

# Astoria Generating Company, L.P.

## Luyster Creek Energy Project

### Fact Sheet No. 1

**Project Description** - Astoria Generating Company, L.P. (AGC), proposes to replace certain existing older generating capacity at its Astoria Generating Station (AGS) with the Luyster Creek Energy Project (LCEP), a new, highly efficient, state-of-the-art combined cycle unit. The new unit, with a capacity of approximately 400 megawatts, will provide additional electric generation for New York City while reducing emissions.

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#### Who is AGC?

AGC, a US Power Generating Company (USPowerGen), owns the existing AGS facility, and will develop, own and operate the new unit. USPowerGen is a private company that owns and operates electric generating facilities in both New York and the Northeast, and currently supplies approximately 20% of the New York City electric generating capacity.

#### Who's who at Astoria?

The Astoria Consolidated Edison (ConEd) Complex is a 600+ acre parcel that is bounded on the north and west by the East River, the east by Luyster Creek (Steinway Creek) and 37<sup>th</sup> Street, and the south by 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue. While much of the Complex is owned by ConEd, this large parcel contains other existing and future power generating facilities under different ownership, including:

- NRG Energy, Inc. owns a 15-acre parcel southwest of the LCEP that houses the Astoria Gas Turbines, and is developing a future repowering project for that facility.
- New York Power Authority owns the Charles Poletti Combined Cycle Power Project and the retired Poletti steam turbine plant to the northwest of the LCEP and on the East River.
- GDF SUEZ Energy North America, Inc. partially owns the Astoria I and Astoria II Projects to the south of the LCEP on the old Castle Oil property.

#### Where is the new facility located? Will it be visible from the community?

The LCEP will be located at the AGS Fuel Oil Tank Farm on a parcel of approximately 12 acres that is approximately 2,400 feet to the northeast of the existing units. The new unit may be visible from some parts of the community. For most residents, other existing buildings will obscure most views of the new unit.

#### What type and size of electric generating technology is proposed?

The LCEP will include the installation of a Siemens' H series, 400-megawatt, state-of-the-art combined cycle unit utilizing one combustion turbine, a heat recovery steam generator, and steam turbine. The unit will also have modern emissions controls and monitoring systems.

#### Will there be an environmental benefit?

USPowerGen has completed initial modeling of the New York City electrical grid to project expected operation of the new unit and its effect on the existing electric grid system. This model was used to predict the environmental benefits associated with reducing existing operations. Results indicate that the new unit will have an overall net reduction in the amount of emissions to the air. USPowerGen is committed to creating a net positive environmental impact and will develop a final strategy to ensure environmental benefits as part of the environmental review and permitting process.

#### Will there be reduced electric rates?

The new unit will produce electricity at lower cost than the existing units. However, relative to the total size of the New York City electric generation system, the LCEP is small. Therefore, the impact on the overall price is difficult to quantify and may not be noticeable on the average customer's bill. For a city the size of New York City, it may take several higher efficiency projects, such as this one, to have a noticeable impact on reducing electric rates.

#### What fuel will be used to generate electricity?

The new unit will primarily burn natural gas and be permitted to use ultra low sulfur diesel on a limited basis as a backup for system reliability. This back-up fuel is important for times in which natural gas is unavailable.

#### Will this Project bring more jobs to Astoria?

Yes, there will be hundreds of construction jobs created for approximately two years while the new unit is being built. There will also be several permanent positions to operate and maintain the unit. The expectation is that many of these positions will be filled by skilled labor in the community and surrounding areas.

#### Will the existing Astoria Generating Station remain?

The oldest unit (Unit 2) at the AGS will be retired as part of this project. The other units will remain, but the emissions will be capped at reduced levels. The new unit will cause the older AGS units, as well as other less efficient plants in New York City, to run less while allowing newer, cleaner units to meet the continually growing electric demand within New York City.

