



August 8, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Sherril L. Golden, 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 the Annual Review and Revision of its Basic Gas Supply Service (BGSS) and its Conservation Incentive Program (CIP) Rates for F/Y 2024
BPU Docket No. GR23060348

Dear Secretary Golden:

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

**NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY ANNUAL REVIEW AND REVISION
OF ITS BASIC GAS SUPPLY SERVICE (BGSS) AND
CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CIP) RATES FOR F/Y 2024
DOCKET NO. GR23060348**

SERVICE LIST

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**NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY ANNUAL REVIEW AND REVISION
OF ITS BASIC GAS SUPPLY SERVICE (BGSS) AND
CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CIP) RATES FOR F/Y 2024
DOCKET NO. GR23060348**

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August 1, 2023

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 the Annual Review and Revision of its Basic Gas Supply Service (BGSS) and its Conservation Incentive Program (CIP) Rates for F/Y 2024
BPU Docket No. GR23060348

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 June 1, 2022 the Company filed a request with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for cost recovery associated with Energy Efficiency programs. 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 Hearings in the above referenced matter. The virtual public hearings are scheduled for August 23, 2023 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'.

Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.
Regulatory Affairs Counsel

AKD:sf
Attachments

NOTICE TO NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR THE ANNUAL REVIEW AND REVISION OF ITS BASIC GAS SUPPLY SERVICE (BGSS) AND ITS CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CIP) RATES FOR F/Y 2024

Docket No. GR23060348

NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

TO OUR CUSTOMERS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 1, 2023, New Jersey Natural Gas (“NJNG” or “Company”) filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”) which constituted its 2023–2024 Basic Gas Supply Service (“BGSS”) and Conservation Incentive Program (“CIP”) rate filing pursuant to an Order issued by the Board on January 6, 2003, Docket No. GX01050304 (“Generic BGSS Order”), and Orders related to CIP issued by the Board in Docket No. GR05121020 dated December 12, 2006 and January 21, 2010, and in Docket No. GR13030185 dated May 21, 2014 (“Petition”). The BGSS Charge includes actual and projected natural gas commodity, storage, and interstate transportation costs. The CIP Charge provides for a rate adjustment related to changes in average use per customer when compared to a pre-established baseline value. In the Board’s November 17, 2021 Order in BPU Docket No. GR21030679, the Board authorized NJNG to adjust its Balancing Charge, which is based on winter gas usage, in the annual BGSS filing to reflect updated costs.

In the petition, NJNG requested to decrease its BGSS rate for residential and small commercial sales customers and adjust its CIP rates effective October 1, 2023. Additionally, NJNG requested to decrease its Balancing Charge effective October 1, 2023. The impact of the rate changes for a residential heating customer using an average of 100 therms per month would be a decrease of \$7.75 per month, or 5.1 percent as a result of the proposed BGSS rate, a decrease of \$1.14 per month, or 0.8 percent as a result of the proposed Balancing Charge rate, and an increase of \$4.73 per month, or 3.1 percent as a result of the proposed CIP rate. The combined impact of these rate changes would result in an overall decrease of approximately \$4.16 or 2.8 percent per month on a 100 therm residential bill. All Balancing Charge revenues from sales and transportation customers are credited to BGSS recoveries.

The effect of the Company’s request for the rate adjustments, to be effective October 1, 2023, on natural gas bills for the applicable customer classes is estimated to be as follows:

		Total Monthly Bill		Monthly Bill Impact				% Impact			
Customer Type	Therm Level	Bill as of May 2023	Proposed Bill as of October 1, 2023	BGSS	Balancing Charge	CIP	Net Increase/(Decrease)	BGSS	Balancing Charge	CIP	Net Increase/(Decrease)
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$151.18	\$147.02	(\$7.75)	(\$1.14)	\$4.73	(\$4.16)	(5.1%)	(0.8%)	3.1%	(2.8%)
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$45.16	\$43.70	(\$1.93)	(\$0.28)	\$0.75	(\$1.46)	(4.3%)	(0.6%)	1.7%	(3.2%)
General Service – Small	100	\$171.61	\$166.97	(\$7.75)	(\$1.14)	\$4.25	(\$4.64)	(4.5%)	(0.7%)	2.5%	(2.7%)
General Service - Large	1200	\$1,636.16	\$1,665.68	\$13.68	(\$13.68)	\$29.52	\$29.52	0.8%	(0.8%)	1.8%	1.8%

