

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

JAN 16 2020

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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
TRENTON, NJ



MAIL RECEIVED

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 07548-19

AGENCY DKT. NO. ER19050552

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION
OF ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF
CHANGES IN ELECTRIC RATES, ITS TARIFF FOR
ELECTRIC SERVICES, AND ITS DEPRECIATION
RATES; AND FOR OTHER RELIEF,

James C. Meyer, Esq., Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perritt, LLP, and
John L. Carley, Esq., Associate General Counsel, for the Petitioner,
Rockland Electric Company

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Litigation Manager, **Ami Morita**, Deputy Rate Counsel,
Christine M. Juarez, Esq., **Maria Novas Ruiz**, Esq., **T. David Wand**, Esq.,
Assistant Deputies Rate Counsel, Division of Rate Counsel (Stefanie A.
Brand, Esq., Director)

Matko Ilic and **Peter Van Brunt**, Deputy Attorneys Generals, for the Staff of the
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Gurbir S. Gréwal, Attorney General of
New Jersey)

Record Closed: January 9, 2020

Decided: January 15, 2020

Before **IRENE JONES, ALJ**

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On May 3, 2019, Petitioner, Rockland Electric Company ("Petitioner" or "Company") filed a Verified Petition with the State Board of Public Utilities ("Board") seeking to increase its base rates by approximately \$19.9 million or 9.6%. Additionally, the Company sought approval of other changes to its rates and tariffs as set forth in the petition. On October 29, 2019, the Company updated its filing on 12 + 0 basis and projected a revenue deficiency of \$20.3 million or 9.5% on a total revenue basis.

On or about June 5, 2019, the Board transmitted the matter to the Office of Administrative Law for hearing as contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to 15 and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 to 13. A prehearing conference was held on August 12, 2019 wherein a procedural schedule was established. Present at the prehearing conference was the Company, the Board Staff and the Division of Rate Counsel. Public hearings were held in the Company's service territory on December 13, 2019.

Prior to the start of the evidentiary hearings, the parties exchanged extensive discovery and engaged in numerous discovery and settlement conferences. On January 9, 2020, the parties filed a Stipulation of Settlement with the undersigned.

I have reviewed the record and the terms of the Stipulation of Settlement and I **FIND:**

1. The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their signatures or the signatures of their representatives.
2. The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with the law.

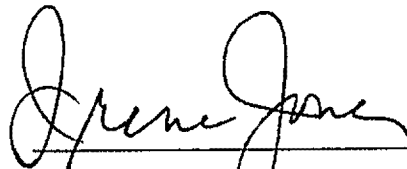
Therefore, it is **ORDERED** that the parties comply with the settlement terms and that these proceedings be and are hereby **CONCLUDED**.

I hereby **FILE** my initial decision with the **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified or rejected by the **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. If the Board of Public Utilities does not adopt, modify or reject this decision within forty-five (45) days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

January 15, 2020

DATE



IRENE JONES ALJ

Date Received at Agency:

January 15, 2020

Date Mailed to Parties:

mm