



# Instructions for Form CT-186

## Utility Corporation Franchise Tax Return

Tax Law — Article 9, Section 186

# CT-186-I

### Who Must File

Anyone who is taxable under Article 9, section 186, must file Form CT-186. This includes corporations, joint-stock companies, associations taxable as corporations or publicly traded partnerships taxable as corporations formed for or principally engaged in the business of supplying electricity, water, steam or gas when delivered through mains or pipes. The tax is computed on gross earnings received from the employment of capital plus a tax on dividends paid for the tax year January 1 to December 31. You must report income for the calendar year even if you maintain your records and report to the IRS using a fiscal accounting period.

If you import (or cause to be imported) natural gas to be used or consumed in New York State, you may also have to file Form CT-189. For more information, refer to the instructions for Form CT-189 or call the Business Tax Information Center at 1 800 972-1233. For general information call toll free 1 800 225-5829. To order forms and publications, call toll free 1 800 462-8100. From areas outside the U.S. and Canada, call (518) 485-6800.

### When and Where to File

This return is due on March 15, following the close of the calendar tax year. If March 15 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the return is due on the next business day. Mail your return to: **NYS Corporation Tax, Processing Unit, PO Box 1909, Albany NY 12201-1909.**

If you cannot meet the filing deadline, ask for a three-month extension of time by filing Form CT-5.9 and paying any tax due on or before March 15. An extension of time granted by the IRS to file a federal tax return does not extend the due date for filing Form CT-186.

### Change of Business Information

If there have been any changes in your business name, identification number, mailing address, business address, telephone number or owner/officer information and you have not previously notified us, complete Form DTF-95, *Change of Business Information*. For forms, contact the Tax Department at the telephone number listed under *Who Must File* above.

### Change of Address

If your address has changed, enter your new address on the label and check the box next to the name and address block at the top of your corporation tax return. Do not check this box for any change of business information other than address. You must still attach the preprinted label with the old address to enable us to update your account.

### Independently Procured Insurance Tax — Article 33-A

If you purchase or renew a taxable insurance contract from an insurer not authorized to transact business in New York State under a Certificate of Authority from the Superintendent of Insurance, you will be liable for a tax of 3.6% of the premium (see Form CT-33-D or TSB-M-90(9)C for more information).

### Foreign Corporations - Maintenance Fee

A corporation organized outside of New York State (a foreign corporation) that is authorized to do business in New York State must pay an annual maintenance fee of \$300. Failure to pay the annual maintenance fee or its equivalent in New York State corporation taxes (including the MTA surcharge) under Article 9 (or Article 9-A or 32) will result in annulment of the authorization to do business in New York State. Payments of such taxes (but not a license fee reported on Form CT-240) are counted as payments toward the \$300 annual maintenance fee. If the total of such taxes paid for the tax year is more than \$300, the corporation has satisfied the requirement to pay the \$300 annual maintenance fee. If the total of such taxes paid is less than \$300, enter \$300 on Form CT-186, line 7, and make a payment of \$300 with that form. In addition, on any other Article 9 returns, indicate that a total tax and maintenance fee of \$300 was paid with Form CT-186 and make no remittance of tax with the other returns. Article 9 returns include: CT-186-M, CT-186-A, CT-186-A/M, CT-186-E, CT-186-P, CT-186-P/M and CT-189.

### Foreign Corporations - License Fee

Foreign corporations must also file Form CT-240, *Foreign Corporation License Fee Report*, whether or not they are authorized to do business in New York State. Form CT-240 is required to be filed with the corporation's first franchise tax return or if the capital stock employed in New York State has increased since the last license fee return was filed.

### Final Return

Check the *Final Return* box on the front of the return, under the form number, only if filing a final tax return for one of the following reasons:

- Voluntary Dissolution - New York Corporation (New York Business Corporation Law Section 1003)
- Surrender of Authority by a Foreign Corporation (New York Business Corporation Law Section 1310)
- Merger or Consolidation (New York Business Corporation Law Section 904, 905 and 907)
- Disposition of Assets - New York Corporation (New York Business Corporation Law Section 909(d))
- Termination of Existence - Foreign Corporation (New York Business Corporation Law Section 1311)
- Liquidation Under Internal Revenue Code (IRC Sections 332, 333, 334 and 337).

