

October 2, 2020

VIA E-MAIL & E-FILING

The Honorable Upendra J. Chivukula
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office 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

BPU Docket No. GO20090618

Dear Commissioner Chivukula,

On behalf of our client, Google, LLC (“Google”), enclosed please find an electronic copy of Google’s Motion to Participate.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



Murray E. Bevan

Enclosure

cc: Service List (via e-mail & e-filing)

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	:	BPU Docket No. GO20090618
PROGRAMS AND ASSOCIATED	:	
COST RECOVERY PURSUANT TO	:	
THE CLEAN ENERGY ACT	:	

MOTION TO PARTICIPATE OF
GOOGLE, LLC

Google, LLC (“Google”) hereby moves before the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”), pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-16.1 *et seq.*, to permit Google to participate in the above-captioned proceeding with all of those rights and obligations typically afforded to a participant in such proceedings. In support of its motion, Google states as follows:

1. On September 25, 2020, South Jersey Gas Company (“SJG”) initiated the above-captioned proceeding by filing a Petition seeking approval of a \$167 million investment to implement new Energy Efficiency Programs (“SJG EEP V Petition”). The Board first authorized SJG to offer EEPs, and to implement the existing cost recovery mechanism, the Energy Efficiency Tracker (“EET”), in July 2009. Since that time, South Jersey has made multiple filings seeking approval to implement EEPs that complement and supplement the offerings of the New Jersey Clean Energy Program, encourage customers to reduce their overall energy usage and create jobs.

The EEP V programs proposed in this SJG petition are designed to achieve targeted annual energy savings for the first three program years commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024.

2. Google is a multinational technology company and developer of the Nest Learning Thermostat and the Nest Thermostat E, two of the leading smart home thermostats available in the United States. Nest thermostats incorporate numerous features which help consumers reduce their energy consumption for heating and cooling and the Nest Learning Thermostat was the very first thermostat to be certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under its Energy Star Smart Thermostat designation.¹

3. In addition to being able to save consumers on their heating and cooling consumption, Nest thermostats are also used by utilities across the country for demand response on hot summer afternoons through the Nest Rush Hour Rewards program. Customers participating in Rush Hour Rewards agree to let their household temperature rise a few degrees on selected days when the utility is concerned about system reliability in return for a payment or bill credit to the customer. Overall, dozens of gas and electric utilities across North America provide financial incentives to their customers for smart thermostats in order to meet their energy efficiency and demand response goals.

4. The SJG EEP V Petition proposes an Efficient Products program that includes smart thermostat rebates.

¹ https://www.energystar.gov/productfinder/product/certified-connected-thermostats/results?scrollTo=3255&search_text=&ct_device_brand_name_isopen=&brand_name_isopen=&markets_filter=United+States&zip_code_filter=&product_types=Select+a+Product+Category&sort_by=brand_name&sort_direction=asc¤tZipCode=20147&page_number=1&lastpage=0

5. The SJG EEP V Petition also proposes an Existing Homes - Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (“HPwES”) program that would include, among other things, a home energy audit and smart thermostat incentives.

6. Furthermore, the SJG EEP V petition includes an Existing Homes - Moderate-Income Weatherization subprogram that would provide an opportunity for low to moderate income customers to receive energy efficiency measures and upgrades at no additional cost. This program would include a home energy audit, during which customers would benefit from the installation of smart thermostats and other low-cost EE measures at no additional cost, in addition to behavioral suggestions to improve efficiency of the home and a review of thermostat and water heating setpoints.

7. A Residential Demand Response pilot program is also proposed in the SJG EEP V Petition. This pilot will be used to test different technologies, smart thermostat vendors, and incentive offerings for a formal DLC program offering. The pilot program will include incentives for the installation of Wi-Fi enabled smart thermostats.

8. N.J.A.C. 1:1-16.6(a) provides the standard for participation in a proceeding before this Board. The party seeking to participate must show that it has a significant interest in the outcome of the case. In granting a motion to intervene, the Board must consider whether the participant’s interest is likely to add constructively to the case without causing undue delay or confusion. *See* N.J.A.C. 1:1-16.6(b).

9. Google has a significant interest in the outcome of this proceeding. As a leading developer of smart technology, including Nest smart thermostats, the programs proposed by SJG will likely involve deployment of Google products and services. Google already participates in

energy efficiency programs (involving smart thermostat rebates) with SJG as well as NJNG and PSE&G, and believes that the programs proposed by SJG in its EEP V Petition will enlarge this opportunity and bring further benefits to New Jersey residents and businesses.

10. Second, Google’s participation will add constructively to this case. Google will participate in discussions with the parties in this matter to explain how its technology can assist SJG and the state in reaching its energy efficiency goals.

11. Third, intervention by Google will not cause confusion or delay the conclusion of this proceeding. Google is filing a motion to participate pursuant to the terms of the Board’s Order. Google’s participation will clarify certain issues and contribute to the development of a complete record based on its unique, significant interests. Moreover, Google will not seek to delay the proceeding in any manner.

12. Finally, Google was a participant in I/M/O the Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company for Approval of Its Clean Energy Future - Energy Efficiency (“CEF-EE”) Program on a Regulated Basis, BPU Docket Nos. GO18101112 and EO10121113, based on reasons similar to those stated above.

13. The Certification of Vince Faherty is attached hereto certifying that the facts and statements herein are true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief.

14. All communications and correspondence concerning this proceeding should be directed to:

Murray E. Bevan, Esq.
Jennifer McCave, Esq.
Bevan, Mosca & Giuditta P.C.
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Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

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Fax: (908) 753-8301
Email: mbevan@bmg.law
jmccave@bmg.law

In addition to the foregoing, Google submits that fundamental fairness and due process require that the Board grant its Motion to Participate in the above captioned matter and to grant such further relief as it deems is just, reasonable and proper.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-16.1 et seq., Google respectfully requests that it be permitted to participate in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,



Murray E. Bevan, Esq.
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Attorneys for Google, LLC

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 : BPU Docket No. GO20090618
PROGRAMS AND ASSOCIATED :
COST RECOVERY PURSUANT TO :
THE CLEAN ENERGY ACT :

CERTIFICATION OF VINCE FAHERTY

Vince Faherty, of full age and upon my oath, deposes and says:

1. I am Vince Faherty, Head of Energy Marketplace Partners and Industry Partnerships at Google, LLC.
2. I am authorized to make this statement on behalf of Google, LLC.
3. I have received the attached Motion to Participate and certify that the facts set forth therein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Vince Faherty

Dated: October 2, 2020

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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to R. 1:4-4(c), I am an attorney-at-law duly admitted to practice in the State of New Jersey. I certify that Vince Faherty has acknowledged that the signature on the electronic transmission is his signature. I further certify that the original document bearing the original signature will be filed if requested by the Board or any party to this proceeding.



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Dated: October 2, 2020

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COST RECOVERY PURSUANT TO :
THE CLEAN ENERGY ACT :

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I certify that on this 2nd day of October, 2020, I caused Google, LLC's Motion to Participate to be served by electronic mail upon the following individuals:

The Honorable Upendra Chivukula
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I further certify that I caused the aforementioned documents to be served upon the following individuals by electronic mail:

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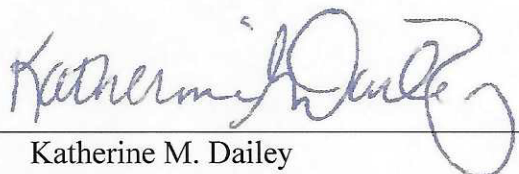
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Dated: October 2, 2020