RG&E
An AVANGRID Company

Station 43

Landowner FAQs

1. **What is the project?**
   Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E) is upgrading the capabilities at Substation #43 so that it can continue to provide safe and reliable power to the approximately 6,500 valued customers that rely on it every day. Originally constructed in the 1950s, the substation is overloaded by the growing energy demands placed on it, and its assets are old, inefficient and obsolete. The project scope includes the installation of two new transformers (transformer #3 [circa 1950] and transformer #4 [circa 1953]) and the construction of a new control house. Additionally, two new transformer banks will be installed to convert the existing 34.5kV lines to 12.5kV lines, and a GIS-facilitating building will be erected. The larger transformer size will increase Station 43's switching capabilities with adjacent circuits, thereby diminishing the likelihood of unscheduled outages and safeguarding a dependable and uninterrupted supply of power.

2. **Where is the project?**
   Substation #43 is located at 101 Wyand Crescent, in Rochester, NY - just north of the intersection of Wyand Crescent and Farmington Road. It is within the boundaries of the City of Rochester and is part of Monroe County. Adjacent landowners to the substation include a private landowner to the north, the City of Rochester's Farmington Park to the west, and the Frank Fowler Dow School #52 to the east.

3. **Why is this project necessary?**
   To comply with more stringent reliability standards issued by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), an upgrade of certain components of the electric delivery systems in the City of Rochester are necessary. Station 43's current capabilities are overloaded, and it has exceeded its peak operating levels. Its reliability contingencies must be enhanced to comply with the new standards.

4. **What are the benefits of the project?**
   The modernization of Station 43 will increase its overall capacity and improve its asset conditions. Upgraded transformers and Control House will meet the growing demand for additional power in the region, and state of the art technology at the station will provide enhanced reliability to our valued RG&E customers. This upgrade will enrich the integrity of the entire transmission system in the local area, ensuring that the safe and reliable distribution of power is maintained. Please refer to the project's *Fact Sheet* for additional information.

5. **How will this project affect me?** While making investments to meet the community's growing energy demands, we are working closely with our neighbors to ensure that all improvements are performed with minimal disruption to the environment and the communities we serve. Work hours at the station will vary depending upon the season and construction noise will be present during regular construction hours: Monday - Friday 7:30AM – 3:30PM. The intermittent delivery of equipment and the activity of construction vehicles may provide minor and temporary traffic challenges at certain times, but our project team will work proactively to minimize any inconvenience to the neighborhood and adjacent landowners.

6. **When will work begin and how long will it continue?**
   Initial Field Work in the area has already been completed. Construction is scheduled to begin in Q1 2021 (January/February/March) and is expected to take approximately 2 years to complete. Bearing in mind the challenges introduced by the unprecedented limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic, this timeframe is subject to change.

7. **Restoration and Vegetation Management:**
   In addition to upgrading the station's outdated equipment, the restoration and remediation of the fence line and natural boundaries near the station will be a top priority within the project scope. We will work with the City of Rochester, abutting landowners, and organized neighborhood or community associations to implement a final landscaping plan that meets the needs of all parties, to the extent that we can, within project site constraints.

8. **Will I be notified about construction near my house or business?**
   Yes. Through *Landowner Notification Letters*, *Public Information Meetings*, the *Project Fact Sheet, the* RG&E website*,* and this *Frequently Asked Questions* (*FAQ)* document, there will be an abundance of information about the project. Each informational communication will provide the Project Information Line telephone number.

9. **Will electric service be affected?**
   Your current electric service will not be directly impacted by the work being conducted on Station 43. Any necessary outages throughout the construction period will be scheduled and communicated to you well in advance. Upgrades to this substation will be made while the substation remains in service.

10. **Where should I direct questions? (800 /URL/ Op Co email)**
    You can direct any questions or concerns you may have surrounding the upgrade project at Station 43 to our Project Information Line: **888.553.5411** or by emailing us at: **outreach@rge.com**. A member of the Public Outreach team will get back to you within three business days. Please be sure to reference the *Station 43 Modernization Project* with your inquiry. More information about the project, including the Project Fact Sheet and a FAQ document, can be found on our company website: **rge.com** - RG&E > Reliable Service.

11. **What is RG&E investing to upgrade the Station 43 substation?**
    RG&E anticipates spending approximately $45M to perform this upgrade on behalf of our valued customers.

12. **Why Can't RG&E build an entirely new substation to make it more aesthetically attractive? I've seen examples of that type of station in other areas.** Project planning for the modernization of Station 43 is dictated by numerous constraints, including local, state, and federal governmental agency regulations, code compliance, space availability, customer reliance, and rate-payer implications. The design for the station's upgrade is the most advantageous solution for a retro-fit upgrade with limited space availability, that must remain energized (absolutely no down time) throughout the entire construction process. We are also absolutely committed to not passing excessive construction costs to our valued customers.

13. Will this project impact my electric rates?

All costs for system upgrades are reviewed and approved by the New York State (NYS) Public Utilities Commission (PUC) – a division of the NYS Public Service Commission. Ultimately, the costs are then shared amongst all ratepayers in NY.

14. What measures are you taking to protect wildlife and the environment?

As part of the Federal, State, and Local regulatory permitting process, consideration of the environment and associated wildlife in the area is addressed. RG&E goes to great lengths to ensure that all substation improvements are performed with minimal disruption to the environment and the communities we serve. All required environmental and other permits will be secured prior to construction.

15. Will the public have an opportunity for input?

Initial project meetings have been held with the elected officials from the impacted municipality. After that, Landowner Information Meetings, on an individual basis as well as those with organized neighborhood or community associations, can be scheduled. RG&E's goal is to provide ongoing and transparent information to all customers and impacted landowners throughout the duration of the construction process. We value your input and, as a committed community partner, are eager to collaborate with you on this project.

16. Will the utility be acquiring additional right of way?

No additional rights of way will need to be acquired. All construction will be conducted on existing RG&E property.

17. How tall will the structures be? What are they made of? How close will they be to the edge of the right of way?

The modernization of Station 43 includes the installation of two concrete noise barriers, each approximately 20 ft. high. They will be positioned to contain and mitigate the operating noise generated by the newly-installed transformers. They will be approximately 20 ft. away from the north fence line, and 9.2 ft. away from the east fence line. Additionally, a Gas-Insulated Switchgear (GIS) building, approximately 25 ft. high, will be erected approximately 5 ft. away from both the south and east fence lines.

18. What sort of site restoration is planned?

In addition to upgrading the outdated equipment, the restoration and remediation of the fence line and natural boundaries, within current site constraints, will be a priority. A 20 ft. noise barrier wall will be constructed to mitigate any noise concerns from the site while upgraded landscaping efforts will greatly enhance the appearance of the substation. The fence, a premium non-conductive upgrade, will be installed in compliance with all safety guidelines and requirements.