

Guide to the New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) Collection

The History Center in Tompkins County
110 North Tioga Street, Suite 204A
Tompkins Center for History and Culture
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-273-8284
www.thehistorycenter.net
archives@thehistorycenter.net

Collection Number V-1-8-9

Updated 2021

See also:

Associated Gas & Electric Collection V-26-1-1
NYSEG Bell Site and Cayuga Station Collection V-63-4-8
NYSEG Gas Works Materials V-64-3-6
Palmer NYSEG Photo Collection FBO-0131
NYSEG Markles Flats Photo Collection FBO-0145

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The gaslight era in New York State lasted for more than 100 years. This was not the natural gas that is in use today, but was instead a manufactured gas produced by roasting coal in a sealed oven which released methane gas which was then piped to homes and businesses. In New York City this was used for lighting as early as 1824. In Upstate New York manufactured gas was first used in Albany in 1845, and by the 1860s there were more gas companies in New York than in any other state.

The Ithaca Gas Light Company was formed in 1852, and Ithaca's first manufactured gas plant began operations in 1853. Natural gas was first used in Tompkins County in 1903, and by 1934 it had completely replaced manufactured gas. In the 21st century most of the natural gas used in New York is transported in pipelines from other states, primarily Pennsylvania.

In 1916 the Ithaca Gas Light Company became the Ithaca Gas and Electric Company, reflecting the merging of both gas and electric generation companies as the demand for both rose in the 20th century. More than 200 smaller local power companies merged in this era of consolidation, and in 1929 the New York State Electric & Gas Company was formed. Today NYSEG's service area covers more than a third of New York State.

This collection contains materials from the early 20th century including annual reports, and much for the middle 20th century, such as employee newsletters and assessment information on a proposed nuclear power station.

CONTAINER LIST

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Folder #</i>
NYSEG history, 100 th anniversary; Local natural gas; Ithaca Gas Works; company ephemera	1
Annual Reports and Publications (1922-ca. 1990s)	2
Rural Electrification information (1931)	3
“The Lines News” newsletters for NYSEG employees (1952-1956)	4
Milliken Station information (1955-1956)	5
<i>Report of the Member Electric Corporations of the New York Power Pool and general comments (1973)</i>	6
<i>An Assessment of the Environmental Feasibility of the Bell Station – A Summary – NUS Corporation (Nuclear Utilities Services Corporation) (1973)</i>	7
<i>A Partial Review of the NUS Environmental Feasibility Report (1973)</i>	8
<i>NUS Responses to A Partial Review of the NUS Environmental Feasibility Report (1973)</i>	9
<i>Evaluation of the NYSEG Cayuga Station Environmental Report (1975)</i>	10
New York’s Gaslight Era and its Legacy – New York Archives Magazine, Fall 2012	11
New York State Energy Profile (US Energy Information Administration) (2021)	12
Map: Tompkins County Planning Department – Rural Electrification initiative (ca. 1935) (fragile)	13

Funding for this finding aid update was generously provided by

*THE GLADYS KRIEBLE DELMAS
FOUNDATION*