

Report on Operations & Accomplishments – 2023

Griffiss Utility Services Corporation (GUSC) was established to support and promote economic development within the City of Rome and County of Oneida in general, more specifically within the former Griffiss Air Force Base. GUSC provides steam heat and electricity to businesses on the Griffiss Business and Technology Park (the Park).

GUSC holds a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the operation, maintenance, and ownership of the Park's electrical distribution system. GUSC extracts electricity from the New York State Electric Grid. As a result, the electricity is distributed through transformers to customer's facilities.

GUSC also holds a CPCN for the operations, maintenance, and ownership of the Park's steam heating distribution system. GUSC produces steam from a Natural Gas fired boiler or Biomass Fuel fired boiler whichever provides the most economical benefit to the customer. As a result, the steam is distributed through the steam system to customer's facilities.

Its mission is to facilitate the operation and management of the utility systems in a manner designed to provide reliable utility services to customers at the Park at the lowest practicable cost. In addition, GUSC has established reserves for maintenance costs and capital improvements for the utility systems in order to ensure dependable utility services at the lowest practicable cost so as to meet the projected growth of demand for utility services within the Park.

GUSC continues to incorporate strategies to lower its energy procurement and energy production costs and passes these savings directly to its customers. In addition, with the approval of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), GUSC is exploring renewable energy opportunities to comply with New York State's renewable energy benchmarks.

GUSC is provided the opportunity for fuel flexibility to help insulate against the volatile fossil fuels market with the addition of the biomass fueled combined heat and power energy plant on the Park, The biomass side of the energy plant uses chipped wood to generate steam. The fuel for the biomass side of the energy plant is sourced locally from logging residues and low-value hardwoods to make wood chips. The steam from the biomass side of the energy plant is run through a back-pressure steam turbine to generate electricity. Once through the turbine, the steam can be used to provide steam heat to the Park. There are two natural gas-fired boilers that can be used to meet the Park's peak and normal heating loads.