



August 9, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Carmen Diaz, Acting Secretary
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

RE: In the Matter of the Petition of New Jersey Natural Gas Company for Approval
of a Base Rate Adjustment Pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment Program
BPU Docket No. GR22040247

Dear Acting Secretary Diaz:

On behalf of New Jersey Natural Gas Company (“NJNG” or “the Company”),
attached please find the following documents in reference to the Virtual Public
Hearings in the above-captioned matter.

- Notice of Public Hearings
- Notice of Public Hearings to County and Municipal Clerks
- Affidavit and Proofs of Publication of the Notice of Public Hearings
in Asbury Park Press and Daily Record newspapers

In accordance with the Order issued by the Board in connection with I/M/O the
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities’ Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic for a
Temporary Waiver of Requirements for Certain Non-Essential Obligations, BPU
Docket No. EO20030254, Order dated March 19, 2020, this document is being
electronically filed. No paper copies will follow.

Please feel free to contact me at adembia@njng.com if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew K. Dembia'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Andrew K. Dembia
Regulatory Affairs Counsel

AKD:sf

Encl.
c: Service List

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL OF A BASE RATE ADJUSTMENT PURSUANT TO THE
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM
DOCKET NO. GR22040247**

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NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY
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INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM
DOCKET NO. GR22040247**

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– DIVISION OF LAW

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NOTICE TO NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY CUSTOMERS

In the Matter of the Petition of New Jersey Natural Gas Company for Approval of a Base Rate Adjustment Pursuant to the IIP Program

DOCKET NO. GR22040247

NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**TO OUR CUSTOMERS:**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on March 31, 2022, New Jersey Natural Gas Company (“NJNG”, or the “Company”) filed a petition and supporting documentation with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”, or “BPU”) seeking Board approval for base rate changes to provide for cost recovery associated with the Company’s Infrastructure Investment Program (“IIP”).

On October 28, 2020, the Board issued an Order in Docket No GR19020278 (“October 2020 Order”) approving the IIP. The October 2020 Order provided approval for NJNG to invest up to \$150 million, excluding Allowance for Funds Used During Construction (“AFUDC”), to be recovered through base rate adjustments in order to undertake twenty-two infrastructure projects as well as installing excess flow valves and regulator protectors aimed at making the Company’s distribution system more safe, reliable and resilient.

The IIP projects consist of 15 reliability and resilience projects, four replacement and reinforcement projects, one regulator station reconstruction project, two trunk line replacement projects, 8,000 excess flow valves and 47,500 regulator protector vents.

The Company’s rate filing includes a request for recovery in base rates of the actual costs associated with the IIP projects through June 30, 2022, consisting of prudently-incurred capital expenditures, including actual costs of engineering, design and construction, cost of removal (net of salvage), property acquisition, actual labor, materials overheads and capitalized AFUDC.

At this time, the Company is requesting BPU approval to adjust base rates effective October 1, 2022 to recover approximately \$28.9 million of IIP investment costs made through June 30, 2022, resulting in a base rate increase of approximately \$3.16 million. If the proposed rates are approved by the Board, the impact to the typical residential heating customer using 100 therms in a month is an increase of \$0.49, or 0.4 percent.

The impact of the Company’s filing, requested to be effective on October 1, 2022, or as of the date of the Final Board Order in this proceeding, on a typical residential customer (both heat and non-heat), a typical general service small customer and a typical general service large customer on a monthly basis is estimated to be as follows based on the usage levels shown below:

Customer Type	Therm Level	Total Bill		Increase	
		Bill as of July 1, 2022	Proposed Bill	Amount	Percent
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$136.21	\$136.70	\$0.49	0.4%
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$39.81	\$39.93	\$0.12	0.3%
General Service – Small	100	\$159.11	\$159.71	\$0.60	0.4%
General Service – Large	1200	\$2,118.44	\$2,123.60	\$5.16	0.2%

The Board has the statutory authority to approve the requested changes to base rates at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish the new rates at levels other than those proposed by NJNG.

