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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 21, 2024

In the Matter of Public Service Electric and Gas Company's 2023/2024 Annual BGSS Commodity Charge Filing for its Residential Gas Customers Under its Periodic Pricing Mechanism and for Changes in its Balancing Charge

> BPU Docket No. GR23060331 OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 11816-2023

Sherri Golden, Secretary New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Dear Secretary Golden:

Enclosed for filing by Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("Company"), please find an electronic copy of Judge Jones' Initial Decision approving the Company's BGSS Stipulation in the captioned matter.

Consistent with the Order issued by the Board in connection with *In the Matter of 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 with the Office of Administrative Law, the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel. No paper copies will follow.

Very truly yours,

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Matthew M. Weissman

Encl.

C Service List (Electronic)



INITIAL DECISION
SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT NO. PUC 11816-2023 AGENCY DKT. NO. GR23060331

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY'S 2023/2024 ANNUAL BGSS COMMODITY CHARGE FILING FOR ITS RESIDENTIAL GAS CUSTOMERS UNDER ITS PERIODIC PRICING MECHANISM AND FOR CHANGES IN ITS BALANCING CHARGE.

Matthew Weissman, Esq., Special Counsel, State Regulatory, for petitioner, Public Service Electric and Gas Company

Maura Caroselli, Esq. (Managing Attorney), Sarah H. Steindel, Esq. (Assistant Deputy Ratepayer Counsel) Esq., Megan Lupo, Esq. (Assistant Deputy Ratepayer Counsel), Mamie W. Purnell, Esq. (Assistant Deputy Ratepayer Counsel), and Brian O. Lipman, Esq. (Director) for the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

Matko Ilic, Esq. Deputy Attorney General, for the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Matthew J. Platkin, Attorney General of New Jersey)

Record Closed: March 12, 2024 Decided: March 20, 2024

BEFORE: **IRENE JONES**, ALJ (Ret., on recall):

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On June 1, 2023, petitioner, Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "petitioner") filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities ("BPU") seeking an approval to decrease the current Basic Gas Supply Service ("BGSS") Commodity Charge and to decrease its Balancing Charge through September 30, 2024. Petitioner proposed to 1) Decrease the per therm BGSS Commodity Charge to residential customers from \$0.471718 (including Sales and Use Tax ("SUT") to \$0.397497 (including losses and SUT); 2) To decrease its Balancing Charge, which recovers the cost of providing storage and peaking services, from \$0.100691 per balancing use therm (including losses and SUT) to \$0.097914 per balancing use therm; and 3) Modification of it tariff for Gas Services, B.P.U.N.J. No. 16 Gas, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and 48:2-21.1, as set forth in the Company's filing.

The proposed changes, if approved, would decrease a customer's monthly bill by \$7.65 or 6.84% for a typical residential gas heating customer using 100 therms per month during the winter season, and 610 therms on an annual basis. A residential customer using 172 therms per month during the winter months would see an annual decrease of approximately \$13.17 or 7.07%, based on rates effective 1, 2022.

On September 5, 2023, virtual public hearings were held at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. wherein members of the public were given an opportunity to speak. Subsequently, the parties met and agreed to an interim provisional increase. Specifically, the parties agreed to a provisional decrease and executed a Stipulation of Settlement on September 14, 2023. By order dated September 27, 2023, the Board approved the Stipulation of Settlement for the provisional BGSS rate decrease.

On November 1, 2023, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for determination as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 to 13. A prehearing conference was held on November 28, 2023.

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 11816-23

On March 12, 2024, the petitioner filed a Stipulation of Settlement with the undersigned. The stipulation of settlement keeps current and final the BGSS-RSG rate

and the Balancing Charge rate which have been in effect since October 1, 2023.

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 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 20, 2024

DATE

IRENE JONES, ALJ (Ret., on recall)

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Date Received at Agency:

March 20, 2024

Date Mailed to Parties:

March 20, 2024

Isr