See the *Voluntary Dissolution and Surrender of Authority and Liability for Taxes and Fees* section of these instructions and also Publication 110, *Information and Instructions for Termination of Business Corporations*, for the proper procedures to follow in terminating your business.

In the case of a merger or consolidation, the *Final Return* check box would be used only by the non-surviving corporation.

The return will be treated as a final return if your business is terminated with the Department of State and the return covers the tax period from the last return filed to the date of the termination.

Foreign authorized corporations refer to Form CT-245 if you are disclaiming tax liability but want to continue to be authorized to do business in New York State.

**Do not check the box** if you are only changing the type of return that you file (e.g., CT-3 to CT-3-S or CT-4 to CT-3).

### Voluntary Dissolution and Surrender of Authority and Liability for Taxes and Fees

A domestic corporation (incorporated in New York State) is generally liable for corporate franchise taxes for each fiscal or calendar year, or part thereof, during which it is incorporated, regardless of whether it carries on any activity. For example, a person who intends to go into business organizes a new corporation under the New York Business Corporation Law for the purpose of operating the new business as a corporation. However, the business is never started and the corporation never conducts any business. Under such circumstances, the corporation would usually be liable for franchise taxes for each taxable year until it is formally dissolved with the Department of State.

A foreign corporation (incorporated outside of New York State) is liable for franchise taxes during the period in which it does business, employs capital, owns or leases property or maintains an office within New York State. In addition, a foreign corporation which is authorized to do business in New York State is also liable for payments of its annual maintenance fee until such time as it surrenders with the Department of State its authority to do business, regardless of whether it does business, employs capital, owns or leases property or maintains an office in the state. The maintenance fee may be taken as a credit against the franchise tax.

The procedure for obtaining a voluntary dissolution and surrender of authority and the forms that are required to be filed with this department are set forth in Publication 110. You can request this publication by calling the Business Tax Information Center at the telephone number listed under *Who Must File* above.

## Metropolitan Transportation Business Tax (MTA Surcharge)

Any corporation taxable under Article 9, section 186, that does business in the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District (MCTD) must file Form CT-186-M and pay a metropolitan transportation business tax surcharge on business done in the Metropolitan Transportation Authority region (MTA surcharge). The MCTD includes the counties of New York, Bronx, Queens, Kings, Richmond, Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester.

## Employer Identification Number, File Number, and Other Identifying Information

To ensure that your corporation tax forms are processed as quickly and efficiently as possible, it is important that we have the necessary identifying information from your preprinted label. **Keep a record of the label information for future use.** Please be certain to include your employer identification number and file number on each corporation tax form mailed. This will facilitate processing your return to the correct account. Without this information, we may not be able to process your return.

If you use a paid preparer or accounting firm, make sure they use the mailing label or label information when completing all forms prepared for you.

## Amended Return

If you are filing an amended return, please write **Amended Return** across the top.

## Line Instructions

**Whole Dollar Amounts** - You may elect to show amounts in whole dollars rather than dollars and cents. Round an amount from 50 cents through 99 cents to the next higher dollar and round any amount less than 50 cents to the next lower dollar.

**Percentages** - When computing allocation percentages, convert decimals into percentages by moving the decimal point two spaces to the right. Percentages should be carried out to four decimal places. For example:  $5,000/7,500 = .6666666 = 66.6667\%$ .

**Negative amounts, if any, should be shown in parentheses.**

**Line A** — Make your payment in United States funds. A foreign check or foreign money order will be accepted only if payable through a United States bank or if marked **Payable in U.S. Funds**.

**Line 6** — You may take a credit against your franchise tax for any special additional mortgage recording tax you paid. This credit may not reduce your tax below the minimum tax or, if you are an authorized foreign corporation, it may not reduce the tax below the \$300 maintenance fee. You may carry any unused credit forward. Attach Form CT-43, *Claim for Special Additional Mortgage Recording Tax Credit*.

**Line 8b** — If you did not file Form CT-5.9 and the amount on line 7 (franchise tax) is more than \$1,000, you must pay a mandatory 25% first installment of estimated tax for the period following that covered by the return.

