



December 29, 2022

***VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL***

Honorable Carmen Diaz, 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 Societal Benefits Charge Factors for  
Remediation Year 2022  
BPU Docket No. GR22090574

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 Hearing
- Notice of Public Hearing to County and Municipal Clerks
- Affidavit and Proof of Publication of the Notice of Public Hearings in Daily Record and Asbury Park Press 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](mailto: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 THE ANNUAL REVIEW AND REVISION OF  
SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE (SBC) FACTORS  
FOR REMEDIATION YEAR 2022  
DOCKET NO. GR22090574**

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DOCKET NO. GR22090574**

**SERVICE LIST**

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R.J. Hughes Justice Complex  
25 Market Street  
P.O. Box 112  
Trenton, N.J. 08625

# NOTICE TO NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY CUSTOMERS

## NOTICE OF IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR THE ANNUAL REVIEW AND REVISION OF SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE FACTORS FOR REMEDIATION YEAR 2022 AND PUBLIC HEARING BPU DOCKET NO.GR22090574

### TO OUR CUSTOMERS:

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that on September 13, 2022, New Jersey Natural Gas Company (“NJNG” or the “Company”) filed its annual Societal Benefits Charge (“SBC”) petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) for a price adjustment for all applicable service customers. Pursuant to its filing, NJNG requested that the Board permit NJNG to increase its overall SBC rate which would include an increase to the Remediation Adjustment (“RA”) and increase to the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (“NJCEP”) factors effective April 1, 2023.

The RA rate provides recovery of actual costs incurred by NJNG for the clean-up of former manufactured gas plant sites. The NJCEP rate is designed to recover costs incurred for NJNG’s share of statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy expenditures.

If approved, the impact will result in an overall increase of approximately \$0.88 per month or approximately 0.56 percent for a typical residential heating customer using 100 therms per month. The above-referenced proposal will not result in any profit for NJNG.

If approved by the Board, the impact of the proposed changes to the RA and NJCEP factors on typical natural gas bills is illustrated below:

Customer-Type	Therm Level (Usage)	Total Bill		Net Dollar Increase	Percent Increase
		Monthly Bill as of October 1, 2022	Proposed Monthly Bill as of April 1, 2023		
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$156.94	\$157.82	\$0.88	0.56%
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$46.60	\$46.82	\$0.22	0.47%
General Service Small	100	\$177.37	\$178.25	\$0.88	0.50%
General Service Large	1200	\$2,008.40	\$2,018.96	\$10.56	0.53%

The Board has the statutory authority to establish the RA and NJCEP factors at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish the RA and NJCEP factors at levels other than those proposed by NJNG. NJNG’s SBC costs addressed in this petition will 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 ADDITIONAL NOTICE** that 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: January 23, 2023

Public Hearing 1: 4:30 p.m.

Public Hearing 2: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Virtual Webinar

Join: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=VUJpK1V0aDYxZDlIZUIwaElOWDFRZz09>

Meeting ID: 245 813 6397

Passcode: 819208

Dial-In Number: +1 646 876 9923

Members of the public may present their views on the petition during the virtual public hearings by dialing the toll-free telephone number, followed by entering the listed passcode when prompted, or by joining the Zoom Virtual Webinar.

Representatives of the Board’s Staff and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. 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 and/or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearings to the Acting Board Secretary at [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov).

Copies of NJNG’s September 13, 2022 filing can be reviewed on the Company’s website, [www.njng.com/regulatory](http://www.njng.com/regulatory) in the “Filings & Updates” subsection of the “Regulatory Info.”

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. Search for the docket number listed above, and post by utilizing the “Post Comments” button. Emailed comments may also be filed with the Acting Secretary of the Board, in pdf or Word format, to [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@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.

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



December 19, 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 The Annual Review and Revision of Societal Benefits Charge Factors for Remediation Year 2021, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and 48:2-21.1; BPU Docket No. GR22090574

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 September 30, 2021 the Company filed a request with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for an increase in its Societal Benefit Charge rates. A complete copy of the Company’s filing is available for review on NJNG’s website at [www.njng.com](http://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 January 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,



Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.  
Regulatory Affairs Counsel

AKD: sf

Attachments

# NOTICE TO NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY CUSTOMERS

## NOTICE OF IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR THE ANNUAL REVIEW AND REVISION OF SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE FACTORS FOR REMEDIATION YEAR 2022 AND PUBLIC HEARING BPU DOCKET NO.GR22090574

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The RA rate provides recovery of actual costs incurred by NJNG for the clean-up of former manufactured gas plant sites. The NJCEP rate is designed to recover costs incurred for NJNG’s share of statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy expenditures.

If approved, the impact will result in an overall increase of approximately \$0.88 per month or approximately 0.56 percent for a typical residential heating customer using 100 therms per month. The above-referenced proposal will not result in any profit for NJNG.

If approved by the Board, the impact of the proposed changes to the RA and NJCEP factors on typical natural gas bills is illustrated below:

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

# 2 COVID deaths reported in Beijing as virus surges

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING – China’s health authorities on Monday announced two COVID-19 deaths – the country’s first reported fatalities in weeks – amid an expected surge of illnesses after it eased its strict “zero-COVID” approach.

Unofficial reports point to a widespread wave of new cases, and relatives of victims and people who work in the funeral business said deaths tied to COVID-19 were increasing. Those people spoke on condition of not being identified for fear of retribution.

Before Monday’s two reported deaths – both in Beijing – China had not reported a death from COVID-19 since Dec. 4.

With those fatalities, the National Health Commission raised China’s total to 5,237 deaths from COVID-19 in the past three years, out of 380,453 cases of illness. Those numbers are much lower than in other major countries but also are based on statistics and information-gathering methods that have come into question.

Chinese health authorities count only those who died directly from COVID-19, excluding people whose underlying conditions such as diabetes and heart disease were worsened by the virus.

In many other countries, guidelines stipulate that any death where the coronavirus is a factor or contributor is counted as a COVID-19-related death.

China had long hailed its restrictive “zero-COVID” approach as keeping case numbers and deaths relatively low, comparing itself favorably to the U.S., where the death toll has topped 1.1 million.

Yet the policy of lockdowns, travel restrictions, mandatory testing and quarantines placed China’s society and the national economy under enormous stress, apparently persuading the ruling Communist Party to heed outside advice and alter its strategy.

The easing began in November and accelerated after Beijing and several other cities saw protests over the restrictions that grew into calls for Presi-



Passengers travel by ferry Monday to the Kowloon side of Hong Kong, the northern portion on the Chinese mainland. China’s easing of COVID restrictions began in November.

PHILIP FONG/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

dent Xi Jinping and the Communist Party to step down.

On Dec. 14, the government said it would stop reporting asymptomatic COVID-19 cases since they’ve become impossible to track with mass testing no longer required.

The lack of data has made it more difficult to grasp the scale of the outbreak or its direction. However, a major drop in economic activity and anecdotal evidence of the virus’s spread point to a growing caseload, while health experts have projected a possible major wave of new infections and a spike in deaths over the next month or two.

China is trying to persuade reluctant seniors and others at risk to get vaccinated, apparently with only moderate success. The other major concern is shoring up health resources in smaller cities and the vast rural hinterland ahead of January’s Lunar New Year travel rush, which will see migrant workers returning to their hometowns.

Numbers of fever clinics have been expanded in both urban and rural areas, and people have been asked to stay home unless seriously ill to preserve resources. Hospitals are also running short on staff, and reports say workers have been asked to return to their posts as long if not feverish.

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The RA rate provides recovery of actual costs incurred by NJNG for the clean-up of former manufactured gas plant sites. The NJCEP rate is designed to recover costs incurred for NJNG’s share of statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy expenditures.

If approved, the impact will result in an overall increase of approximately \$0.88 per month or approximately 0.56 percent for a typical residential heating customer using 100 therms per month. The above-referenced proposal will not result in any profit for NJNG.

