



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## **Seward Calls For Swift Review Of NYSEG's Natural Gas Plan For Cobleskill**

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**ONEONTA, 04/27/15** - State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I-Oneonta) is urging the New York State Department of Public Service to act quickly on a request from New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) to extend natural gas service within the Village of Cobleskill.

**“Affordable energy can be a true game-changer when it comes to attracting new businesses and jobs to our region,”** said Senator Seward. **“By extending a natural gas line within downtown Cobleskill, current employers and new businesses, along with residential customers, will all benefit.”**

Due to a quirk in NYSEG's franchise, a portion of the village's center, including the theater and the developing Bull's Head Inn, is without access to natural gas. NYSEG is seeking to extend its line to the un-served village center.

In a letter to NYS Department of Public Service Secretary Kathleen Burgess, Senator Seward also expressed the importance of a quick approval, "Further, I am asking that the case be placed on an expedited timetable so that construction of facilities as contemplated in the application can be coordinated with a pending state Department of Transportation street project within the village and the subject area. Timely approval would avoid the unnecessary and costly reconstruction of newly installed road improvements planned for the 2015 DOT project. Therefore, time is of the essence."

The NYSEG extension would connect to an existing gas main. If approval is received by July or early August, NYSEG will be able to work in conjunction with a planned road widening project.

According to NYSEG, there are approximately 25 potential customers along the proposed gas main extension route. Company officials expect to connect 12 residential and 3 commercial customers during the first year.

**"Downtown Cobleskill has so much to offer, great shops and restaurants, a diverse population, and a welcoming atmosphere. Extending natural gas to Main Street and Park Place will further enhance the marketability of the area and pay dividends for years to come."** Seward concluded.