The General Service - Large (“GSL”) sales customers are not affected by the proposed BGSS request because they are subject to Monthly BGSS rates tied to monthly market pricing for their natural gas supply. GSL sales customers’ overall bills are also not affected by the proposed Balancing Charge because their Monthly BGSS rates are net of the Balancing Charge and the Balancing Charge is included in their Delivery Charge, offsetting each other. The GSL BGSS increase and Balancing Charge decrease shown above reflect the proposed Balancing Charge change in both rates resulting in no impact.

Further changes in NJNG’s rate for BGSS service may occur if NJNG elects to adjust its BGSS rates upward by filing timely notice with the Board and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (“Rate Counsel”) pursuant to the Generic BGSS Order. Any such self-implementing increase is limited to a maximum of five (5) percent of the total residential bill effective December 1, 2023, and to a maximum of five (5) percent of the total residential bill, effective February 1, 2024. Further, these self-implementing increases would be provisional and subject to true-up in connection with the next annual BGSS filing. Pursuant to the Generic BGSS Order, NJNG is permitted to decrease its BGSS rate at any time upon five (5) days’ notice and the filing of supporting documentation with the Board and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (“Rate Counsel”).

If both of the above mentioned self-implementing increases were put into place as of the requested effective dates, the effect on typical Residential and General Service - Small natural gas bills are estimated to be as follows:

Customer Type	Monthly Therm Level	Total Monthly Bill		Increase	
		Bill as of October 1, 2023	Proposed Bill Including December and February BGSS 5 Percent Increases	Amount	Percent
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$147.02	\$162.09	\$15.07	10.3%
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$43.70	\$47.46	\$3.76	8.6%
General Service – Small	100	\$166.97	\$182.04	\$15.07	9.0%

The Board has the statutory authority pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 to establish the BGSS, CIP and Balancing Charge rates at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish the BGSS, CIP and Balancing Charge rates at levels other than those proposed by NJNG. As a result, the described charges may increase or decrease based upon the Board’s decision. NJNG’s natural gas costs addressed in the petition remain subject to audit by the Board, and Board approval shall not preclude or prohibit the Board from taking any such actions deemed appropriate as a result of any such audit.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER 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.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

Date: August 23, 2023
Hearing Times 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm

LOCATION

Zoom Virtual Webinar
Join: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=VUJpK1V0aDYxZDIlZUIwaEIOWDFRZz09>
Meeting ID: 245 813 6397
Passcode: 819208
Dial-In Number: +1 646 876 9923

Representatives of the Company, Board’s Staff and Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings.

Members of the public are invited to participate by utilizing Meeting ID or the Dial-In Number set forth above and may express their views on this Petition. 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 this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters, or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearing to the Board Secretary at board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

The Board is also accepting written and electronic comments. Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket listed above using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board’s e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board. Please include “Confidential Information” in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board’s webpage. <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

Emailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:

Sherri L. Golden, Secretary of the Board
44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor
PO Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Phone: 609-913-6241
board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

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

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 26, 2023

Docket No. EX00020091

NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION 12 OF THE ELECTRIC DISCOUNT AND ENERGY COMPETITION ACT OF 1999

Docket No. ER23060409

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY 2023/2024 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE FILING FOR THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND PROGRAM FACTOR WITHIN THE SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE RATE

Size:

- APP: ½ Page Ad (B&W) (4.91" x 20")
- Daily Record: ½ Page Ad (B&W) (4.91" x 20")

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

Christina M Langley

Signature

7/27/23

Date

Christina M Langley

Name (Please Print)



NOTICE TO NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS

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Emailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:

Sherri L. Golden, Secretary of the Board
 44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor
 PO Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
 Phone: 609-913-6241 board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

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

DeSantis in car accident in Tenn. but ‘uninjured’

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis was in a multicar accident on Tuesday as he traveled in a motorcade to campaign events in Tennessee for his 2024 presidential bid but was uninjured.

Traffic slowed down and caused four cars in the motorcade to hit each other, Chattanooga, Tennessee, police told WTVC-TV. One staff member suffered a minor injury, police said.

