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September 10, 2020

Via Electronic Mail

Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary
NJ Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

**Re: In the Matter of the Petition of South Jersey Gas Company for
Approval of Increased Base Tariff Rates and Charges for Gas Service,
Changes to Depreciation Rates and Other Tariff Revisions
BPU Docket No. GR20030243
OAL Docket No. PUC 04830-20**

Dear Secretary Camacho-Welch:

Please find enclosed on behalf of South Jersey Gas Company (“South Jersey” or “Company”) proof of publication of the notice of public hearings that were held on August 25, 2020 in the above-referenced matter from the following publications: The Press of Atlantic City; the Burlington Times; the Courier-Post; and the South Jersey Times. Please also find enclosed copies of the transcripts from the public hearings that were held on August 25, 2020.

Due to remote working conditions required as a result of the current pandemic, hard copies of these documents are not available at this time, but can be provided as needed on our return to the office. Please contact me if you require further information.

Please contact the undersigned if you require further information.

Yours truly,

/s/ Kenneth T. Maloney

Of Counsel
South Jersey Gas Company

cc: Attached Service List

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED BASE TARIFF RATES AND CHARGES
FOR GAS SERVICE, CHANGES TO DEPRECIATION RATES
AND OTHER TARIFF REVISIONS**

**BPU DOCKET NO. GR20030243
OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 04830-20**

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4 IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS
5 COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN BASE TARIFF
6 RATES AND CHARGES FOR GAS SERVICE, CHANGES TO
7 DEPRECIATION RATES, AND OTHER TARIFF REVISIONS
8 PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, 48:2-21 AND
9 42:2-21.1, AND N.J.A.C. 14:1-4.1, 14:1-5.1,
10 14:1-5.12

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OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 04830-20
AGENCY DOCKET NO. GR20030243

9

PUBLIC HEARING

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H E L D:

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Via ZOOM
Tuesday, August 25, 2020
4:30 p.m.

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16 B E F O R E:

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THE HONORABLE TRICIA M. CALIGUIRE
Administrative Law Judge

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TRANSCRIPTION BY:
Nancy Ambrose,
C.C.R.

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J.H. BUEHRER & ASSOCIATES
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A P P E A R A N C E S:

3

CULLEN & DYKMAN, L.L.P.
BY: KENNETH P. MALONEY, ESQ.
Appearing on behalf of
South Jersey Industries

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Rate Counsel
BY: SARAH J. STEINDEL, ESQ.
Assistant General Counsel

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8

Appearing on behalf of
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq.
Director, Division of Rate Counsel

9

10

GIORDANO, HALLERAN & CIESLA, P.C.
BY: STEVEN S. GOLDENBERG, ESQ.
Appearing on behalf of the Intervenor,
Calpine Corporation

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15 A L S O A P P E A R I N G:

16 STEFANY GRAHAM
South Jersey Industry Utilities, Inc.
17 Director Rates and Regulatory Affairs

18 SRI MEDICHERLA
Board of Public Utilities' Staff
19 Division of Energy

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EXHIBITS

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NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
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P-1	Proof of Service
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1 THE FOLLOWING HEARING WAS TAKEN BY WAY OF THE
2 VIDEO CONFERENCING SOFTWARE APP, ZOOM. ALL
3 PARTICIPANTS APPEARED VIRTUALLY AND SEPARATELY,
4 NOT TOGETHER IN THE SAME ROOM.

5

6 THE JUDGE: Good afternoon, welcome
7 and thank you for participating in this
8 afternoon's public hearing. My name is Tricia
9 Caliguire, and I am the Administrative Law Judge
10 assigned to preside over this hearing.

11 The purpose of today's hearing is to
12 provide members of the public with the opportunity
13 to comment upon the petition of South Jersey Gas
14 Company which is pending before the Board of
15 Public Utilities. OAL Docket Number PUC 04830-20,
16 Agency Reference Number GR20030243.

17 The title of this docket is, In the
18 Matter of the Petition of South Jersey Gas Company
19 for Approval of an Increase in Base Tariff Rates
20 and Charges for Gas Service, Changes to
21 Depreciation Rates, and Other Tariff Revisions
22 Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, 48:2-21 and

23 48:2-21.1 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-4.1, 14:1-5.1 and

24 14:1-5.12.

25 This hearing is being held via Zoom,

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1 an audio-video platform licensed by the Office of
2 Administrative Law for use during the COVID-19
3 emergency. All members of the public, as well as
4 their counsel and representatives and I am in
5 remote locations, joined only by our phones and
6 laptop screens.

7 Throughout these proceedings the
8 Judge, the parties, and the Counsel will be shown
9 on screen. Each member of the public that wishes
10 to be heard will be shown on screen as a telephone
11 number, and will be able to participate when
12 called on by telephone number.

13 If at any time any participant loses
14 access, they should immediately contact OAL
15 Manager of Information Technology, Tom Harris.
16 His cell phone number is 609-256-2075.

17 No participant may livestream, video
18 or audio record any portion of this remote
19 hearing. This hearing will be transcribed, and
20 the parties may request the official transcript in
21 the same manner as if the hearing were taking
22 place in person.

23 The issues raised in the petition are
24 whether the petitioners can establish by a
25 preponderance of credible evidence that the

1 proposed increase in rates, new depreciation rates
2 and other tariff changes are reasonable and

3 justified.

4 Although the representatives of South
5 Jersey Gas Company, the BPU Staff, and the
6 Division of Rate Counsel will not be answering any
7 questions as part of this hearing, any member of
8 the public with questions can request a call after
9 the hearing has concluded. You may make this
10 request when you put your comments on the record.

11 Before that I'd like to explain how I
12 will conduct the hearing. First, the
13 representatives of the Company, the BPU Staff, and
14 Rate Counsel will introduce themselves and give a
15 short statement of their position.

16 Then I will call on members of the
17 public by telephone number in the order the calls
18 came in. You will need to unmute your line and
19 state your name, spelling your last name, and give
20 your address and phone number for the record.

21 Please note I will not set time
22 limits for any speaker during the public hearing.
23 We will be here until all of you who wish to speak
24 have had the opportunity to do so. I would
25 suggest, however, that if someone else has spoken

1 and you agree with his or her remarks, it is not
2 necessary for you to repeat them.

3 From time to time members of the
4 public bring documents with them to these
5 hearings. Since obviously we can't view those
6 documents, today I will give instructions on
7 mailing or emailing the documents to ensure they
8 become part of the record in this matter.

9 I will now ask the representatives to
10 place their appearances on the record and provide
11 their opening statements. Thank you for your
12 participation and courtesy.

13 (An off-the-record discussion takes
14 place.)

15 THE JUDGE: First, I would like the
16 representative of the petitioner.

17 MR. MALONEY: Good afternoon, Your
18 Honor. On behalf of South Jersey Gas Company, my
19 name is Kenneth P. Maloney with the law firm of

20 Cullen & Dykman, LLP.

21 THE JUDGE: And who is with you from
22 the Company today, Mr. Maloney?

23 MR. MALONEY: Deborah Franco,
24 Dominick DiRocco and Stefany Graham.

25 THE JUDGE: Thank you. From the

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1 Staff of the Board?

