line ROW connector corridors totaling approximately 1.8 miles in length will be built to connect the Existing Lines to the Proposed Jennison Substation and will require approximately 0.6 miles of New ROW.

Proposed Line 734 will be approximately 6.7 miles long, beginning at East Norwich Substation in the Town of Norwich and terminating at the North Pond Substation in the Town of Guilford. Proposed Line 946 will be approximately 14.7 miles long, beginning at the North Pond Substation and terminating at the Proposed Jennison Substation in the Town of Bainbridge. Proposed Line 949 will be approximately 25.4 miles long, beginning at the Proposed Jennison Substation and terminating at the Eastern Terminus in the Town of Hamden.

Portions of Existing Lines 946 and 949 and of six other transmission and sub-transmission lines that currently connect to the Existing Jennison Substation will be relocated/rebuilt to connect to the Proposed Jennison Substation. The total length of new 115kV transmission lines that will be constructed to rebuild and relocate existing lines in the Project is approximately 47.5 miles.

The Project includes replacement of all of the existing lines' conductor, insulators, and existing structures. It also includes: installing stormwater management features; establishing one or more temporary laydown/staging areas and marshaling yards; and constructing or improving supporting access roads.

The Applicant will need to acquire additional property rights for the Project in order to (i) expand the width of Existing ROW for required clearances; (ii) enhance the Applicant's rights on Existing ROW; (iii) establish New ROW for the Project; (iv) allow for the off-ROW access of construction vehicles and equipment for the duration of construction; (v) facilitate the storage of materials, equipment, vehicles, job trailers, and other similar uses (laydown yards); and (vi) install, occupy, operate, access, and maintain the Project facilities upon railroad property. The Applicant may need

to acquire additional rights outside of the Project ROW to selectively remove trees if they a pose risk.

## **B. Project Location**

Construction of the Project will occur primarily on the Existing ROW, as well as New ROW, and off-ROW work areas, the locations of proposed stormwater management features, and Project access roads. As detailed in Exhibit 2 of the Application and associated figures, the Project is proposed to extend approximately 47.5 miles. It will begin at the East Norwich substation in the Town of Norwich and continue through that town and the Towns of Guilford and Bainbridge in Chenango County to the Proposed Jennison Substation (approximately 0.9 miles to the west of the Existing Jennison Substation). From there, the Project will continue east through the Towns of Sidney, Franklin and Hamden in Delaware County, ending at the Eastern Terminus in the Town of Hamden.

At and between the sites of the Existing and Proposed Jennison Substation, the Project will include certain rerouting of lines and supporting structures. This includes dividing Existing Line 919 into Proposed Line 756 and Proposed Line 919, which will run 0.2 miles north into and terminating at the Proposed Jennison Substation. Proposed Line 954 is approximately 0.5 miles long, beginning west of State Highway 7 and continuing west for approximately 0.4 miles, before heading north for approximately 0.1 miles into the Proposed Jennison Substation. The route of Proposed Line 943 is approximately 0.2 miles long and lies predominantly within New ROW, just west of the Proposed Jennison Substation in the Town of Bainbridge. The route of Proposed Lines 818 and 823 is approximately 0.5 miles long and lies predominantly within New ROW, between the Proposed Jennison Substation and the Existing Jennison Substation.

## **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 Project. The considered alternatives include alternative substation siting locations, alternative line routes, alternative structure types, a no-action alternative, alternative transmission line technologies, and non-wires alternatives.

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

Environmental studies and impact assessments were prepared for the Project utilizing field investigations, literature reviews, GIS analyses and agency consultations. A detailed description

of these studies and the potential environmental impact of the Project is set forth in the resource specific sections of Exhibit 4. These studies and assessments conclude that the Project will potentially result in limited, temporary adverse environmental effects, which will occur primarily during the construction phase.

