

# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Summer Strand, Chairperson  
Kristy Nieto, Commissioner  
Marcus Hawkins, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

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November 20, 2024

Re: Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company-Gas Operations d/b/a We Energies, a Gas Public Utility, for Authority to Install Natural Gas Transmission Facilities in the Towns of Brighton, Dover, and Norway, the Villages of Rochester, Raymond, and Caledonia, and the City of Oak Creek, in Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee Counties, Wisconsin 6630-CG-139

To the Person Addressed,

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission or PSC) received an application from Wisconsin Electric Power Company – Gas Operations (WE-GO), doing business as We Energies for the construction of a new 33-mile steel natural gas pipeline and associated infrastructure in the towns of Brighton, Dover, and Norway and the villages of Rochester, Raymond and Caledonia, and the city of Oak Creek, in Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee Counties, Wisconsin. The proposed project would construct 33 miles of 24-inch and 30-inch steel 650 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) natural gas transmission main. The proposed project is called the “Rochester Lateral Project” and would tie supply from the existing WE-GO Bluff Creek Liquified Natural Gas Facility to the combined Oak Creek and Elm Road Generating Station campus by connecting the Lakeshore Lateral Project to the Rochester ANR Gate Station.

The Commission is sending this letter to property owners near the proposed project, as well as individuals who have asked to be placed on our mailing list or have expressed interest in the project. This letter is also being sent to public officials in the project area. If you are a municipal clerk and receive this letter, please post it in a location where it can be viewed by the public.

Commission and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) staff are now analyzing the application and conducting a review of the environmental impacts of the proposed project. As part of this effort, the agencies are requesting comments from the public to help the state agencies determine the potential impacts associated with the project and the scope of the environmental assessment (EA). The agencies encourage persons with local information or environmental concerns to provide comments.

Comments on the scope of the EA can be submitted:

1. By letter addressed to the environmental assessment coordinator for the docket (see contacts at the end of this letter); or
2. Through the Commission's website at <https://psc.wi.gov> where you can click "file a comment" on the lower left-hand side of the page, then locate docket 6630-CG-139.

**The deadline for submitting environmental review scoping comments is Monday December 23, 2024.**

Please note that comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's Electronic Records Filing System. Personal identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

There will be an additional public comment period during the preliminary determination of the EA.

Comments for the EA scoping are most effective when they discuss:

- Any potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project; or
- Any specific actions or changes to the proposed project that might minimize or mitigate the potential impacts of the project.

### **Project Description**

WE-GO is proposing construction of a new 33-mile, 24-inch and 30-inch steel natural gas pipeline and associated facilities in the towns of Brighton, Dover, and Norway and the villages of Rochester, Raymond and Caledonia, and the city of Oak Creek, in Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee Counties, Wisconsin. There are two proposed routes for this project: Route A and Route B. Both routes are similar in length and cost. Route A would require approximately 151,316 feet of easement, 521 acres of right-of-way, and would cost approximately \$210,942,310. Route B would require about 155,735 feet of easement, 529 acres of right-of-way, and would cost approximately \$217,093,529. The majority of the land used for the project is agricultural. A map depicting the two routes can be found in the attachment.

Associated infrastructure includes installation of five valve assemblies, improvements to an existing gate station, installation of a new district regulator station, replacement of 2,287 feet of existing 16-inch pipeline with 2,833 feet of 24-inch pipeline, installation of a 126 foot six-inch and a 126 foot 20-inch pipeline to the proposed Oak Creek liquified natural gas (OCLNG) facility, and installation of additional gas service lines and turbine meters to serve the proposed Oak Creek Combustion Turbine (OCCT).

WE-GO states that the purpose of this proposed project is to provide additional firm deliverability of natural gas service to southeastern Wisconsin which will, in part, provide additional required firm natural gas service to Wisconsin Electric's proposed Oak Creek Combustion Turbine generation facility (OCCT), the proposed Paris Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine (RICE) generation facility, and subsequently to the Elm Road Generating Station (ERGS) after enhancements are made that will allow ERGS to operate completely fueled by natural gas.

If approved, the start of construction is planned for late 2026, with anticipated completion by the end of 2027.

### **State and Federal Agency Jurisdiction**

The proposed project requires a Certificate of Authority (CA) from the Commission before construction can begin. Based on the record of analysis of potential environmental and societal impacts, the Commission will decide whether to approve, modify, or deny the applicant's proposal. DNR will consider the application for wetland and waterway permits, if applicable under Wis. Stat. ch. 30, potential impacts to rare species, and other affected resources under its jurisdiction. Other reviews, approvals, or permits may be necessary from local, state, or federal entities.

### **Environmental Assessment**

This a Type II action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(2). The Commission will prepare an EA for this project jointly with DNR that will evaluate the location of the project and its potential environmental, community, and private property impacts. There will be a preliminary determination when the EA is complete to determine whether the preparation of an EIS is necessary under Wis. Stats. § 1.11. Comments on this preliminary determination will be accepted and considered before a final determination is made. At the time of the preliminary determination, the Commission shall make copies of the EA available to those persons that request it.

Additional opportunities for public participation include the opportunity to comment on the preliminary determination on the need to prepare an EIS for the project. Notification for the preliminary determination will be sent to the mailing list for this project and you can be added to this mailing list by contacting the PSC Environmental Review Coordinator for this project listed below under project contacts.

For more information on becoming involved in the Commission review of construction cases, please visit our [public participation page](#) or contact one of the project contacts listed below.

## Information and Contacts

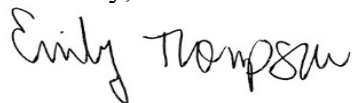
### *To review project application materials and additional related documents*

- PSC website (<https://psc.wi.gov>) under the docket's "E-Services" tab, docket search number 6630-CG-139.
- Also on the PSC website, type "Rochester Lateral Project" in the search field to navigate to the project-specific webpage.
- An interactive web-map of the project is available via the project-specific webpage.

## Contacts

- PSC Docket Coordinator  
Brittany Larson  
(608) 267-9099  
[brittany.larson1@wisconsin.gov](mailto:brittany.larson1@wisconsin.gov)  
P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854
- PSC Environmental Review Coordinator  
Emily Thompson  
(608) 261-9408  
[emily.thompson2@wisconsin.gov](mailto:emily.thompson2@wisconsin.gov)  
P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854
- DNR Contact  
Macaulay Haller  
(608) 347-0240  
[macaulay.haller@wisconsin.gov](mailto:macaulay.haller@wisconsin.gov)
- PSC Media Contact  
Meghan Sovey  
608-267-3871  
[meghan.ovey1@wisconsin.gov](mailto:meghan.ovey1@wisconsin.gov)

Sincerely,



Emily Thompson  
Environmental Analysis and Review Specialist – Adv.  
Division of Digital Access, Consumer, and Environmental Affairs

ET:bs DL: 02039177

Attachment: Project Map

# Rochester Lateral Project 6630-CG-139