2 MR. MEDICHERLA: My name is Sri
3 Medicherla, M-E-D-I-C-H-E-R-L-A.

4 THE JUDGE: Anyone else from Staff
5 with you, Mr. Medicherla?

6 MR. MEDICHERLA: No, ma'am.

7 THE JUDGE: Thank you. From the
8 Division of Rate Counsel?

9 MS. STEINDEL: Good afternoon. I'm

10 Sarah Steindel, Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel, on
11 behalf of the Division of Rate Counsel.

12 THE JUDGE: And from the Intervenor?

13 MR. GOLDENBERG: Steven Goldenberg,
14 Giordano, Halleran & Ciesla, representing the
15 Calpine Corporation.

16 THE JUDGE: Thank you. For the
17 record there is no one here from participant
18 PSE&G.

19 Mr. Maloney, how would you like to
20 begin?

21 MR. MALONEY: Ms. Graham is going to
22 read the Company's statement.

23 THE JUDGE: Yes. Okay. Thank you.

24

25

1 MS. GRAHAM: Good evening. My name
2 is Stefany Graham. I am Director of Rates and
3 Regulatory Affairs for SJI Utilities, speaking on
4 behalf of South Jersey Gas Company, hereinafter
5 referred to as the "Company" or "South Jersey".

6 I welcome the opportunity today,
7 along with other South Jersey Gas Company
8 associates, to comment on South Jersey Gas
9 Company's recent proposal to increase its base
10 tariff rates and charges for gas service and other
11 tariff revisions.

12 The Company is also proposing to
13 changes its depreciation rates. We are also here
14 to listen to the public as it expresses its views
15 regarding this proposal.

16 On March 13, 2020, South Jersey Gas
17 Company filed a petition with the New Jersey Board
18 of Public Utilities requesting increased base
19 rates and charges.

20 Based on the Company's total
21 projected operating revenues for the twelve months
22 ended June 30, 2020, the new rates proposed would
23 yield incremental operating revenues of
24 approximately 75.3 million, representing an
25 increase of 12.2 percent, after giving effect to:

1 One, the roll-in of the Company's
2 Conservation Incentive Program revenues, adjusted
3 for sales and use tax; and two, the roll-ins to
4 base rates for the Company's Storm Hardening and
5 Reliability Program and Accelerated Infrastructure
6 Replacement Program to take place October 1, 2020,
7 outside of this base rate case proceeding.

8 On May 15, 2020 the Company filed an
9 update to the March 13, 2020 petition to reflect
10 actual data through March 31, 2020. As a result
11 of that update, the new rates proposed would yield
12 incremental operating revenues of approximately
13 \$75.7 million, representing an increase of 13.1
14 percent.

15 On August 13, 2020 the Company filed
16 an additional update to reflect actual data for

17 the entire test year ending June 30, 2020. As a
18 result of that update, the new rates proposed
19 would yield incremental operating revenues of
20 approximately 73.3 million, representing an
21 increase of 13.1 percent.

22 The primary driver of this case is
23 the need to earn a reasonable return on the
24 significant capital investments that the Company
25 made since its last base rate case proceeding, and

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1 to ensure the Company's continued ability to
2 invest in infrastructure at a level necessary to
3 provide ongoing safe and reliable service to our
4 customers.

5 In order to accomplish this, the
6 Company must be able to earn a fair return on and

7 of its infrastructure investments so that it may
8 continue to attract the necessary capital to
9 support further investments that enable it to
10 provide ongoing safe and reliable service to its
11 customers.

12 The Company has put forth every
13 concerted effort to effectively manage costs,
14 while providing customers with safe and reliable
15 service.

16 THE JUDGE: Ms. Graham, can I ask you
17 just to hold for one minute? Because it looks
18 like a member of the public has entered the
19 waiting room.

20 And so rather than, I'm not going to
21 ask you to repeat everything, but you just might
22 want to reprise the high points. Let me see.

23 MS. GRAHAM: Sure.

24 THE JUDGE: Actually, Mr. Goldenberg,
25 is your phone number 856-701-3807?

1 MR. GOLDENBERG: It is not.

2 THE JUDGE: Huh, it's the same

3 initials as you. Hello, this is Judge Caliguire.

4 The person at 856-701-3807 -- Tom, can you check?

5 MR. HARRIS: Yes. Caller at

6 856-701-3807, can I get your name, please?

7 MS. HAGMAIER: Hi, this is Jessica

8 Hagmaier. I just want to mention, this is

9 actually on behalf of the Company. Jessica

10 Hagmaier I'm part of the rates and regulatory

11 team, not a member of the public.

12 (An off-the-record discussion takes

13 place.)

14 THE JUDGE: Then Ms. Graham, you can

15 just pick up where you left off.

16 MS. GRAHAM: Very good. I'll begin

17 with the second to last paragraph.

18

19 The Company has put forth every

20 concerted effort to effectively manage costs,

21 while providing safe and reliable service.

22 However, a change in base rates is now necessary

23 to support the required levels of service.

24 The rate change proposed in this
25 proceeding would result in a rate increase for a

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1 typical residential sales customer using 100
2 therms of gas per month of \$19.85 or 13.7 percent.

3 I look forward to listening to your
4 comments related to this proceeding, and am
5 available to answer any questions after the
6 hearing is complete, if needed.

7

8 That concludes my statement. Thank
9 you.

10 THE JUDGE: Thank you. Mr.
11 Medicherla, would you like to make a statement on
12 behalf of Staff of the Board? I think you're
13 muted, Mr. Medicherla.

14 MR. MEDICHERLA: Sorry. Yes.

15

16 Good afternoon. My name is Sri

17 Medicherla. I am representing the New Jersey

18 Board of Public Utilities' Staff. I would like to

19 thank you all for participating and I look forward

20 to hearing your comments.

21 The New Jersey Board of Public

22 Utilities is mandated by law to ensure safe,

23 adequate and proper utility service at a

24 reasonable cost to South Jersey Gas Company's

25 ratepayers, as well as all other New Jersey

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1 utility ratepayers.

2 The Board's Staff plays an active

3 role in all electric and gas matters before the

4 Board. We are carefully reviewing and analyzing
5 the company's filing and the positions of other
6 parties, such as Rate Counsel.

7 I can assure you that Board Staff is
8 thoroughly scrutinizing all documents submitted in
9 this matter, and will develop a full record to
10 ensure that service is provided at a reasonable
11 cost. However, until the Board makes its decision
12 in this matter, Board Staff is precluded from
13 commenting on the merits of this case.

14 Once again, I look forward to hearing
15 your comments. Thank you.

16

17 THE JUDGE: Thank you, Mr.
18 Medicherla. Ms. Steindel, would you like to make
19 a statement on behalf of Rate Counsel?

20 MS. STEINDEL: I would. Thank you,
21 Your Honor.

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1 REMARKS OF STEFANIE A. BRAND, DIRECTOR
2 NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL

3

4 MS. STEINDEL: Good afternoon. My
5 name is Sarah Steindel, and I'm an Assistant
6 Deputy Rate Counsel for the New Jersey Division of
7 Rate Counsel. Our office was created by the New
8 Jersey Legislature to represent all New Jersey
9 ratepayers in matters involving public utility
10 rates and services.

11 On March 13, 2020 South Jersey Gas,
12 the Company, filed a petition with the Board of
13 Public Utilities seeking approval to increase its
14 base rates for natural gas service -- and here I'm
15 citing the information as it was in the Company's
16 public notice, although I understand it has been
17 updated.