Because much of the Project is transmission facilities located primarily in existing transmission line ROW, the Applicant has avoided or minimized the potential for the Project to result in adverse impacts in the following areas: Land Use, Agricultural Districts, Floodplains, Potential Environmental Justice Areas and Disadvantaged Communities, Visual Resources, Cultural and Historic Resources, Terrestrial Ecology and Wetlands, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species, Topography and Soils, Water Resources, and Noise.

As shown in Appendix D, which summarizes electromagnetic field (EMF) impacts associated with the Project, the calculated electric field levels at the Project ROW edge do not exceed the Commission's 60-Hz AC standard of 1.6 kV/m in any modeled cross section along the proposed route of the Project. Similarly, the calculated magnetic-field levels at the Project ROW edges do not exceed the NYPSC 60-Hz AC standard of 200 mG in any modeled cross sections along the proposed route of the Project.

#### **E. Need for Project**

The Project is needed for NYSEG to continue to ensure reliable service in its Oneonta Division and to help achieve the objectives of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)<sup>3</sup>.

The Project is a CLCPA Phase 1 project<sup>4</sup> in support of the goals of the CLCPA and the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act. In its *Order Authorizing Continuation of Phase 1 Transmission Projects and Cost Recovery Measures*, dated December 15, 2022 in Case 20-E-0197, the Commission identified the NYSEG proposed components that comprise the Project

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<sup>3</sup> L.2019, Ch. 106.

<sup>4</sup> Phase 1 projects focus on existing upgrade projects already in the Applicant's long term capital plan, driven by reliability or asset condition-based needs in addition to, in some cases, incremental upgrades to achieve an enhanced renewable resource integration benefit.

as a Qualifying Project qualifying for cost recovery treatment pursuant to the Commission's *Order on Phase 1 Local Transmission and Distribution Project Proposals*, dated February 11, 2021 in the same proceeding. Also in the above 2022 order, the Commission authorized NYSEG "to continue advancing the projects identified as Qualifying Projects and subject to the conditions and spending limitations discussed in the body of this Order." NYSEG submits that these and similar Commission determinations in the CLCPA context demonstrate the need for the Project.

NYSEG's Oneonta Division is comprised mainly of a 46kV sub-transmission network located in a central part of New York State. The limited number of 115kV/46kV source connections in this area is a contributing factor to its underlying weakness and limited load serving ability, especially under certain contingency conditions. Reliability needs were identified in a 2018 BES Study and reconfirmed in 2021, results of which identified several system weaknesses, including the potential for a voltage collapse condition of the entire 46kV network in Oneonta.

Facilities at the Existing Jennison Substation require replacement. The Applicant's 2021 Substation Circuit Breakers study determined that certain breakers—some installed in 1944—rated poor and required replacement. Other equipment also dates to the 1940s, the 115kV yard for the existing substation also is within a FEMA SFHA, and its 46kV yard is within the 100-year flood zone. To aid in the mitigation of identified reliability and deliverability needs as well as solve the asset condition needs at the Existing Jennison Substation, a full 115/46kV substation rebuild is proposed approximately 0.9 miles west of the existing site outside of SFHA. Among the items described further in Exhibit-E-4, Existing Lines 946 and 949 need to be upgraded due to asset condition to ensure future reliability in the area, and Existing Lines 756, 919, 943, 954, 818 and 823 will also be relocated/rebuilt to reconnect from the Existing Jennison Substation to the proposed location.

Additionally, the Project will include new transmission structures to support the proposed lines with single structures, two- and three- pole structures, and custom single pole structures, and additional materials described further in Exhibit 5 and Exhibit E-1.

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.

The effects on communications associated with the Project are summarized in Exhibit E-5.

The Application, particularly Exhibits 5, E-1 and E-4, shows that the Commission's grant of the Certificate will not be inconsistent with, and will not interfere with, the attainment of the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits in Article 75 of the Environmental Conservation Law established by Section 2 of the CLCPA. The Project will improve the reliability and resiliency of NYSEG's Oneonta service territory and connected transmission system, fostering the safe and reliable distribution of renewable energy.

**G. Conclusion**

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

- 1) A Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to permit the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project;
- 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: December 4, 2024