PLEASE TAKE ADDITIONAL NOTICE that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, virtual public hearings will be conducted on the following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Company’s filing at the virtual public hearing as noted below:

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

Date: August 15, 2022

Public Hearing 1: 4:30 pm

Public Hearing 2: 5:30 pm

Location: Zoom Virtual Webinar

Join: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=VUJpK1V0aDYxZDIIZUIwaEiOWDFRZz09>

Meeting ID: 245 813 6397

Passcode: 819208

Dial-In Number: +1 646 876 9923

Copies of NJNG’s March 31, 2022 filing can be reviewed on the Company’s website, www.njng.com/regulatory in the “Filings & Updates” subsection of the “Regulatory Info”.

Representatives of the Company, Board Staff, and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. Members of the public are invited to participate by utilizing the link or dial-in information set forth above, and may express their views on the March 31, 2022 filing. All comments will be made part of the final record of the proceeding to be considered by the Board. In order to encourage full participation in these opportunities for public comment, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters and/or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearings to the Board Secretary at boardsecretary@bpu.nj.gov

The Board is also accepting written and/or electronic comments. While all comments will be given equal consideration and will be made part of the final record of this proceeding, the preferred method of transmittal is via the Board’s Public Document Search tool <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/>. Search for the docket number listed above, and post by utilizing the “Post Comments” button. Emailed comments may also be filed with the Secretary of the Board, in pdf or Word format, to boardsecretary@bpu.nj.gov

Written comments may be submitted to the Acting Board Secretary, Carmen D. Diaz, at the Board of Public Utilities, 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor, P.O. Box 350, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350. All emailed or mailed comments should include the name of the petition and the docket number.

All comments are considered “public documents” for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act. Commenters may identify information that they seek to keep confidential by submitting them in accordance with the confidentiality procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3.



July 27, 2022

Via Electronic Mail

To: The Office of the County Clerk, Municipal Clerk and County Administrator

**Re: In the Matter of the Petition of New Jersey Natural Gas Company for Approval of a Base Rate Adjustment Pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment Program
BPU Docket No. GR22040247**

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-2-21 and 48:2-21.1, New Jersey Natural Gas Company (the “Company” or “NJNG”) hereby advises you that on March 31, 2022 the Company filed a request with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for approval of a base rate adjustment pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment Program. A complete copy of the Company’s filing is available for review on NJNG’s website at www.njng.com.

Please be further advised that the Company hereby serves upon you the attached Notice of Public Hearing in the above referenced matter. The virtual public hearings are scheduled for August 15, 2022 at 4:30 P.M. and 5:30 P.M. with the following Log-In instructions.

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Join by holding down control button and clicking on below link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=VUJpK1V0aDYxZDIiZUIwaElOWDFRZz09>

Meeting ID: 245 813 6397

Dial-In Phone Number: 1-646-876-9923

Access Code: 819208

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew K. Dembia'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.
Regulatory Affairs Counsel

AKD:sf
Attachments

Proof of Insertion

Name of Publication: Asbury Park Press, Daily Record

City, State: Neptune, NJ

Client/Advertiser: NJ Natural Gas

Date(s) of Insertion: Wednesday, July 20th, 2022

Docket No: GR22040247 "Notice to New Jersey Gas Company Customers.... In the Matter of the Petition of the New Jersey Natural Gas Company for Approval of a Base Rate Adjustment Pursuant to the IIP Program."

Size:

- APP: 1/2 Page Ad (B&W) (4.94"x21")
- Daily Record: ½ Page AD (B&W) (4.94" x20")

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

Melanie Altz
Signature

7/27/22
Date

Melanie Altz
Name (Please Print)



NOTICE TO NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY CUSTOMERS

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New Jersey Natural Gas Company
Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.



General Motors CEO Mary Barra said she’s confident GM can unseat Tesla with higher-priced specialty vehicles, and it will beat Elon Musk to high-range electric vehicles at prices that people can afford. JULIA NIKHINSON/AP

GM’s Barra talks electric vehicles, company’s future

Tom Krisher
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – The economy is a bit wobbly, but General Motors CEO Mary Barra isn’t backing off of an audacious prediction: By the middle of this decade, her company will sell more electric vehicles in the U.S. than Tesla, the global sales leader.

To fulfill that pledge in as little as 2½ years, she faces long odds against economic forces that are working against auto sales. Inflation has spiked, interest rates are rising, material costs have soared and a global shortage of computer chips is still braking assembly lines at GM and other companies.