18 So they're seeking to increase their
19 base rates for natural gas service by
20 approximately 75.7 million dollars.

21 The increase being requested by the
22 Company is for natural gas distribution service,
23 that is, the rates that cover the costs of
24 distributing natural gas through the Company's
25 natural gas pipelines to end users, and the costs

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1 of administering customer accounts such as
2 metering, billing and customer service.

3 Under the Company's proposal, an
4 average monthly bill for a typical residential
5 heating customer using an average of 100 therms
6 per month would increase by about \$19.85, or 13.1
7 percent, as per the Company's published notice.

8 The proposed rate increase is
9 separate from rates for Basic Gas Supply Service,
10 or BGSS, which covers the cost of the natural gas

11 commodity purchased by the Company for its
12 customers.

13 The requested rate increase is also
14 separate from the distribution rate increases that
15 have been proposed by the Company under its
16 Conservation Incentive Program, and to recover the
17 costs of investments under two Board approved
18 infrastructure investment programs, such as the
19 Storm Hardening and Reliability, or SHARP II
20 Program, and the Accelerated Infrastructure
21 Replacement Program, also known AIRP II.

22 The petition seeks other relief,
23 including an increase in the Company's
24 depreciation rates, a mechanism to pass through
25 the costs of federally mandated pipeline safety

1 costs, and recovery of the legal, engineering and
2 other costs incurred to develop a pipeline that
3 was to have provided service to the BL England
4 electric generation facility in Upper Township,
5 Cape May County, which has been canceled because
6 the customer decided not to proceed with the
7 electric generation project. The Company is also
8 seeking to make a number of changes to its Board
9 approved tariff for natural gas service.

10 The Company's petition states that
11 the requested rate increase is needed due to
12 investments the Company has made since the Board
13 last authorized the Company's increase to its base
14 distribution rates in October of 2017.

15 The Company states that the proposed
16 rate increase is to allow the Company the
17 opportunity to earn a reasonable return on its in
18 investments and continue to attract capital for
19 future investments.

20 Rate Counsel has a team of attorneys
21 and expert consultants analyzing the Company's
22 petition. We are conducting a complete and
23 thorough investigation of the rate increase and
24 other changes being sought by the Company.

25 We have requested and are receiving

1 detailed information from the Company about their
2 purported needs. However, it is important that
3 you be aware that the ultimate decision regarding
4 all utility matters in New Jersey is made by the
5 Board of Public Utilities.

6 The purpose of this open public
7 hearing is for you, the customer, to voice your
8 opinion, relate your experiences, and offer
9 comments about your Company's rates and service.

10 It is important that you express your
11 views so that they may become part of the record
12 on which the Administrative Law Judge and the
13 Board of Public Utilities makes their decisions.

14 Rate Counsel also needs to hear your
15 views in order to represent your interest in the
16 legal process. We strongly encourage your
17 participation, which will help us evaluate the

18 Company's proposals and prepare for the

19 evidentiary hearings.

20 This hearing is being transcribed and

21 your comments will become part of the record. I

22 would like to reiterate the importance of your

23 participation so that Rate Counsel can have a

24 clear record of your concerns and interests.

25 On behalf of Rate Counsel, thank you

19

1 for attending this public hearing.

2

3 THE JUDGE: Thank you. Mr.

4 Goldenberg, do you care to make a statement on

5 behalf of Calpine?

6 MR. GOLDENBERG: I have no statement,

7 Your Honor, other than I was happy to be able to

8 take advantage of the fact that you are doing this
9 virtually, to enable me to participate with you.

10 THE JUDGE: Thank you. And actually
11 you should be thanking the parties, because they
12 were ones who agreed to the virtual format. So
13 there was no need for any motion practice on this
14 one.

15 Before I suggest that everyone mute
16 their speakers, I guess, Ms. Ambrose, did you miss
17 anything? Were there any glitches?

18 (An off-the-record discussion takes
19 place.)

20 MR. MALONEY: Before we go off the
21 record, earlier today we sent to your office the
22 proofs of publication distributed to various
23 papers in the Company's service territory. I ask
24 that that be marked P-1 for identification.

25 THE JUDGE: I'm sorry, you broke up.

1 Are you saying you ask that they --

2 MR. MALONEY: They be marked as
3 Exhibit P-1. They were premarked.

4 THE JUDGE: Yes, I'd be happy to do
5 that. I did see that those came in today. Thank
6 you.

7 (Exhibit P-1, Proof of Publication,
8 is marked for identification by the Court.)

9 THE JUDGE: Okay. If we can go off
10 record for just a minute.

11 (An off-the-record discussion takes
12 place.)

13 (A brief recess is held.)

14 THE JUDGE: So it's 5:25. Hearing
15 there are no members of the public who have joined
16 our hearing, I will adjourn the 4:30 hearing. I
17 want to thank you all for your participation in
18 this matter.

19 (The hearing is adjourned.)

20

21

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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4 I, NANCY AMBROSE, LICENSE NO. 30XI00199300, a

5 Certified Court Reporter of the State of New

6 Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a

7 true and accurate transcript of the testimony as

8 taken stenographically by and before me at the

9 time, place and on the date hereinbefore set

10 forth, to the best of my ability.

11

12 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a relative

13 nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any of

14 the parties to this action, and that I am neither

15 a relative nor employee of such attorney or
16 counsel, and that I am not financially interested
17 in the action.

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NANCY AMBROSE
Certified Court Reporter
of the State of New Jersey

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4 IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS
5 COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN BASE TARIFF
6 RATES AND CHARGES FOR GAS SERVICE, CHANGES TO
7 DEPRECIATION RATES, AND OTHER TARIFF REVISIONS
8 PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, 48:2-21 AND
9 42:2-21.1, AND N.J.A.C. 14:1-4.1, 14:1-5.1,
10 14:1-5.12

8

OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 04830-20
AGENCY DOCKET NO. GR20030243

9

PUBLIC HEARING

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11

H E L D:

12

Via ZOOM
Tuesday, August 25, 2020
5:30 p.m.

13

14

15

16 B E F O R E:

17

THE HONORABLE TRICIA M. CALIGUIRE
Administrative Law Judge

18

19

20

TRANSCRIPTION BY:
Nancy Ambrose,
C.C.R.

21

22

23

24

J.H. BUEHRER & ASSOCIATES
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS
884 Breezy Oaks Drive
Toms River, New Jersey 08753

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A P P E A R A N C E S:

3

CULLEN & DYKMAN, L.L.P.
BY: KENNETH P. MALONEY, ESQ.
Appearing on behalf of
South Jersey Industries

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5

6

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Rate Counsel
BY: SARAH J. STEINDEL, ESQ.
Assistant General Counsel
Appearing on behalf of
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq.
Director, Division of Rate Counsel

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A L S O A P P E A R I N G:

14

STEFANY GRAHAM
South Jersey Industry Utilities, Inc.

15

Director Rates and Regulatory Affairs

16

SRI MEDICHERLA

17

Board of Public Utilities' Staff

Division of Energy

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EXHIBITS

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NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
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P-1	Proof of Service
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1 THE FOLLOWING HEARING WAS TAKEN BY WAY OF THE
2 VIDEO CONFERENCING SOFTWARE APP, ZOOM. ALL
3 PARTICIPANTS APPEARED VIRTUALLY AND SEPARATELY,
4 NOT TOGETHER IN THE SAME ROOM.