#### How do you obtain project documents, provide comments or ask questions?

AGC has set up a website at [www.uspowergen.com](http://www.uspowergen.com) for project information and contact. Additionally a hotline has been established at **1-888-398-USPG**. Project Documents can also be found at:

- Queens Community Board 1  
36-01 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Astoria
- Queens Borough Public Library  
89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica
- Queens Borough Branch Public Library Astoria Branch  
14-01 Astoria Boulevard, Long Island City
- NYSDEC Region 2 Office, Division of Environmental Permits  
47-40 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Long Island City
- NYSDEC web site: [www.dec.ny.gov/permits/66991.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/66991.html)

#### What is "Scoping?"

Scoping is the process by which the issues to be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement are identified.

**The following items are a summary of the proposed topics to be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the LCEP. The DEIS will address the operational impacts of the new combined cycle unit, the temporary impacts associated with construction-related activity, and the environmental benefits of reducing operations of the existing units. For additional details, please refer to the Draft Scoping Document, copies of which can be found at locations noted on previous page.**

#### **Geology, Soils and Topography**

- Identification of soil excavation and management procedures
- Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

#### **Water Resources**

- Identification of quantity and quality of water use/discharge
- State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (revise existing permit)

#### **Biological, Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology**

- Identification of potentially threatened or endangered species and propose management plan for identified sensitive species

#### **Climate and Air Quality**

- Description of air quality impacts and development of Air Quality Improvement Strategy
- Air Quality modeling study
- Description of greenhouse gas emissions and potential mitigation; summary of applicable regulatory policies on climate change
- Proposed modification of the existing Title V air permit at the AGS

#### **Aesthetic/Visual Resources**

- Identification of sensitive viewpoints and preparation of visual simulations
- Determination of the extent of potential visibility of the LCEP and evaluation of the change in visual character at the viewpoints

#### **Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources**

- Archeological Investigation
- Description of history and culture of the Project environs including Astoria

#### **Noise**

- Ambient sound levels study in the vicinity of the AGS
- Identification and model of potential noise impacts from the LCEP and identification of sound reduction measures

#### **Traffic/Transportation**

- Outline of transportation requirements for construction and operation and assess impacts to local roadways
- Discussion of potential for water-borne deliveries

#### **Socioeconomics**

- Identification of short-term and long-term labor benefits from construction and operations
- Discussion of community economic effects and benefits to local businesses

#### **Environmental Justice**

- Evaluation of area based on existing data, guidelines and recommendations
- A Health Outcome Data Display including comparative assessments of pertinent health data
- Evaluation of potential additional burden from the new combined cycle unit

#### **Public Safety**

- Identification of potential safety risks from the new unit; revision of existing security and emergency response plans

#### **Community Facilities and Services**

- Evaluation of potential impact on or benefit to existing community facilities and services

#### **Communication Facilities**

- Discussion of potential effect on communication facilities

#### **Land Use and Zoning**

- Description of compliance with all applicable zoning ordinances
- Discussion of consistency with local Comprehensive Plans and coastal policies

#### **Unavoidable Adverse Impacts**

- Identification of impacts that may occur despite mitigation measures
- Comparison of the beneficial and adverse implications of these unavoidable impacts

#### **Alternatives Analysis**

- Description and evaluation of the range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed Project, including a "No Action" alternative

#### **Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources**

- Identification of natural and man-made resources consumed, converted, or otherwise made unavailable for future use as a consequence of the LCEP

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

- Evaluation of the cumulative impacts due to the addition of the LCEP

#### **Growth-Inducing Aspects**

- Description of existing NYISO demands and anticipated future growth in demand
- Description of future need for generating capacity and PlaNYC 2030

#### **Effects on the Use and Conservation of Energy Resources**

- Description of benefits of energy efficiency in plant design

#### **Green Design Considerations**

- Evaluation and description of the environmentally friendly, green design attributes that may be incorporated into the LCEP, including the emission reduction strategy

#### **Written comments on the Scoping Document may be submitted by October 25, 2010 to:**

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