The Republican White House hopeful and his team “are uninjured,” campaign press secretary Bryan Griffin told The Associated Press.

Representatives for DeSantis’ campaign did not answer questions about who was driving the governor or reveal details about the accident. DeSantis was continuing on to his event, spokesman Andrew Romeo said. A spokesman for the Florida governor’s office deferred questions about the accident to the campaign.

DeSantis was scheduled to hold events throughout central and eastern Tennessee, where he has been focusing a lot of attention in his recent campaigning. Earlier this month, he addressed more than 1,800 attendees at a state GOP dinner in Nashville.

The Florida governor, who has trailed front-runner Donald Trump in the GOP presidential contest, was expected to be at a fundraiser at a private home in Chattanooga on Tuesday. Hosts for the fundraiser were to pay \$10,000 per couple for the event, while co-hosts were paying \$5,000 and other attendees were paying \$2,000 each, according to the Chattanooga Times Free Press.

DeSantis was expected to attend additional fundraisers on Tuesday in Knoxville and Franklin.

The Republican candidate has been attending a string of fundraisers lately as his campaign has faced some surprising financial pressures. He was in Utah over the weekend holding fundraisers and in New York last week for an event in the Hamptons.

Just two months after entering the race, DeSantis already has been cutting staff while facing new questions about his aggressive spending, his media strategy and his apparent willingness



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is campaigning to be the Republican nominee for president, was expected to be at a fundraiser at a private home in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Tuesday. CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP FILE

to brawl with any and all foes except for Trump, the one person he must defeat to claim the GOP’s 2024 presidential nomination.

“The DeSantis campaign is recalibrating. It’s clear it needs to,” said Republican strategist Terry Sullivan, who managed Marco Rubio’s 2016 presidential campaign. “But at the end of the day, they’re still better positioned than any other challenger to Donald Trump, times 10.”

DeSantis’ team has quietly expressed confidence for months that voters would eventually tire of Trump’s escalating legal troubles and personal baggage. But that same baggage, playing out in the U.S. legal system just as the GOP primary intensifies, is leaving precious little oxygen for his rivals to break through. And Trump’s standing with Republican primary voters seems to be growing stronger with every new legal challenge.

Still, DeSantis’ team has raised a stunning \$150 million for his presidential ambitions so far. The vast majority, \$130 million, has gone to a super PAC run by allies who cannot legally coordinate with the campaign.

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MADE IN THE U.S.A.

**NOTICE TO NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR THE ANNUAL REVIEW AND REVISION OF ITS BASIC GAS SUPPLY SERVICE (BGSS) AND ITS CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CIP) RATES FOR F/Y 2024
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TO OUR CUSTOMERS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 1, 2023, New Jersey Natural Gas (“NJNG” or “Company”) filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”) which constituted its 2023–2024 Basic Gas Supply Service (“BGSS”) and Conservation Incentive Program (“CIP”) rate filing pursuant to an Order issued by the Board on January 6, 2003, Docket No. GX01050304 (“Generic BGSS Order”), and Orders related to CIP issued by the Board in Docket No. GR05121020 dated December 12, 2006 and January 21, 2010, and in Docket No. GR13030185 dated May 21, 2014 (“Petition”). The BGSS Charge includes actual and projected natural gas commodity, storage, and interstate transportation costs. The CIP Charge provides for a rate adjustment related to changes in average use per customer when compared to a pre-established baseline value. In the Board’s November 17, 2021 Order in BPU Docket No. GR21030679, the Board authorized NJNG to adjust its Balancing Charge, which is based on winter gas usage, in the annual BGSS filing to reflect updated costs.

In the petition, NJNG requested to decrease its BGSS rate for residential and small commercial sales customers and adjust its CIP rates effective October 1, 2023. Additionally, NJNG requested to decrease its Balancing Charge effective October 1, 2023. The impact of the rate changes for a residential heating customer using an average of 100 therms per month would be a decrease of \$7.75 per month, or 5.1 percent as a result of the proposed BGSS rate, a decrease of \$1.14 per month, or 0.8 percent as a result of the proposed Balancing Charge rate, and an increase of \$4.73 per month, or 3.1 percent as a result of the proposed CIP rate. The combined impact of these rate changes would result in an overall decrease of approximately \$4.16 or 2.8 percent per month on a 100 therm residential bill. All Balancing Charge revenues from sales and transportation customers are credited to BGSS recoveries.