5

6 THE JUDGE: Good evening, welcome and
7 thank you for participating in this evening's
8 public hearing. My name is Tricia Caliguire, and
9 I am the Administrative Law Judge assigned to
10 preside over this hearing.

11 The purpose of tonight's hearing is
12 to provide members of the public with the
13 opportunity to comment upon the petition of South
14 Jersey Gas Company which is pending before the
15 Board of Public Utilities. OAL Docket Number PUC
16 04830-20, Agency Reference Number GR20030243.

17 The title of this docket is, In the
18 Matter of the Petition of South Jersey Gas Company
19 for Approval of an Increase in Base Tariff Rates
20 and Charges for Gas Service, Changes to
21 Depreciation Rates, and Other Tariff Revisions
22 Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, 48:2-21 and

23 48:2-21.1 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-4.1, 14:1-5.1 and

24 14:1-5.12.

25 This hearing is being held via Zoom,

5

1 an audio-video platform licensed by the Office of
2 Administrative Law for use during the COVID-19
3 emergency. All members of the public, as well as
4 their counsel and representatives and I am in
5 remote locations, joined only by our phones and
6 laptop screens.

7 Throughout these proceedings the
8 Judge, the parties, and the Counsel will be shown
9 on screen. Each member of the public that wishes
10 to be heard will be shown on screen as a telephone
11 number, and will be able to participate when
12 called on by telephone number.

13 If at any time any participant loses
14 access, they should immediately contact OAL
15 Manager of Information Technology, Tom Harris.
16 His cell phone number is 609-256-2075.

17 No participant may livestream, video
18 or audio record any portion of this remote
19 hearing. This hearing will be transcribed, and
20 the parties may request the official transcript in
21 the same manner as if the hearing were taking
22 place in person.

23 The issues raised in the petition are
24 whether the petitioners can establish by a
25 preponderance of credible evidence that the

1 proposed increase in rates, new depreciation rates
2 and other tariff changes are reasonable and

3 justified.

4 Although the representatives of South
5 Jersey Gas Company, the BPU Staff, and the
6 Division of Rate Counsel will not be answering any
7 questions as part of this hearing, any member of
8 the public with questions can request a call after
9 the hearing has concluded. You may make this
10 request when you put your comments on the record.

11 Before that I'd like to explain how I
12 will conduct the hearing. First, the
13 representatives of the Company, the BPU Staff, and
14 Rate Counsel will introduce themselves and give a
15 short statement of their position.

16 Then I will call on members of the
17 public by telephone number in the order the calls
18 came in. You will need to unmute your line and
19 state your name, spelling your last name, and give
20 your address and phone number for the record.

21 Please note I will not set time
22 limits for any speaker during the public hearing.
23 We will be here until all of you who wish to speak
24 have had the opportunity to do so. I would
25 suggest, however, that if someone else has spoken

1 and you agree with his or her remarks, it is not
2 necessary for you to repeat them.

3 From time to time members of the
4 public bring documents with them to these
5 hearings. Since obviously we can't view those
6 documents, tonight I will give instructions on
7 mailing or emailing the documents to ensure they
8 become part of the record in this matter.

9 I will now ask the representatives to
10 place their appearances on the record and provide
11 their opening statements. Thank you for your
12 participation and courtesy.

13 (An off-the-record discussion takes
14 place.)

15 THE JUDGE: First, I would like the
16 representative of the petitioner.

17 MR. MALONEY: Good evening, Your
18 Honor. On behalf of South Jersey Gas Company, my
19 name is Kenneth P. Maloney with the law firm of

20 Cullen & Dykman, LLP.

21 THE JUDGE: And who is with you from
22 the Company tonight, Mr. Maloney?

23 MR. MALONEY: Deborah Franco,
24 Dominick DiRocco and Stefany Graham.

25 THE JUDGE: Thank you. From the

8

1 Staff of the Board?

2 MR. MEDICHERLA: My name is Sri
3 Medicherla, M-E-D-I-C-H-E-R-L-A.

4 THE JUDGE: Anyone else from Staff
5 with you, Mr. Medicherla?

6 MR. MEDICHERLA: No, ma'am.

7 THE JUDGE: Thank you. From the
8 Division of Rate Counsel?

9 MS. STEINDEL: Good evening. I'm

10 Sarah Steindel, Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel, on
11 behalf of the Division of Rate Counsel.

12 THE JUDGE: Thank you. For the
13 record, there is no one here from participant
14 PSE&G.

15 Mr. Maloney, how would you like to
16 begin?

17 MR. MALONEY: Ms. Graham is going to
18 read the Company's statement.

19 THE JUDGE: Yes. Okay. Thank you.

20

21

22 MS. GRAHAM: Good evening. My name
23 is Stefany Graham. I am Director of Rates and
24 Regulatory Affairs for SJI Utilities, speaking on
25 behalf of South Jersey Gas Company, hereinafter

1 referred to as the "Company" or "South Jersey".

2 I welcome the opportunity tonight,
3 along with other South Jersey Gas Company
4 associates, to comment on South Jersey Gas
5 Company's recent proposal to increase its base
6 tariff rates and charges for gas service and other
7 tariff revisions.

8 The Company is also proposing to
9 changes its depreciation rates. We are also here
10 to listen to the public as it expresses its views
11 regarding this proposal.

12 On March 13, 2020, South Jersey Gas
13 Company filed a petition with the New Jersey Board
14 of Public Utilities requesting increased base
15 rates and charges.

16 Based on the Company's total
17 projected operating revenues for the twelve months
18 ended June 30, 2020, the new rates proposed would
19 yield incremental operating revenues of
20 approximately 75.3 million, representing an
21 increase of 12.2 percent, after giving effect to:

22 One, the roll-in of the Company's
23 Conservation Incentive Program revenues, adjusted
24 for sales and use tax; and two, the roll-ins to
25 base rates for the Company's Storm Hardening and

1 Reliability Program and Accelerated Infrastructure
2 Replacement Program to take place October 1, 2020,
3 outside of this base rate case proceeding.

4 On May 15, 2020 the Company filed an
5 update to the March 13, 2020 petition to reflect
6 actual data through March 31, 2020. As a result
7 of that update, the new rates proposed would yield
8 incremental operating revenues of approximately
9 \$75.7 million, representing an increase of 13.1
10 percent.

11 On August 13, 2020 the Company filed
12 an additional update to reflect actual data for
13 the entire test year ending June 30, 2020. As a
14 result of that update, the new rates proposed
15 would yield incremental operating revenues of
16 approximately 73.3 million, representing an

17 increase of 13.1 percent.

18 The primary driver of this case is

19 the need to earn a reasonable return on the

20 significant capital investments that the Company

21 made since its last base rate case proceeding, and

22 to ensure the Company's continued ability to

23 invest in infrastructure at a level necessary to

24 provide ongoing safe and reliable service to our

25 customers.

11

1 In order to accomplish this, the

2 Company must be able to earn a fair return on and

3 of its infrastructure investments so that it may

4 continue to attract the necessary capital to

5 support further investments that enable it to

6 provide ongoing safe and reliable service to its

7 customers.