If approved by the Board, the impact of the proposed changes to the RA and NJCEP factors on typical natural gas bills is illustrated below:

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

AP-USE0014057-02

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**Item #935307**

# Amtrak trains unveiled for 2026 East Coast routes

Colleen Wilson

NorthJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

Some people get a Corvette during a midlife crisis. Amtrak is getting new trains.

The public-private train company unveiled the more sustainable, spacious and upgraded train sets at a Thursday press conference in Moynihan Train Hall in Manhattan. The 83 new trains, which will replace 40- and 50-year-old fleets, will debut on 14 routes, including the Northeast Regional, Empire Service, Pennsylvania and Ethan Allen Express, in 2026.

"As we invest in the future, Amtrak is leading the way with a new era of rail," said Amtrak President Roger Harris. "Our new trains will transform the Amtrak experience with significant environmental benefits, a progressive design and world-class amenities."

These new trains, which are being purchased from California-based Siemens for \$7.3 billion, will not go considerably faster than the current ones, maxing out at 125 mph. Also, some speed limitations are contingent on signals and crossings, the older and less reliable of which require locomotive engineers to slow down.

The new Acela trains, which were supposed to hit the rails in spring 2021, are delayed until fall 2023 because of production issues and rigorous testing requirements for the higher-speed trains, which will reach 160 mph, according to The Washington Post.

New trains, which will be welcome additions for passengers returning to travel and as Amtrak sees growing numbers of new customers post-pandemic, should help improve service. But better service, especially on its most popular Northeast Corridor, will also require Amtrak to address its backlog of 115 capital projects that will cost \$117 billion, including the more than \$30 billion in Gateway projects that affect service into New York Penn Station.

Other routes that will benefit from the new trains in 2026 are: Virginia Services, Keystone Service, Downeaster, Cascades, Maple Leaf, New Haven/Springfield, Palmetto, Carolinian, Vermonter and Adirondack.

Here are the details of some of the state routes:

## Northeast Regional

Multiple trips along the Northeast Corridor with stops in Boston; Providence; Springfield; Massachusetts; Hartford; New York; Newark, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. It continues through the following stops in Virginia: Roanoke, Richmond, Norfolk, Newport News and Virginia Beach.

## Empire Service

Travels between New York City, Albany, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

## Adirondack

This line offers service from New York City through the Hudson Valley and Albany to Montreal.

## Ethan Allen Express

Daily service from New York City to Vermont through the Hudson Valley and Albany.

## Keystone

"Frequent" daily service between New York City and Harrisburg by way of Philadelphia.

## Pennsylvanian

Daily service between New York City and Pittsburgh, with stops in Trenton, Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

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General Service Small	100	\$ 177.37	\$ 178.25	\$ 0.88	0.50%
General Service Large	1200	\$ 2,008.40	\$ 2,018.96	\$ 10.56	0.53%

The Board has the statutory authority to establish the RA and NJCEP factors at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish the RA and NJCEP factors at levels other than those proposed by NJNG. NJNG's SBC costs addressed in this petition will 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 ADDITIONAL NOTICE** that 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: January 23, 2023

Public Hearing 1: 4:30 p.m. Public Hearing 2: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Virtual Webinar

Join: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=VUJpK1V0aDYxZDlIZUIwaEJOWDFRZz09>

Meeting ID: 245 813 6397

Passcode: 819208

Dial-In Number: +1 646 876 9923

Members of the public may present their views on the petition during the virtual public hearings by dialing the toll-free telephone number, followed by entering the listed passcode when prompted, or by joining the Zoom Virtual Webinar.

Representatives of the Board's Staff and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. 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 and/or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearings to the Acting Board Secretary at [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov).

Copies of NJNG's September 13, 2022 filing can be reviewed on the Company's website, [www.njng.com/regulatory](http://www.njng.com/regulatory) in the "Filings & Updates" subsection of the "Regulatory Info."

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. Search for the docket number listed above, and post by utilizing the "Post Comments" button. Emailed comments may also be filed with the Acting Secretary of the Board, in pdf or Word format, to [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@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.

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

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**City, State:** Neptune, NJ

**Client/Advertiser:** NJ Natural Gas

**Date(s) of Insertion:** Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Docket No:** GR22090574 "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."

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