The effect of the Company’s request for the rate adjustments, to be effective October 1, 2023, on natural gas bills for the applicable customer classes is estimated to be as follows:

Customer Type	Therm Level	Total Monthly Bill		Monthly Bill Impact				% Impact			
		Bill as of May 1, 2023	Proposed Bill as of October 1, 2023	BGSS	Balancing Charge	CIP	Net Increase/(Decrease)	BGSS	Balancing Charge	CIP	Net Increase/(Decrease)
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$151.18	\$147.02	(\$7.75)	(\$1.14)	\$4.73	(\$4.16)	(5.1%)	(0.8%)	3.1%	(2.8%)
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$45.16	\$43.70	(\$1.93)	(\$0.28)	\$0.75	(\$1.46)	(4.3%)	(0.6%)	1.7%	(3.2%)
General Service – Small	100	\$171.61	\$166.97	(\$7.75)	(\$1.14)	\$4.25	(\$4.64)	(4.5%)	(0.7%)	2.5%	(2.7%)
General Service - Large	1200	\$1,636.16	\$1,665.68	\$13.68	(\$13.68)	\$29.52	\$29.52	0.8%	(0.8%)	1.8%	1.8%

The General Service - Large (“GSL”) sales customers are not affected by the proposed BGSS request because they are subject to Monthly BGSS rates tied to monthly market pricing for their natural gas supply. GSL sales customers’ overall bills are also not affected by the proposed Balancing Charge because their Monthly BGSS rates are net of the Balancing Charge and the Balancing Charge is included in their Delivery Charge, offsetting each other. The GSL BGSS increase and Balancing Charge decrease shown above reflect the proposed Balancing Charge change in both rates resulting in no impact.

Further changes in NJNG’s rate for BGSS service may occur if NJNG elects to adjust its BGSS rates upward by filing timely notice with the Board and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (“Rate Counsel”) pursuant to the Generic BGSS Order. Any such self-implementing increase is limited to a maximum of five (5) percent of the total residential bill effective December 1, 2023, and to a maximum of five (5) percent of the total residential bill, effective February 1, 2024. Further, these self-implementing increases would be provisional and subject to true-up in connection with the next annual BGSS filing. Pursuant to the Generic BGSS Order, NJNG is permitted to decrease its BGSS rate at any time upon five (5) days’ notice and the filing of supporting documentation with the Board and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (“Rate Counsel”).

If both of the above mentioned self-implementing increases were put into place as of the requested effective dates, the effect on typical Residential and General Service - Small natural gas bills are estimated to be as follows:

Customer Type	Monthly Therm Level	Total Monthly Bill		Increase	
		Bill as of October 1, 2023	Proposed Bill Including December and February BGSS 5 Percent Increases	Amount	Percent
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$147.02	\$162.09	\$15.07	10.3%
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$43.70	\$47.46	\$3.76	8.6%
General Service – Small	100	\$166.97	\$182.04	\$15.07	9.0%

The Board has the statutory authority pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 to establish the BGSS, CIP and Balancing Charge rates at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish the BGSS, CIP and Balancing Charge rates at levels other than those proposed by NJNG. As a result, the described charges may increase or decrease based upon the Board’s decision. NJNG’s natural gas costs addressed in the petition remain subject to audit by the Board, and Board approval shall not preclude or prohibit the Board from taking any such actions deemed appropriate as a result of any such audit.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER 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.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

Date: August 23, 2023
Hearing Times 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm

LOCATION

Zoom Virtual Webinar
Join: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=VUJpK1V0aDYxZDIlZUlwIOWDFRZz09>
Meeting ID: 245 813 6397
Passcode: 819208
Dial-In Number: +1 646 876 9923

Representatives of the Company, Board’s Staff and Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings.