8 The Company has put forth every
9 concerted effort to effectively manage costs,
10 while providing safe and reliable service.
11 However, a change in base rates is now necessary
12 to support the required levels of service.

13 The rate change proposed in this
14 proceeding would result in a rate increase for a
15 typical residential sales customer using 100
16 therms of gas per month of \$19.85 or 13.7 percent.

17 I look forward to listening to your
18 comments related to this proceeding, and am
19 available to answer any questions after the
20 hearing is complete, if needed.

21

22 That concludes my statement. Thank
23 you.

24 THE JUDGE: Thank you. Mr.
25 Medicherla, would you like to make a statement on

1 behalf of Staff of the Board? I think you're
2 muted, Mr. Medicherla.

3 MR. MEDICHERLA: Sorry. Yes.

4

5 Good evening. My name is Sri
6 Medicherla. I am representing the New Jersey
7 Board of Public Utilities' Staff. I would like to
8 thank you all for participating and I look forward
9 to hearing your comments.

10 The New Jersey Board of Public
11 Utilities is mandated by law to ensure safe,
12 adequate and proper utility service at a
13 reasonable cost to South Jersey Gas Company's
14 ratepayers, as well as all other New Jersey
15 utility ratepayers.

16 The Board's Staff plays an active
17 role in all electric and gas matters before the
18 Board. We are carefully reviewing and analyzing
19 the company's filing and the positions of other
20 parties, such as Rate Counsel.

21 I can assure you that Board Staff is
22 thoroughly scrutinizing all documents submitted in
23 this matter, and will develop a full record to

24 ensure that service is provided at a reasonable
25 cost. However, until the Board makes its decision

13

1 in this matter, Board Staff is precluded from
2 commenting on the merits of this case.

3 Once again, I look forward to hearing
4 your comments. Thank you.

5

6 THE JUDGE: Thank you, Mr.
7 Medicherla. Ms. Steindel, would you like to make
8 a statement on behalf of Rate Counsel?

9 MS. STEINDEL: I would. Thank you,
10 Your Honor.

11

12 REMARKS OF STEFANIE A. BRAND, DIRECTOR

13 NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL

14

15 MS. STEINDEL: Good evening. My name
16 is Sarah Steindel, and I'm an Assistant Deputy
17 Rate Counsel for the New Jersey Division of Rate
18 Counsel. Our office was created by the New Jersey
19 Legislature to represent all New Jersey ratepayers
20 in matters involving public utility rates and
21 services.

22 On March 13, 2020 South Jersey Gas,
23 the Company, filed a petition with the Board of
24 Public Utilities seeking approval to increase its
25 base rates for natural gas service -- and here I'm

14

1 citing the information as it was in the Company's
2 public notice, although I understand it has been
3 updated.

4 So they're seeking to increase their
5 base rates for natural gas service by
6 approximately 75.7 million dollars.

7 The increase being requested by the
8 Company is for natural gas distribution service,
9 that is, the rates that cover the costs of
10 distributing natural gas through the Company's
11 natural gas pipelines to end users, and the costs
12 of administering customer accounts such as
13 metering, billing and customer service.

14 Under the Company's proposal, an
15 average monthly bill for a typical residential
16 heating customer using an average of 100 therms
17 per month would increase by about \$19.85, or 13.1
18 percent, as per the Company's published notice.

19 The proposed rate increase is
20 separate from rates for Basic Gas Supply Service,
21 or BGSS, which covers the cost of the natural gas
22 commodity purchased by the Company for its
23 customers.

24 The requested rate increase is also
25 separate from the distribution rate increases that

1 have been proposed by the Company under its
2 Conservation Incentive Program, and to recover the
3 costs of investments under two Board approved
4 infrastructure investment programs, such as the
5 Storm Hardening and Reliability, or SHARP II
6 Program, and the Accelerated Infrastructure
7 Replacement Program, also known AIRP II.

8 The petition seeks other relief,
9 including an increase in the Company's
10 depreciation rates, a mechanism to pass through
11 the costs of federally mandated pipeline safety
12 costs, and recovery of the legal, engineering and
13 other costs incurred to develop a pipeline that
14 was to have provided service to the BL England
15 electric generation facility in Upper Township,
16 Cape May County, which has been canceled because
17 the customer decided not to proceed with the
18 electric generation project. The Company is also
19 seeking to make a number of changes to its Board
20 approved tariff for natural gas service.

21 The Company's petition states that
22 the requested rate increase is needed due to
23 investments the Company has made since the Board
24 last authorized the Company's increase to its base
25 distribution rates in October of 2017.

16

1 The Company states that the proposed
2 rate increase is to allow the Company the
3 opportunity to earn a reasonable return on its in
4 investments and continue to attract capital for
5 future investments.

6 Rate Counsel has a team of attorneys
7 and expert consultants analyzing the Company's
8 petition. We are conducting a complete and
9 thorough investigation of the rate increase and
10 other changes being sought by the Company.

11 We have requested and are receiving
12 detailed information from the Company about their
13 purported needs. However, it is important that
14 you be aware that the ultimate decision regarding
15 all utility matters in New Jersey is made by the
16 Board of Public Utilities.

17 The purpose of this open public
18 hearing is for you, the customer, to voice your
19 opinion, relate your experiences, and offer
20 comments about your Company's rates and service.

21 It is important that you express your
22 views so that they may become part of the record
23 on which the Administrative Law Judge and the
24 Board of Public Utilities makes their decisions.

25 Rate Counsel also needs to hear your

1 views in order to represent your interest in the
2 legal process. We strongly encourage your
3 participation, which will help us evaluate the
4 Company's proposals and prepare for the
5 evidentiary hearings.

6 This hearing is being transcribed and
7 your comments will become part of the record. I
8 would like to reiterate the importance of your
9 participation so that Rate Counsel can have a
10 clear record of your concerns and interests.

11 On behalf of Rate Counsel, thank you
12 for attending this public hearing.

13

14 THE JUDGE: Thank you. Before I
15 suggest that everyone mute their speakers, is
16 there anything we need to add to the record?

17 MR. MALONEY: Before we go off the
18 record, earlier today we sent to your office the
19 proofs of publication distributed to various
20 papers in the Company's service territory. I
21 asked at the 4:30 hearing that it be marked P-1
22 for identification. They were premarked.

23 THE JUDGE: Yes, that was marked into
24 the record earlier as P-1. Thank you. Okay. We
25 can go off the record.

1 (A brief recess is held.)

2 THE JUDGE: So it's 6:25. Hearing
3 there are no members of the public who have joined
4 our hearing, I will adjourn the 5:30 hearing. I
5 want to thank you all for your participation in
6 this matter.

7 (The hearing is adjourned.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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4 I, NANCY AMBROSE, LICENSE NO. 30XI00199300, a

5 Certified Court Reporter of the State of New

6 Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a

7 true and accurate transcript of the testimony as

8 taken stenographically by and before me at the
9 time, place and on the date hereinbefore set
10 forth, to the best of my ability.

11

12 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a relative
13 nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any of
14 the parties to this action, and that I am neither
15 a relative nor employee of such attorney or
16 counsel, and that I am not financially interested
17 in the action.

