

## 9. Public Works Projects

### R.G.S. Energy Group/Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation

The State Energy Plan should recommend that utility facility relocation expenses be incorporated in the cost of public works projects as an expense of the State or municipality directing the work, as is the practice in other states. The Energy Plan should also recommend that a long-term planning process be adopted by all government entities to provide utility companies with opportunities to participate in project selections and planning. This will result in vastly improved planning and coordination, greater efficiency, and a significant overall saving to the public in money and convenience.

### Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

There needs to be better coordination among municipalities, the State, and utilities with respect to infrastructure projects. Especially road projects. The State Energy Plan should include recognition of the fact that there is an opportunity for the utilities, the municipalities, and the State to work together to more cost effectively deal with these projects.

### New York Gas Group (NYGAS)

NYGAS recommends that the State encourage the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) and municipalities to consider working more closely with the utilities to minimize and, where possible, avoid relocation of facilities. NYGAS recommends that State law be reviewed and modified to provide a more equitable reimbursement policy.

NYGAS strongly supports the recommendation in the Draft State Energy Plan and asks the Energy Planning Board's help to facilitate meetings between DOT, municipalities, and utility companies.

Response: In the State Energy Plan, the Energy Planning Board recommends that the State work more closely with utility companies to better identify and, if possible, design project work around utility facilities. Further, the Energy Plan encourages State agencies to work in partnership with municipal governments to accomplish this objective for municipal projects. See Section 1.3, Energy Policy Objectives and Recommendations.

The State recognizes the expense associated with utility facility relocation and is sensitive to the issue. New York State Department of Transportation has worked with the utility industry to minimize impacts and has modified its policies, where appropriate, to

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ease the financial impacts on affected utilities. However, the State believes that the current policy is fair and balanced in that the State does not impose rental or user fees for the use of its rights-of-way by utilities.

As directed in the recommendation, the State will be working with the utilities and with municipal governments to accomplish this objective for municipal projects. In fact, meetings between affected utility organizations and New York State Department of Transportation in this regard have begun.

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