But in an interview with The Associated Press, Barra said she’s confident GM can unseat Tesla with higher-priced specialty vehicles, and it will beat Elon Musk to high-range EVs at prices that people can afford.

Last year GM sold just 25,000 electric vehicles in the U.S., less than one-tenth of the estimated 352,000 sold by Tesla. Although EV sales are rising dramatically, they’re still only about 5% of the U.S. new vehicle market, with many Americans still reluctant to change.

“To really get to 30, 40, 50% EVs being sold, you have to appeal to people that are in that \$30,000 to \$35,000 price range,” Barra said.

Already the company has pledged to cut the starting price of the Chevrolet Bolt small SUV to about \$26,000 later this year. GM is planning to roll out a Chevy Equinox small SUV with 300 miles of range for around \$30,000 in fall 2023. And on Monday night in California, it was expected to unveil a larger (and more expensive) Chevy Blazer SUV that goes on sale next summer.

They’ll join a couple of gargantuan Hummer EVs, an upcoming electric Silverado pickup and a Cadillac luxury SUV in taking on Tesla. And Barra said there’s more to come on the way to offering 30 battery-powered vehicles globally by 2025. “What we have coming, it’s in the heart of the market,” she said, without giving details.

The mainstream vehicle is something Tesla has yet to master. The Model 3 sedan, its lowest-priced vehicle, starts at close to \$60,000.

Barra is hoping to keep prices relatively low, banking on chemistry breakthroughs to cut battery costs, offsetting huge price increases for lithium and other key elements that make batteries work.

Part of the strategy is convincing buyers that an electric vehicle can meet all their transportation needs. Many EV owners, she said, also have a gas-powered auto for longer trips.

That’s why the company announced a partnership to place 2,000 charging stations at up to 500 Pilot Travel centers, spaced 50 miles apart along interstate travel corridors. “If the only vehicle you own is going to be an EV, you have to feel confident of charging,” Barra said.

GM has a goal of making only electric passenger vehicles by 2035.

The switch to EVs would be monumental on its own for GM, a company that has made a living largely on the internal combustion engine for more than 113 years.

But Barra also has to manage the finances, keeping the profits flowing from gasoline vehicles to pay for battery development – even though GM currently can’t run its factories flat-out due to the chip shortage. And at some point, money from gas vehicles will decline, so the EVs have to be profitable almost from the start.

Also, auto prices have risen to an average of around \$45,000, boosting carmakers’ bottom lines but pushing new vehicles out of reach of the middle class. Economists are predicting the Federal Reserve could add up to a full

point to interest rates, raising the cost of auto loans. And there’s talk about the U.S. heading back into recession.

“It’s pretty volatile right now,” Barra conceded. “We’re looking at many different scenarios as any prudent business leader would to make sure we’re ready for whatever, however the situation evolves.”

She said she expects parts and chip shortages will last into next year, with coronavirus outbreaks continuing to crimp the flow.

To deal with the semiconductor shortage, GM is throwing out its old model of letting parts supply companies acquire the chips with GM knowing little about them. Instead, by 2025, it will move toward three families of chips that Barra said the company will buy and control itself. They will be able to do multiple tasks, eliminating the need for dozens of chips in every vehicle.

That standardization will give GM the scale to buy in bulk and make sure supplies don’t get interrupted in the future, Barra said: “We’re also working with a select group of strategic companies to source these for the volumes. We’ll have much better control and a stable supply.”

Barra said new car prices are skewed right now because automakers are allocating scarce chips to higher-margin vehicles, and prices should come down as more chips become available.

Still, she knows affordability will be a problem. With that in mind, she said GM offers the Chevrolet Trail Blazer starting at just below \$20,000. The company also is linking used vehicle buyers to dealer inventories nationwide. And GM’s Cruise autonomous vehicle unit is starting a driverless ride-hailing service in San Francisco that will spread to more cities, offering another affordable transportation mode, she said.

GM exited Europe in 2017 by selling its Opel brand after years of losses, but Barra said plans are being formed to re-enter the huge market with electric vehicles. “All I can tell you is I think it’s a huge growth opportunity for the company, and we’re excited to be back,” Barra said.

She has no plans to change GM’s joint venture in China with state-owned automaker SAIC, even though Beijing has stopped requiring that foreign automakers enter such partnerships with Chinese companies. But Barra said there may be a chance for GM to bring in iconic and luxury vehicles.

