

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 17-G-0424 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to  
Review of Operating Procedures of Natural Gas  
Gathering Lines.

NOTICE OF COLLABORATIVE REGARDING  
GAS GATHERING LINES PROCEDURES

(Issued November 16, 2017)

On October 4, 2017, the Public Service Commission (Commission) issued an Order Instituting Proceeding directing the New York State Department of Public Service (Department) "to convene and direct a collaborative to ascertain the need for more information on existing gathering lines and to develop processes that ensure gathering line operator compliance with gas safety rules." All gathering line operators, or their designated representatives, and local distribution companies in New York State are required to attend at least one session but may attend as many as they wish. Customers, persons, and companies under contract with gathering line operators are invited to attend.

The purpose of the sessions is twofold. First, to gather information necessary for adequate safety oversight including, but not limited to, identifying and developing an inventory of the locations and owners of natural gas gathering lines in New York State. Second, to develop best safety-related practices in the gathering line industry including, but not limited to, educating operators, customers and companies under contract with gathering line operators of the gas safety regulations, such as gas odorization requirements. The sessions will be limited to discussing safety measures that apply to gathering line operators. The Department will share mapping and

leakage survey requirements for gathering lines, requirements for protection against over-pressurization, and volumetric measurements.

To assist in the development of issues, participants should be prepared to address these questions as they pertain to their operations or gas service. The Department will report to the Commission on any recommendations offered or developed.

1. Whether the gas you deliver as an operator or that you receive as a customer or contractual partner is odorized.
2. Are leakage surveys performed on the gathering line you own or from which you receive natural gas?
3. Do problems exist with Rights-of-Ways where wells exist on private property? If so, what are those issues and how might they be resolved?
4. How is the natural gas sold by gathering line operators metered between the gathering line operator and the company purchasing the gas, including the LDC the gathering line operator supplies?
5. How is natural gas from gathering lines metered between the gathering line operator and an end-user the gathering line operator supplies?
6. How do gathering line operators inform nearby property owners about the existence of the gathering lines or to answer questions nearby property owners might have?
7. How do gathering line operators inform local first responders about the existence of their facilities and coordinate emergency response?

While this case is a statewide proceeding, most producers are located in the western part of New York State; therefore, the initial sessions are being held in Corning, New York and Tonawanda, New York. The Department will schedule additional sessions if necessary and the Secretary will issue a supplemental Notice.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Department of Public Service shall hold three sessions on the following dates and times:

**Corning**                      **Tuesday, December 5, 2017**

**Corning Community College  
Triangle Lounge  
Commons Building  
1 Academic Drive  
Corning, NY**

**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Tonawanda**                      **Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

**Town of Tonawanda  
NOCO Pavilion  
450 Ensminger Road  
Tonawanda, NY**

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Other ways to comment:** Interested persons and entities are invited to submit written comments on these questions by December 22, 2017. All filings should refer to "Case 17-G-0424" and be submitted to the Secretary by e-filing, through the Department of Public Service's Document and Matter Management System (DMM),<sup>1</sup> or by e-mail to the Secretary at secretary@dps.ny.gov. If unable to file electronically,

---

<sup>1</sup> To register with DMM, go to <http://www.dps.ny.gov/e-file/registration.html>.

commenters may make submissions by U.S. Mail or by hand delivery to the Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary, Three Empire Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350.

Information and instructions related to subscribing to the service list, or otherwise monitoring the status of this proceeding can be found on the Department's website at <http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/RequestAPStatus.aspx>. All documents submitted to the Secretary will be posted on the Department's website and become part of the official case record.

Individuals who will be attending the collaborative are encouraged to register by sending their name, contact information, and affiliation to Andrea Versaci, [Andrea.Versaci@dps.ny.gov](mailto:Andrea.Versaci@dps.ny.gov), or at 518-486-2661 by December 4, 2017. If you have any questions about the scheduled sessions, please contact Kevin Speicher at [Kevin.Speicher@dps.ny.gov](mailto:Kevin.Speicher@dps.ny.gov), or Diane Dean at [Diane.Dean@dps.ny.gov](mailto:Diane.Dean@dps.ny.gov).

(SIGNED)

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS  
Secretary