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NANCY AMBROSE
Certified Court Reporter
of the State of New Jersey

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**THE
PRESS
OF ATLANTIC CITY**
**CERTIFICATION
Proof of Publication**

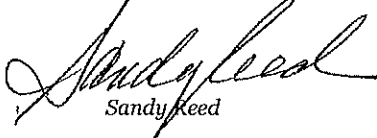
Sandy Reed of lawful age, acting in her capacity as an employee of The Press of Atlantic City, a daily newspaper printed and published c/o 1000 West Washington Avenue, Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232, and distributed in the following counties: Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean and mailed to various parts of the State of New Jersey, the United States, and foreign countries, does hereby certify that the Notice this Certification was published in The Press of Atlantic City on :

Ad# 149255 August 5, 2020

All interested parties may rely upon the representations contained herein limited solely to the authenticity of the Notice accompanying this Certification to be an accurate reproduction of the same and the date upon which it was published.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Date 8/8/2020


Sandy Reed

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED BASE TARIFF RATES AND CHARGES FOR GAS SERVICE, CHANGES TO DEPRECIATION RATES AND OTHER TARIFF REVISIONS

OAL Docket No. PUC 04830-20
BPU Docket No. GR20030243

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on March 13, 2020, South Jersey Gas Company ("South Jersey" or "Company"), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1, N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, and other relevant statutes and regulations, filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for approval of an increase in South Jersey's charges for gas service, changes to depreciation rates, and certain other tariff revisions ("Petition"). On May 15, 2020, the Company filed an update to the Petition and exhibits with the Board. The Company intends to file an additional update to the Petition on August 14, 2020. The Company believes that the increase is necessary for it to continue to provide safe, adequate and proper service to its customers and to prevent the impairment of its financial integrity. Specifically, the Company is requesting an increase in base rate revenues of \$75.7 million, or approximately 13.1% above the adjusted annual level of revenues for the test year period ending June 30, 2020.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual public comment hearings will be conducted on the following days and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Company's filing. Information provided at the public hearings will become part of the record of this case.

Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

1. Call in ONE of these numbers: (646) 558-8656, (312) 626-6799 or (301) 715-8592.
2. Enter the meeting ID of 840 1087 2407#
3. Enter # as second time (in response to the second electronic prompt).
4. Enter the password: 267811#.
5. All callers will then be placed on HOLD until the hearing begins.
6. Please MUTE your telephone. Additional instructions will be given when the hearing starts!

Thank you for your participation!

If you get disconnected, please call back—the lines will stay open for callers for the full hour!

Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

1. Call in ONE of these numbers: (646) 558-8656, (312) 626-6799 or (301) 715-8592.
2. Enter the meeting ID of 821 8966 5549#.
3. Enter # as second time (in response to the second electronic prompt).
4. Enter the password: 284250#.
5. All callers will then be placed on HOLD until the hearing begins.
6. Please MUTE your telephone. Additional instructions will be given when the hearing starts!

Thank you for your participation!

If you get disconnected, please call back—the lines will stay open for callers for the full hour!

The Honorable Tricia M. Calliguire from the Office of Administrative Law will preside over the virtual public hearings. Representatives from the Company, Board Staff, and the Division of Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. Members of the public are invited to participate and express their views regarding the filing by utilizing the above information. Such comments will be made part of the final record and will be taken into consideration by the Board and the Administrative Law Judge.

The Office of Administrative Law and the Board is also accepting written comments. Written comments should be submitted to the Honorable Tricia M. Calliguire, ALJ, The Office of Administrative Law, P.O. Box 49, Trenton, NJ 08625-0049.

Please include the name of the petition and the OAL and BPU docket numbers when submitting comments. The OAL and BPU docket numbers are OAL Docket No. PUC 04830-20 and BPU Docket No. GR20030243. Hearings will continue, if necessary, on such additional dates and at such locations as the Board may designate, to ensure that all interested persons are heard.

In order to encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for special accommodations, including interpreters or listening devices, at least 48 hours prior to this hearing by contacting Deborah M. Franco, at 908-662-8448.

THE COMPANY'S RATE PROPOSAL

The changes set forth in the Company's Petition were proposed to become effective for service rendered on or after April 13, 2020, or at such later date as the Board may determine. Pursuant to an Order issued April 6, 2020, the Board suspended the proposed changes until August 13, 2020. By a subsequent Order issued July 15, 2020, the Board further suspended the proposed changes until December 13, 2020, unless prior to that date the Board makes a determination disposing of the Petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed changes. Based on the Company's total projected operating revenues for the 12 months ending June 30, 2020, the new rates proposed herein would yield additional operating revenues of approximately \$75.7 million or 13.1% (after giving effect to: (1) the roll-in of the Company's Conservation Incentive Program ("CIP") revenues; and (2) the roll-ins to base rates for the Company's Storm Hardening and Reliability Program ("SHARP II") and Accelerated Infrastructure Replacement Program ("AIRP II") to take place on October 1, 2020, outside of this base rate case).

The actual percent increase to specific customers will vary according to the applicable rate schedule and the level of the customer's usage. The rate changes proposed in the Petition will result in a rate increase for a typical residential customer using 100 therms of gas per month of \$19.85 or 13.7%. The typical commercial customer using 500 therms of gas per month would receive a decrease of \$11.25 or 1.8%. Moreover, any rate relief found by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board and applied by the Company to any class or classes of customers or any rate schedule or rate schedules as the Board may determine so that final rates approved by the Board in this proceeding for any specific customer class or rate schedule may be higher or lower than those set forth herein.

The chart below demonstrates the impact of the proposed rates on select customer classes experiencing rate changes to which an allocation of base revenue has been proposed. The chart below compares the rates proposed in the Company's Petition to those that would otherwise be in effect on October 1, 2020, after giving effect to the Company's CIP, SHARP II and AIRP II roll-ins in accordance with the Board Orders approving these programs outside of this base rate case:

Customer Class	Therm Level	Rates		Change	
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SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY
One South Jersey Place
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

State of New Jersey
County of Burlington

} SS.

SOUTH JERSEY GAS CO
ATTN ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
FOLSOM, NJ 08037

6095619000A
0007354777-01


Michael Hughes being duly sworn or affirmed according to law, deposes and says that he/she is the Legal Billing Coordinator of the BURLINGTON TIMES, INC. Publisher of the "Burlington County Times" and that a copy of a notice published in such paper on

August 05, 2020

appears hereto, exactly as published in said newspaper


LEGAL BILLING CO-ORDINATOR

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 4th day of August 2020 A.D.


Kristen Smith
My commission expires on October 30, 2022

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED BASE TARIFF RATES AND CHARGES FOR GAS SERVICE, CHANGES TO DEPRECIATION RATES AND OTHER TARIFF REVISIONS

OAL Docket No. PUC 04830-20
BPU Docket No. GR20030243

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on March 13, 2020, South Jersey Gas Company ("South Jersey" or "Company"), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1, N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, and other relevant statutes and regulations, filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for approval of an increase in South Jersey's charges for gas service, changes to depreciation rates, and certain other tariff revisions ("Petition"). On May 15, 2020, the Company filed an update to the Petition and exhibits with the Board. The Company intends to file an additional update to the Petition on August 14, 2020. The Company believes that the increase is necessary for it to continue to provide safe, adequate and proper service to its customers and to prevent the impairment of its financial integrity. Specifically, the Company is requesting an increase in base rate revenues of \$75.7 million, or approximately 13.1% above the adjusted annual level of revenues for the test year period ending June 30, 2020.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual public comment hearings will be conducted on the following days and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Company's filing. Information provided at the public hearings will become part of the record of this case.

Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

1. Call in ONE of these numbers: (646) 558-8656, (312) 626-6799 or (301) 715-8592.
2. Enter the meeting ID of 840 1087 2407#
3. Enter # as second time (in response to the second electronic prompt).
4. Enter the password: 267811#.
5. All callers will then be placed on HOLD until the hearing begins.
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Thank you for your participation!

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The Office of Administrative Law and the Board is also accepting written comments. Written comments should be submitted to the Honorable Tricia M. Caliguire, ALJ, The Office of Administrative Law, P.O. Box 49, Trenton, NJ 08625-0049

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In order to encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for special accommodations, including interpreters or listening devices, at least 48 hours prior to this hearing by contacting Deborah M. Franco, at 908-662-8448.

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The changes set forth in the Company's Petition were proposed to become effective for service rendered on or after April 13, 2020, or at such later date as the Board may determine. Pursuant to an Order issued April 6, 2020, the Board suspended the proposed changes until August 13, 2020. By a subsequent Order issued July 15, 2020, the Board further suspended the proposed changes until December 13, 2020, unless prior to that date the Board makes a determination disposing of the Petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed changes. Based on the Company's total projected operating revenues for the 12 months ending June 30, 2020, the new rates proposed herein would yield additional operating revenues of approximately \$75.7 million or 13.1% (after giving effect to: (1) the roll-in of the Company's Conservation Incentive Program ("CIP") revenues; and (2) the roll-ins to base rates for the Company's Storm Hardening and Reliability Program ("SHARP II") and Accelerated Infrastructure Replacement Program ("AIRP II") to take place on October 1, 2020, outside of this base rate case).

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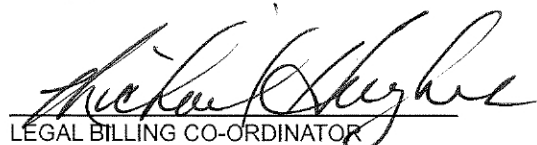
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SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY
One South Jersey Place
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401


Adv. Fee: \$255.30
BCT: August 5, 2020
Aff. Chg.: \$20.00

August 05, 2020

appears hereto, exactly as published in said newspaper


LEGAL BILLING CO-ORDINATOR

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 4th day of August 2020 A.D.


Kristen Smith
My commission expires on October 30, 2022

COURIER-POST

PO Box 677304
Dallas, TX 75267-7304

Agency:

S.JERSEY GAS CO.RATES & REV.
1 S JERSEY PL
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ, 08401

Client:

S.JERSEY GAS CO.RATES & REV.
1 S JERSEY PL,
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ 08401

Acct: CHL-092163

Acct No: CHL-092163

This is not an invoice

Order #	Advertisement/Description	# Col x # Lines	Rate Per Line	Cost
0004307786	GR20030243 NOTICEOFFILINGOFPETITIONOFSOUTHJERSEYGASCOMPANYFORAPPROVALOFINCREASEDBASETARIFFRATESANDCHARGESFORGASSERVICECHANGESTODEPRECIATIONRATES	3 col x 119 lines		\$167.08
		Affidavit of Publication Charge	1	\$30.00
		Tearsheet Charge	0	\$0.00
		Net Total Due:		\$197.08

Run Dates: 08/05/2020

Check #: _____

Date: _____

CERTIFICATION BY RECEIVING AGENCY
I, HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS, CERTIFY AND DECLARE THAT THE GOODS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED OR THE SERVICES RENDERED AND ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SPECIFICATIONS OR OTHER REQUIREMENTS, AND SAID CERTIFICATION IS BASED ON SIGNED DELIVERY SLIPS OR OTHER REASONABLE PROCEDURES OR VERIFIABLE INFORMATION.

SIGNATURE: _____

TITLE: _____ DATE: _____

CERTIFICATION BY APPROVAL OFFICIAL
I CERTIFY AND DECLARE THAT THIS BILL OR INVOICE IS CORRECT, AND THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO SATISFY THIS CLAIM. THE PAYMENT SHALL BE CHARGEABLE TO:

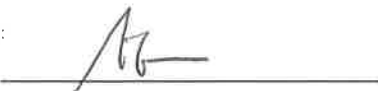
APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT(S) AND AMOUNTS CHARGED: P.O. # _____

SIGNATURE: _____

TITLE: _____ DATE: _____

CLAIMANT'S CERTIFICATION AND DECLARATION:
I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND CERTIFY UNDER THE PENALTIES OF THE LAW THAT THIS BILL OR INVOICE IS CORRECT IN ALL ITS PARTICULARS; THAT THE GOODS HAVE BEEN FURNISHED OR SERVICES HAVE BEEN RENDERED AS STATED HEREIN, THAT NO BONUS HAS BEEN GIVEN OR RECEIVED BY ANY PERSON OR PERSONS WITHIN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS CLAIMANT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE CLAIM; THAT THE AMOUNT HEREIN STATED IS JUSTLY DUE AND OWING; AND THAT THE AMOUNT CHARGED IS A REASONABLE ONE.

Date: 08/07/2020

Signature: 

Federal ID #: 061032273

Official Position: Clerk

Kindly return a copy of this bill with your payment so that we can assure you proper credit.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Publisher's Fee \$167.08 Affidavit \$60.00

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Camden County

Personally appeared Nichola Kenstrom

Of the **Courier Post**, a newspaper printed in Cherry Hill, New Jersey and published in Cherry Hill, in said County and State, and of general circulation in said county, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that the advertisement of which the annexed is a true copy, has been published in the said newspaper 1 times, once in each issue as follows:

08/05/2020 **A.D 2020**

Shelly Hora
Notary Public State of Wisconsin County of Brown

8-25-23
My commission expires

Ad Number: 0004307786

SHELLY HORA
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

Ad Number: 0004307786

Run Dates: 08/05/2020

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED BASE TARIFF RATES AND CHARGES FOR GAS SERVICE, CHANGES TO DEPRECIATION RATES AND OTHER TARIFF REVISIONS

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One South Jersey Place
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

NJ Advance Media
ATTN: Legal Advertising Dept.
161 Bridgeton Pike
Building E
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062



South Jersey Times

SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY
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ATLANTIC CITY, NJ 08401

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Detroit, MI 48277-0571

Page 1 of 4

Date	Position	Description	P.O. Number	Costs
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08/05/2020	Notices NJ		Rate Case Public Notice	
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Ad Size

5 x 18.00 IN

Affidavit Fee - 08/05/2020	\$12.00
Basic Ad Charge - 08/05/2020	\$289.80
Total	\$301.80

