



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 09816-2021

AGENCY DKT. NO. GR 21060876

**I/M/O THE PETITION OF ELIZABETHTOWN GAS
COMPANY TO (1) REVISE ITS PERIODIC BASIC
GAS SUPPLY SERVICE RATES**

Deborah Franco, Esq., Vice President Rates, Regulatory & Sustainability, for
petitioner

Terel Klein, Esq. Deputy Attorney General, for the Staff of the New Jersey Board of
Public Utilities (**Matthew J. Platkin**, Acting Attorney General of New Jersey,
attorney)

Maura Caroselli, Esq. Managing Attorney Gas and Clean Energy and **Kurt S.
Lewandowski**, Esq, Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel, for the Division of Rate
Counsel, (**Brian O. Lipman, Esq.**, for the Division of Ratepayer Advocate)

Record Closed: March 9, 2022

Decided: March 16, 2022

BEFORE **IRENE JONES**, ALJ:

On June 1, 2021 petitioner, Elizabethtown Gas Company (“Company” or “Petitioner”) filed a verified petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) seeking to revise its Periodic Basic Gas Supply Service (“BGSS-P”) for the period October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. On August 10, 2021, the company amended the petition with no change to the requested rate. In the petition, the Company proposed to increase its current BGSS-P rate of \$0.3783 per therm to therm to \$0.4367 per therm. Telephonic public hearings on the proposed rate changes were held on August 25, 2021, at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

While the matter was pending, the company received a refund from one of its suppliers that resulted in a reduction in the proposed BGSSS-P rate from \$0.4367 per therm to \$0.44254 per therm. On November 17, 2021, the Board approved an interim stipulation between the parties that allowed the petitioner to implement its proposed rates on a provisional basis, subject to refund. By Order dated November 17, 2021, the Board granted the four (4) New Jersey Gas Distribution Utilities’ (“GDCs”) request for a waiver of a timing requirement and authorized the GDCs to provide notice of self-implementing 5% rate increases, effective December 1, 2021, as permitted under the Board’s January 2003 BGSS Order

Pursuant to the terms of the January 2003 BGSS Order, on November 18, 2021, Elizabethtown submitted a notice of intent to self-implement a BGSS-P rate adjustment based upon a 5% increase of the monthly bill of a typical residential customer using 100 therms, effective December 1, 2021 (“Notice”). The 5% self-implementing increase, effective December 1, 2021, resulted in a BGSS-P rate of \$0.4798 per therm. As a result, a typical residential customer using 100 therms on a monthly basis would see an increase of \$5.44, or 5.0%.

As a result of the provisional rates and the aforementioned adjustments the parties have agreed to an overall settlement and have filed a Stipulation of Settlement on March 9, 2022, with the undersigned. The final rates are set forth in detail in the attached Stipulation of Settlement which is incorporated herein.

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

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

March 16, 2022
DATE

Receipt Acknowledged:


IRENE JONES, ALJ

March 16, 2022
DATE

E-Mailed to Parties:

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

March 16, 2022
DATE

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW