

For the Membership as well as the residents of Rush

The Steering Committee of Residents United to Save our Hometown offers you information on Horseshoe Solar and events around the state regarding concerns with to renewable energy.

In February, 2024 we sent four eblasts attempting to explain some of the complexities of regulations from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Commission (NERC) affecting the New York Independent System Operators (NYISO) grid operation. Both agencies warned of the inability to provide electricity during extreme heat or cold temps. We also provided you information regarding the necessity for Niagara Falls hydro power, Ginna's nuclear power and gas-fired peaker plants to modulate the intermittency of solar and wind.

Several months later, the *Albany Times Union* headline of May 20, 2024 was "Some concerns about the reliability of NY's electrical grid as summer nears". The headline of the May 25<sup>th</sup> Editorial Board of the *NY Post* was more dramatic: "Thank green fanatics for New York's looming summer blackouts!"

This series of three eblasts will discuss some of the *pocketbook issues* of the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (CLCPA) because the legislation is more than just increasing the number of solar and wind installations, and expanding eminent domain capabilities for installations and transmission wires.

- The first eblast will discuss the change in Nationalgrid/Niagara Mohawk, RG&E and NYSEG electricity bills going forward.
- The second eblast will discuss financial stresses on the Rush Henrietta Central School District with mandated EV school buses going forward.
- The third eblast will discuss the activities of COMIDA, the County of Monroe Industrial Development Authority which approved Invenergy's request for \$19,354,096 in incentives.

The Town of Rush is serviced by National Grid which purchased Niagara Mohawk in 2000. National Grid's rates are governed by the Public Service Commission. "The Commission is charged by law with setting rates and ensuring New York's utilities provide adequate service."

In May, 2024, National Grid filed a request with the PSC for a one year rate increase of approximately \$19/month for electric (15%) and \$18/month for gas (20%) for residential customers. The rate increase, if granted, will take effect in the Spring of 2025.

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/news/2024/05/29/national-grid-proposes-one-year-price-hike-for-electric-and-gas#:~:text=National%20Grid%20is%20proposing%20a,stronger%20and%20cleaner%20energy%20systems.>

A recent National Grid communication reports that its NYS power sources come from natural gas (50%); nuclear (27%); hydroelectric (14%); coal, solar, wind and solid waste (2% each).

The PSC already approved the following rate increases for RG&E and NYSEG:

- RG&E will experience 16% electric and 10.9% rate gas increases over three years beginning in Nov of 2023
- NYSEG customers will experience 22.1% electric and 6.1% gas rate increases over three years beginning in 2023

RG&E and NYSEG are Avangrid companies; Avangrid is a subsidiary of Iberdrola, a Spanish multinational energy company.

Nationalgrid, RG&E and NYSEG all state that a significant portion of income from rate increases will be spent on updating the grid to assist in meeting the CLCPA goals of providing more renewable energy. A recent National Grid communication reports that its NYS power sources come from natural gas (50%); nuclear (27%); hydroelectric (14%); coal, solar, wind and solid waste (2% each).

Nationalgrid “plans to invest more than \$4 billion to transform its energy delivery system. . .Called the Upstate Upgrade, the collection of transmission enhancement projects will deliver a smarter, stronger, cleaner energy grid to support a more resilient network. . .and helping to reach the state’s climate goals as outlined in NY’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.”

<https://www.nationalgridus.com/News/2024/03/National-Grid-Announces-the-Upstate-Upgrade-Multi-year-Initiative-Will-Improve-Grid-Resilience,-Deliver-Significant-Benefits-for-Customers,-Local-Economies/>

RG&E and NYSEG stated that:

The companies will invest another \$900 million for transmission projects and other upgrades to help the state achieve its goals of a carbon-free electrical grid. The state wants to send renewable solar and wind energy generated upstate to New York City, which relies nearly entirely on fossil fuels for its electricity.

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/ny-news/2023/10/13/nyseg-rge-electric-gas-utility-rate-hikes-approved-what-it-means/71152431007/>

The May 31, 2024 editorial page of the Chautauqua County *ObserveToday.com* newspaper reported that in a 2023 meeting of the PSC, Commissioner John Howard said “The saddest part of what we’re doing today is that no one will know. No one will pay attention. No one will know that upstate rate payers are potentially having higher impacts than downstate rate payers. . . . It will be after the bill impacts hit- and I guarantee you when these costs hit our rate cases- the howl from these same constituencies will be heard from here to Timbuktu”. PSC Commission Chair Christian agreed that the rate increases were necessary to build out grid infrastructure to reduce congestion in the Capital Region, the southwest and northern regions of the state.

Please consider forwarding this eblast to your friends and neighbors; they too pay for electricity and gas from National Grid, RG&E and NYSEG. Perhaps they will want to howl with you! Ka-ching, Ka-ching!

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