Members of the public are invited to participate by utilizing Meeting ID or the Dial-In Number set forth above and may express their views on this Petition. 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 this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters, or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearing to the Board Secretary at board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

The Board is also accepting written and electronic comments. Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket listed above using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board’s e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board. Please include “Confidential Information” in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board’s webpage. <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

Emailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:

Sherri L. Golden, Secretary of the Board
44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor
PO Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Phone: 609-913-6241
board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

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

**NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY
NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION 12 OF THE ELECTRIC DISCOUNT AND ENERGY COMPETITION ACT OF 1999
BPU DOCKET NO. EX00020091**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY 2023/2024 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE FILING FOR THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND PROGRAM FACTOR WITHIN THE SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE RATE
BPU DOCKET NO. ER23060409**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49, et seq., the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) program was established by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (the “Board”), to provide funds to assist qualifying low-income individuals in paying their energy bills. Pursuant to Orders of the Board dated April 30, 2003, July 16, 2003, and June 22, 2005, the State’s electric and gas public utilities’ Societal Benefits Charge (“SBC”) includes recovery of funding for the USF program through uniform statewide rates. The SBC also includes funding for the Lifeline Program, which provides assistance with heating costs to qualifying elderly and disabled persons and incorporates funds for the Work First New Jersey program.

The State of New Jersey’s Department of Community Affairs is the Administrator of the USF Program, and the New Jersey Department of Human Services is the Administrator of the Lifeline programs and authorizes the disbursement of benefits to eligible customers in the respective programs.

New Jersey Natural Gas Company (“NJNG” or the “Company”) made a compliance filing with the Board on June 28, 2023, requesting authority to implement an increase related to the statewide USF/Lifeline program charge, as described below, to be effective on October 1, 2023. The current after-tax USF/Lifeline program charge for natural gas customers is \$0.0166 per therm. The USF component is increasing by \$0.0004 per therm and the Lifeline component is increasing by \$0.0007 per therm. The proposed after-tax USF/Lifeline program charge will increase to \$0.0177 to recover approximately \$49.5 million for the statewide natural gas USF program and \$26.8 million for the Lifeline program. The above request will not result in any profit to the Company. The revenues received under the proposed USF charge are designed to recover only costs for the USF and Lifeline programs and are remitted to the State by the Company. Actual program costs will be reconciled with the revenues received through the USF program charge in the next annual filing scheduled to be made no later than July 1, 2024. Copies of NJNG’s June 28, 2023 filing can be reviewed on the Company’s website, www.njng.com/regulatory in the “Filings & Updates” subsection of the “Regulatory Info.”

The proposed statewide charges for natural gas customers are as follows:

Universal Service/Lifeline Fund Components of Societal Benefits Charge				
	Present	Present (Incl. Sales and Use Tax)	Proposed	Proposed (Incl. Sales and Use Tax)
USF- per therm	\$0.0104	\$0.0111	\$0.0108	\$0.0115
Lifeline- per therm	\$0.0052	\$0.0055	\$0.0058	\$0.0062
Total USF/Lifeline	\$0.0156	\$0.0166	\$0.0166	\$0.0177

If approved by the Board, the impact of the proposed changes in the USF/Lifeline Charge on typical natural gas bills is illustrated below:

Customer Type	Therm Level	Rates		Increase	
		Bill as of June 1, 2023	Proposed Bill as of October 1, 2023	Amount	Percent
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$151.18	\$151.29	\$0.11	0.07%
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$45.16	\$45.19	\$0.03	0.07%
General Service Small	100	\$171.61	\$171.72	\$0.11	0.06%
General Service Large	1200	\$1,593.44	\$1,594.76	\$1.32	0.08%

Based on this Filing, a typical residential heat natural gas customer using 100 therms per month would see an increase in their monthly bill from \$151.18 to \$151.29, or \$0.11 or approximately 0.07 percent.

The Board has the statutory authority to establish the USF and Lifeline charges at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish the USF and Lifeline charges at levels other than those proposed by NJNG.

A copy of the Filing can be viewed on the Company’s website at www.njng.com/regulatory.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, virtual public hearings will be held on following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Filing:

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: August 23, 2023 HEARING TIMES: 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. LOCATION: Zoom Virtual Webinar Join: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=VUJpK1V0aDYxZDIlZUlwIOWDFRZz09 -or- Dial-In: +1 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 245 813 6397 Passcode: 819208
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Representatives of the Company, Board’s Staff and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. Members of the public may use the Zoom Link or Dial-In Number and Conference ID to express their views on this matter. All comments will be part of the final record of the proceeding and will be considered by the Board. To encourage full participation in this opportunity 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 board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

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Secretary of the Board
Sherri L. Golden,
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New Jersey Natural Gas Company
Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.