CLAIMANTS CERTIFICATION AND DECLARATION	
I do solemnly declare and certify under the penalties of law that this bill or invoice is correct in all its particulars, that the goods have been furnished or services have been rendered as stated herein, that no bonus has been given or received by any person or persons within the knowledge of this claimant in connection with the above claim, that the amount herein stated is justly due and owing, and that the amount charged is a reasonable one.	
Date: <u>8/6/2020</u>	Fed ID#: <u>13-4123607</u>
Signature: <u>Chris Tighe</u>	Official Position: <u>AR Manager</u>
CERTIFICATION BY RECEIVING AGENCY	CERTIFICATION BY APPROVAL OFFICIAL
I, having knowledge of the facts, certify and declare that the goods have been received or the services rendered and are in compliance with the specifications or other requirements, and said certification is based on signed delivery slips or other reasonable procedures or verifiable information.	I certify and declare that this bill or invoice is correct, and that sufficient funds are available to satisfy this claim. The Payment shall be chargeable to:
Signature: _____	Appropriation Account(s) and Amounts Charged: _____ P.O.#: _____
Title: _____ Date: _____	Signature: _____



State of New Jersey,) ss
County of Gloucester)

Jeanette Kryzimalski being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of NJ Advance Media; that South Jersey Times is a public newspaper, with general circulation in Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):

South Jersey Times 08/05/2020

Principal Clerk of the Publisher

LORETTA A. DORAN
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
ID # 50035436
My Commission Expires 4/6/2021

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of August 2020

Notary Public

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED BASE TARIFF RATES AND CHARGES FOR GAS SERVICE, CHANGES TO DEPRECIATION RATES AND OTHER TARIFF REVISIONS

**OAL Docket No. PUC 04830-20
BPU Docket No. GR20030243**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on March 13, 2020, South Jersey Gas Company ("South Jersey" or "Company"), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1, N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, and other relevant statutes and regulations, filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for approval of an increase in South Jersey's charges for gas service, changes to depreciation rates, and certain other tariff revisions ("Petition"). On May 15, 2020, the Company filed an update to the Petition and exhibits with the Board. The Company intends to file an additional update to the Petition on August 14, 2020. The Company believes that the increase is necessary for it to continue to provide safe, adequate and proper service to its customers and to prevent the impairment of its financial integrity. Specifically, the Company is requesting an increase in base rate revenues of \$75.7 million, or approximately 13.1% above the adjusted annual level of revenues for the test year period ending June 30, 2020.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual public comment hearings will be conducted on the following days and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Company's filing. Information provided at the public hearings will become part of the record of this case.

Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

1. Call in ONE of these numbers: (646) 558-8656, (312) 626-6799 or (301) 715-8592.
2. Enter the meeting ID of 840 1087 2407#
3. Enter # as second time (in response to the second electronic prompt).
4. Enter the password: 267811#.
5. All callers will then be placed on HOLD until the hearing begins.
6. Please MUTE your telephone. Additional instructions will be given when the hearing starts!

Thank you for your participation!

If you get disconnected, please call back—the lines will stay open for callers for the full hour!

Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

1. Call in ONE of these numbers: (646) 558-8656, (312) 626-6799 or (301) 715-8592.
2. Enter the meeting ID of 821 8966 5549#.
3. Enter # as second time (in response to the second electronic prompt).
4. Enter the password: 284250#.
5. All callers will then be placed on HOLD until the hearing begins.
6. Please MUTE your telephone. Additional instructions will be given when the hearing starts!

Thank you for your participation!

If you get disconnected, please call back—the lines will stay open for callers for the full hour!

The Honorable Tricia M. Caliguire from the Office of Administrative Law will preside over the virtual public hearings. Representatives from the Company, Board Staff, and the Division of Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. Members of the public are invited to participate and express their views regarding the filing by utilizing the above information. Such comments will be made part of the final record and will be taken into consideration by the Board and the Administrative Law Judge.

The Office of Administrative Law and the Board is also accepting written comments. Written comments should be submitted to the Honorable Tricia M. Caliguire, ALJ, The Office of Administrative Law, P.O. Box 49, Trenton, NJ 08625-0049.

Please include the name of the petition and the OAL and BPU docket numbers when submitting comments. The OAL and BPU docket numbers are OAL Docket No. PUC 04830-20 and BPU Docket No. GR20030243. Hearings will continue, if necessary, on such additional dates and at such locations as the Board may designate, to ensure that all interested persons are heard.

In order to encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for special accommodations, including interpreters or listening devices, at least 48 hours prior to this hearing by contacting Deborah M. Franco, at 908-662-8448.

THE COMPANY'S RATE PROPOSAL

The changes set forth in the Company's Petition were proposed to become effective for service rendered on or after April 13, 2020, or at such later date as the Board may determine. Pursuant to an Order issued April 6, 2020, the Board suspended the proposed changes until August 13, 2020. By a subsequent Order issued July 15, 2020, the Board further suspended the proposed changes until December 13, 2020, unless prior to that date the Board makes a determination disposing of the Petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed changes. Based on the Company's total projected operating revenues for the 12 months ending June 30, 2020, the new rates proposed herein would yield additional operating revenues of approximately \$75.7 million or 13.1% (after giving effect to: (1) the roll-in of the Company's Conservation Incentive Program ("CIP") revenues; and (2) the roll-ins to base rates for the Company's Storm Hardening and Reliability Program ("SHARP II") and Accelerated Infrastructure Replacement Program ("AIRP II") to take place on October 1, 2020, outside of this base rate case).

The actual percent increase to specific customers will vary according to the applicable rate schedule and the level of the customer's usage. The rate changes proposed in the Petition will result in a rate increase for a typical residential customer using 100 therms of gas per month of \$19.85 or 13.7%. The typical commercial customer using 500 therms of gas per month would receive a decrease of \$11.25 or 1.8%. Moreover, any rate relief found by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board and applied by the Company to any class or classes of customers or any rate schedule or rate schedules as the Board may determine so that final rates approved by the Board in this proceeding for any specific customer class or rate schedule may be higher or lower than those set forth herein.

than those set forth herein.

The chart below demonstrates the impact of the proposed rates on select customer classes experiencing rate changes to which an allocation of base revenue has been proposed. The chart below compares the rates proposed in the Company's Petition to those that would otherwise be in effect on October 1, 2020, after giving effect to the Company's CIP, SHARP II and AIRP II roll-ins in accordance with the Board Orders approving these programs outside of this base rate case:

Customer Class	Therm Level	Rates		Change	
		Oct. 1, 2020	Proposed	Amount	Percentage
Residential Heat	100	\$145.11	\$164.96	\$19.85	13.7%
General Service	500	\$638.95	627.70	(\$11.25)	-1.8%

In addition to actual rate changes, the Company is proposing other changes and additions to its Tariff. These changes include changes to the Terms and Conditions regarding extensions of mains and services and the charge in the amount for a turn on charge.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any relief determined by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board to any class or classes of customers of the Company in such manner and, in such amounts or percentages, as the Board may deem appropriate. The Board may choose to impose a greater portion of the increase on any present or future class or classes, group or groups of customers, may exclude from any increase any of the foregoing, or may vary the amount of percentage increase applicable to any of the foregoing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the complete schedules for the proposed rates are part of the Petition filed with the Board, which was served upon the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel. Notice of the filing of the Petition was also served on the clerks of municipalities in the service areas of the Company. Further information and copies of the petition (including all exhibits and testimony) may be found on the South Jersey website at www.southjerseygas.com/About-South-Jersey-Gas/Regulatory-Compliance-Tariff-Information.aspx.

SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY
One South Jersey Place
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401