



Rockland Electric Company

Margaret Comes
Associate Counsel
Law Department

October 2, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Aida Camacho, Secretary
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue
3rd Floor, Suite 314
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

**RE: In the Matter of the Petition of South Jersey Gas Company for approval of
New Energy Efficiency Programs and Associated Cost Recovery Pursuant to
the Clean Energy Act
Docket No. GO20090618**

Dear Secretary Camacho:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Rockland Electric Company (“RECO”) (“Rockland” or “the Company”) is Motion to Participate in the above matter.

Respectfully submitted,


Margaret Comes

Enc.
Email Service List

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY FOR
APPROVAL OF NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND ASSOCIATED
COST RECOVERY PURSUANT TO THE CLEAN ENERGY ACT
BPU DOCKET NO. GO20090618**

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**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY FOR
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BPU DOCKET No. GO20090618**

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**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY FOR
APPROVAL OF NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND ASSOCIATED
COST RECOVERY PURSUANT TO THE CLEAN ENERGY ACT
BPU DOCKET No. GO20090618**

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION
OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL OF NEW ENERGY
EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND
ASSOCIATED COST RECOVERY
PURSUANT TO THE CLEAN
ENERGY ACT.

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NOTICE OF MOTION TO
PARTICIPATE

DOCKET NO. GO20090618

TO: Office of the Secretary
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue 9th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

AND

All Parties on the Attached Service List

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 1:1-16.6*, Rockland Electric Company (“Rockland” or “the Company”) by its undersigned counsel, hereby moves to participate in the above-entitled proceeding.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in support of its Motion to Participate, Rockland submits the annexed Certification of Margaret Comes, Esq. dated October 2, 2020.

Dated: October 2, 2020

Margaret Comes

Margaret Comes, Esq.
Associate Counsel
Rockland Electric Company
4 Irving Place Suite 1815-S
New York, New York 10003
Phone: (212) 460-3013

STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION
OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL OF NEW ENERGY
EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND
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**CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE
DOCKET NO. GO20090618**

I, Margaret Comes, of full age, hereby certify as follows:

1. I am an attorney at law in the State of New Jersey and counsel for Rockland Electric Company (“Rockland” or “the Company”).
2. On this day I caused Rockland’s Motion to Participate and Certification of Margaret Comes, Esq. to be delivered via email to the Office of the Secretary of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.
3. On this day I caused copies of Rockland Motion to Participate and Certification of Margaret Comes, Esq. to be served by electronic mail to the entities on the enclosed Service List.

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

Margaret Comes
Margaret Comes, Esq.

Dated: October 2, 2020

STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION
OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL OF NEW ENERGY
EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND
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**CERTIFICATION IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION
DOCKET NO. GO20090618**

I, Margaret Comes, of full age, do hereby certify as follows:

1. I am Associate Counsel for Rockland Electric Company (“Rockland” or “the Company”), and an attorney admitted in the State of New Jersey. As such, I am familiar with the facts and circumstances concerning this matter, and I make this Certification in support of Rockland’s Motion to Participate.
2. On September 25, 2020 South Jersey Gas Company (“SJG”) filed a petition in the above matter with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“the Board”). In the filing, the SJG seeks approval to implement new energy efficiency programs and associated cost recovery.
3. Rockland is a New Jersey public utility, which maintains its principal office at One Lethbridge Plaza, Suite 32 – 2nd Floor, Route 17 North, Mahwah, New Jersey 07430. Rockland is engaged in the distribution and sale of electric energy for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes within New Jersey in the northern parts of Bergen and Passaic Counties and small areas in the northeastern and northwestern parts of Sussex County. Rockland is one of four investor-owned electric utilities in New Jersey. Rockland serves approximately 72,000 electric customers in New Jersey.
4. *N.J.A.C.* 1:10-16.6(a) sets forth the criteria for participation:

[A]ny person or entity with a significant interest in the outcome of a case may move for permission to participate.

5. *N.J.A.C.* 1:10-16.6(b) sets forth the standards that must be weighted when the Board considers a motion to participate:

In deciding whether to permit participation, the judge shall consider whether the participant's interest is likely to add constructively to the case without causing undue delay or confusion.

6. Rockland is entitled to participate because as one of only four investor-owned electric utilities in New Jersey serving retail customers, it has a significant interest in the above-captioned proceeding, *N.J.A.C.* 1:10-16.6(a), and its interests will add constructively to this proceeding without causing undue delay or confusion. *N.J.A.C.* 1:10-16.6(b). Rockland's significant interest in the outcome of the proceeding is rooted in the fact that substantive policy and/or procedural requirements established in this proceeding can significantly influence, if not have a precedential effect over, the positions taken by parties in, and the outcome of, proceedings involving Rockland. Therefore, it is important that Rockland be permitted participant status in this proceeding, so that it may monitor developments and be apprised of potential policy developments, both substantive and procedural, on these important issues in a timely manner.

7. Rockland's interests in this proceeding, as an investor-owned electric utility serving retail customers, are materially different from the petitioner, which represents its own interests, or the other parties (e.g., Board Staff and the Division of Rate Counsel), who primarily represent consumer interests.

8. Moreover, Rockland's interests will contribute to the development of a complete record for the consideration by the Board without causing any undue delay or confusion because the proceeding has just commenced. *N.J.A.C.* 1:10-16.6(b).

9. At this time, Rockland seeks only participant status and does not foresee expanding that

role. Rockland must, of course, reserve its right to seek full party intervener status if the relevant circumstances underlying this proceeding change, and it can establish that it satisfies regulatory requirements for such a change. Although Rockland seeks participant status, Rockland is aware that certain utilities may seek intervenor status in Rockland's case pending in Docket No. EO20090623. Any Board order approving intervention for a utility in Rockland's case would have to find that, based on the common/overlapping concerns in the June 10 Order, the utility satisfies the standard of being "substantially, specifically, and directly affected by the outcome" of the case. N.J.A.C. 1:1-16.1(a). Of course, if the Board determines that the utility has a sufficient interest to be an intervenor in Rockland's case, then Rockland would have the identical sufficient interest to be an intervenor in its case. *Accordingly, this motion for participant status is provisional, and should be treated as a motion to intervene should the utility that is the subject of the above captioned proceeding be granted intervenor status in Rockland's case.*

10. Rockland requests that all communications, correspondence, orders, and other documentation relating to this proceeding be directed to the following persons:

Margaret Comes, Esq.
Associate Counsel
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4 Irving Place Suite 1815-S
New York, New York 10003
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Fax: (212) 677-5850
Email: comesm@coned.com

With copies to:

Jack Carley, Esq.
Assistant General Counsel
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New York, New York 10003
Phone: (212) 460-2097
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Email: carleyj@coned.com

Rockland also requests that the above attorneys be placed on the official service list compiled for this proceeding.

11. For the foregoing reasons, Rockland requests that the Board or Presiding Office issue an Order: (1) granting it rights as Participant in this matter pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-16.6; (2) to the extent the Presiding Commissioner or Board grants intervenor status to a New Jersey gas or electric utility in Rockland's case in Docket No. EO20090623, granting Rockland Intervenor status in the above-captioned case involving that utility; and (3) providing such further relief in connection therewith as is deemed reasonable, just and consistent with the foregoing.

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

Dated: October 2, 2020

Margaret Comes
Margaret Comes, Esq.