Use Form CT-400 to file and pay the additional installments of estimated tax for the next period. If the franchise tax for the next period is expected to exceed \$1,000, additional installments of estimated tax must be filed on June 15, September 15 and December 15.

**Line 12** — If you underpaid your estimated franchise tax for 1997, use Form CT-222, *Underpayment of Estimated Tax by a Corporation*, to compute the penalty. Attach Form CT-222, check the box and enter the amount of penalty on line 12. If no penalty is due, enter "0" on line 12.

**Line 13** — If you do not pay the franchise tax on or before the original due date (without regard to any extension of time for filing), you must pay interest on the amount of the underpayment from the original due date to the date paid. Exclude from the interest computation any amount shown on line 8a or 8b.

**Line 14** — Additional charges for late filing and late payments are computed on the amount of franchise tax less any payment made on or before the due date (determined with regard to any extension of time for

filing). Exclude from the penalty computation any amount shown on line 8a or 8b.

- A. If you do not file a return when due or if the application for extension is invalid, add to the tax 5% per month up to 25% (section 1085(a)(1)(A)).
- B. If you do not file a return within 60 days of the due date, the addition to tax in item A above cannot be less than the smaller of \$100 or 100% of the amount required to be shown as tax (section 1085(a)(1)(B)).
- C. If you do not pay the tax shown on a return, add to the tax ½% per month up to 25% (section 1085(a)(2)).
- D. The total of the additional charges in items A and C may not exceed 5% for any one month, except as provided for in item B above (section 1085(a)).

If you think you are not liable for these additional charges, attach a statement to your return explaining the delay in filing and/or payment (section 1085).

**Note: You may have the interest (line 13) and penalty (line 14) computed for you by calling the Business Tax Information Center at the number listed under *Who Must File* on the front page.**

**Line 20 — Collection of debts from your refund** — We will keep all or part of your refund if you owe a past-due legally enforceable debt to the Internal Revenue Service or a New York State agency. This includes any state department, board, bureau, division, commission, committee, public authority, public benefit corporation, council, office, or other entity performing a governmental or proprietary function for the state or a social services district. Any amount over your debt will be refunded.

If you have any questions about whether you owe a past-due legally enforceable debt to the Internal Revenue Service or a state agency, contact the IRS or that particular state agency.

For New York State tax liabilities **only** call 1 800 835-3554 (outside the U.S. and Canada call (518) 485-6800) or write to NYS TAX DEPARTMENT, TAX COMPLIANCE DIVISION, W A HARRIMAN CAMPUS, ALBANY NY 12227.

## Schedule A - Computation of Gross Earnings Tax and Allocation Percentage/Issuer's Allocation Percentage

On lines 21 through 24, enter gross earnings attributable to New York State in column A and total gross earnings everywhere in column B.

Gross earnings are all receipts from the employment of capital without any deductions.

Do not take a deduction relating to a financial resource asset unless you attach to Form CT-186 a certificate issued by the New York State Department of Public Service verifying this deduction.

Article 2-I of the general city law provides for certain rebates of charges for energy in revitalization areas of New York City. However, nothing contained in Article 2-I shall be construed as reducing the amount of the gross receipts subject to tax pursuant to section 186 of the Tax Law.

Your **issuer's allocation percentage** is used by corporate shareholders to compute their corporate franchise tax. It represents the amount of New York State gross earnings compared to gross earnings everywhere.

The Tax Law requires most corporations doing business in New York State to provide the information needed to compute their issuer's allocation percentages. Section 1085 of the Tax Law provides for a \$500 penalty for failure to provide this information.

Taxpayers paying the minimum tax must also complete this schedule and compute their issuer's allocation percentages.

## Schedule B - Computation of Allocated Dividend Tax

**Line 30** — The actual amount of paid-in capital is that part of the equity that was invested in the business enterprise by shareholders.

**Line 31** — If dividends are paid once a year, include the value of the paid-in capital on the declaration date. If dividends are declared and paid more than once a year, the value of paid-in capital on which these dividends were paid must be averaged by computing the value of paid-in capital on each declaration date, and dividing by the number of dividend dates.

See TSB-M-82(8)C for additional information on the computation of the tax on dividends.