S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

4504

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 5, 2013

Introduced by Sen. LATIMER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to requiring the commission to conduct annual hearings regarding certain transmission and distribution companies

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 10-a to read as follows:

S 10-A. HEARINGS. 1. THE COMMISSION, NOT LESS THAN ONCE ANNUALLY, SHALL CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS WITHIN THE FOLLOWING TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES' RESPECTIVE SERVICE TERRITORIES:

A. CONSOLIDATED EDISON: NEW YORK COUNTY, KINGS COUNTY, QUEENS COUNTY, RICHMOND COUNTY, BRONX COUNTY AND WESTCHESTER COUNTY. THE COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT AT LEAST ONE HEARING ANNUALLY IN EACH OF THE COUNTIES.

B. ORANGE AND ROCKLAND UTILITIES: ORANGE COUNTY AND ROCKLAND COUNTY. THE COMMISSION HEARING SHALL ALTERNATE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTIES EVERY OTHER YEAR.

C. CENTRAL HUDSON GAS AND ELECTRIC: ULSTER COUNTY AND DUTCHESS COUNTY. THE COMMISSION HEARING SHALL ALTERNATE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTIES EVERY OTHER YEAR.

D. NIAGARA MOHAWK D/B/A NATIONAL GRID: ALBANY COUNTY, ONONDAGA COUNTY AND ERIE COUNTY. THE COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT AT LEAST ONE HEARING ANNUALLY IN EACH OF THE COUNTIES.

E. NEW YORK STATE ELECTRIC AND GAS: BROOME COUNTY AND PUTNAM COUNTY. THE COMMISSION HEARING SHALL ALTERNATE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTIES EVERY OTHER YEAR.

F. ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC: MONROE COUNTY.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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2. THE CHAIRMAN OR CHAIRWOMAN AND A MAJORITY OF THE DULY APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS SHALL BE PRESENT AT THE HEARINGS REQUIRED BY SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION AND SHALL SOLICIT PUBLIC COMMENT FROM RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS REGARDING A COMPANY'S PERFORMANCE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

A. THE QUALITY OF GAS, ELECTRIC AND STEAM SERVICE;

B. THE IMPACT OF ANY COMMISSION DECISIONS IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR REGARDING RATES FOR SERVICE OR OTHER DECISIONS AFFECTING SERVICE;

C. THE ADMINISTRATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES BY THE UTILITY;

D. COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS BETWEEN A COMPANY AND CUSTOMERS IN ARREARS ON UTILITY CHARGES REGARDING THE POTENTIAL FOR TERMINATION OF SERVICE;

E. SERVICE RESTORATION PERFORMANCE AND CUSTOMER COMMUNICATION DURING ANY OUTAGES OCCURRING IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR; AND

F. ANY ADDITIONAL TOPICS OR INFORMATION THE COMMISSION DEEMS NECESSARY.

S 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2014.