GM’s transition to EVs comes amid growing calls for corporations to take stands on political and social issues such as race relations and abortion. Yet opportunities for missteps are many as companies like GM walk a fine line of doing so without alienating sectors of a customer base that spans the political spectrum.

Most electric vehicles, for instance, are sold on the coasts, where people tend to have more liberal views. But most of GM’s income comes from pickup and SUV sales in the country’s more conservative midsection.

Regarding abortion, Barra said she didn’t want to speak broadly about the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade.

“We’re going to continue with that practice, really not a lot of change in what we’re doing from what we’ve done in the past, other than we will make sure we comply with all state laws,” she said.

Throughout her career, Barra, who was GM’s product planning chief before becoming CEO in January 2014, has had to make difficult decisions. To manage the complexities of her job, she’ll need to draw on that experience.

“I’m an engineer, so I’m a problem solver,” she said.

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BOOK NOW

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The Company's rate filing includes a request for recovery in base rates of the actual costs associated with the IIP projects through June 30, 2022, consisting of prudently-incurred capital expenditures, including actual costs of engineering, design and construction, cost of removal (net of salvage), property acquisition, actual labor, materials overheads and capitalized AFUDC.

At this time, the Company is requesting BPU approval to adjust base rates effective October 1, 2022 to recover approximately \$28.9 million of IIP investment costs made through June 30, 2022, resulting in a base rate increase of approximately \$3.16 million. If the proposed rates are approved by the Board, the impact to the typical residential heating customer using 100 therms in a month is an increase of \$0.49, or 0.4 percent.

The impact of the Company's filing, requested to be effective on October 1, 2022, or as of the date of the Final Board Order in this proceeding, on a typical residential customer (both heat and non-heat), a typical general service small customer and a typical general service large customer on a monthly basis is estimated to be as follows based on the usage levels shown below:

Customer Type	Therm Level	Total Bill		Increase	
		Bill as of July 1, 2022	Proposed Bill	Amount	Percent
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$136.21	\$136.70	\$0.49	0.4%
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$39.81	\$39.93	\$0.12	0.3%
General Service – Small	100	\$159.11	\$159.71	\$0.60	0.4%
General Service – Large	1200	\$2,118.44	\$2,123.60	\$5.16	0.2%

The Board has the statutory authority to approve the requested changes to base rates at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish the new rates at levels other than those proposed by NJNG.

PLEASE TAKE ADDITIONAL NOTICE that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, virtual public hearings will be conducted on the following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Company's filing at the virtual public hearing as noted below:

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS
Date: August 15, 2022

Public Hearing 1: 4:30 pm
Public Hearing 2: 5:30 pm

Location: Zoom Virtual Webinar
Join: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=VUJpK1V0aDYxZDIIZUIwaEiOWDFRZz09>
Meeting ID: 245 813 6397
Passcode: 819208
Dial-In Number: +1 646 876 9923

Copies of NJNG's March 31, 2022 filing can be reviewed on the Company's website, www.njng.com/regulatory in the "Filings & Updates" subsection of the "Regulatory Info".

Representatives of the Company, Board Staff, and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. Members of the public are invited to participate by utilizing the link or dial-in information set forth above, and may express their views on the March 31, 2022 filing. All comments will be made part of the final record of the proceeding to be considered by the Board. In order to encourage full participation in these opportunities for public comment, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters and/or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearings to the Board Secretary at boardsecretary@bpu.nj.gov

The Board is also accepting written and/or electronic comments. While all comments will be given equal consideration and will be made part of the final record of this proceeding, the preferred method of transmittal is via the Board's Public Document Search tool <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/>. Search for the docket number listed above, and post by utilizing the "Post Comments" button. Emailed comments may also be filed with the Secretary of the Board, in pdf or Word format, to boardsecretary@bpu.nj.gov

Written comments may be submitted to the Acting Board Secretary, Carmen D. Diaz, at the Board of Public Utilities, 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor, P.O. Box 350, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350. All emailed or mailed comments should include the name of the petitioner and the docket number.

All comments are considered "public documents" for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Commenters may identify information that they seek to keep confidential by submitting them in accordance with the confidentiality procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3.

New Jersey Natural Gas Company
Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.