



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

PREHEARING ORDER

OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 00926-24

AGENCY REF. NO. ER23120924

and GR23120925

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN ELECTRIC AND GAS RATES AND FOR CHANGES IN THE TARIFFS FOR ELECTRIC AND GAS SERVICE, B.P.U.N.J. NO. 17 ELECTRIC AND B.P.U.N.J. NO. 17 GAS, AND FOR CHANGES IN DEPRECIATION RATES, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 AND N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1, AND FOR APPROPRIATE RELIEF.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-13.1 et seq., a Zoom prehearing conference was held in the above-entitled matter on February 12, 2024, and the following procedures were settled:

1. **NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS AND ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED:**

A. **Nature of proceeding:**

Petitioner seeks an increase in base rates and a change in its depreciation rates and other changes in its tariffs.

B. **Issue(s) to be resolved:**

Whether the proposed increase is just and reasonable.

2. PARTIES AND THEIR DESIGNATED ATTORNEYS OR REPRESENTATIVES:

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3. SPECIAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AS TO NOTICE OF HEARING:

Zoom public hearings on the proposed increase will be held at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on an undetermined date in April/May 2024. Prior to the date of the hearings, petitioner shall cause to be published a notice of the public hearings in a newspaper of general circulation in its franchise area in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and 48:2-32.6.

4. SCHEDULED HEARING DATES, TIME AND PLACE:

Evidentiary hearings will be held on **September 18, 2024 – September 20, 2024, September 23, 2024 - September 27, 2024, September 30, 2024, and October 1, 2024 – October 2, 2024.**

5. STIPULATIONS:

None at this time.

6. SETTLEMENT:

The parties are urged to vigorously pursue settlement discussions.

7. AMENDMENTS TO PLEADINGS:

None at this time.

8. DISCOVERY AND DATES FOR COMPLETION:

The parties have agreed to a procedural schedule which is attached hereto and incorporated herein. The parties shall adhere, to the extent possible, to the schedule.

9. ORDER OF PROOFS:

The burden of proof is on the petitioner who shall proceed first in the order of proofs unless the parties agree otherwise.

10. EXHIBITS MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION:

The petitioner has pre-filed the direct testimony of its witnesses, as set forth in paragraph 12. The exhibits have been pre-marked.

11. EXHIBITS MARKED IN EVIDENCE:

None at this time.

12. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF FACT AND EXPERT WITNESSES:

The Company has filed the pre-filed testimony of **11** witnesses:

Michael McFadden: Overall financial policy and revenue requirements

Michael Schmid and Ricardo Fonseca: Operations, capital expenditures and O & M expenses

Clifford Pardo: Tax expense, deferred income taxes, consolidated taxes

Ann Bulkey: Return on equity, capital structure and financial environment

Michael Adams: Company's financial and operational performance, lead lag study, cash working capital

John Spanos: Depreciation

Stephen Swetz: Cost of service, rate design and tariffs

Ahmad Faruqui: Time of use rates

Karen Reif: CEF-EV implementation

David Johnson: Advanced metering infrastructure and CEF-EC

Rate Counsel will present the following witnesses:

Ralph Smith

David Petersen

J. Randall Woolridge

David Dismukes

Maximilian Chang

James Garren

Susan Baldwin

Terry Myers

Eric Borden

Mitch Serrota

13. MOTIONS:

Motions for Participant status were filed by Atlantic City Electric Company ("ACE") South Jersey Gas Company and Elizabethtown Gas Company ("SJG-ETG"), New Jersey Natural Gas Company ("NJNG"), Jersey Central Power and Light Company ("JCP&L") and National Railroad Passenger Corporation ("AMTRAK").

Petitioner does not oppose the motions for participant status and thus the motions are hereby **GRANTED**.

Motions for Intervention were filed by New Jersey Large Energy Users Coalition ("NJLEUC"), Walmart, Commercial Metals Corporation, Electrify America, LLC and NRG Energy, Inc., et al.

Petitioner opposes granting intervenor status to all but NJLEUC. Since this motion is unopposed intervenor status is hereby granted to NJLEUC. Opposed motions will be addressed in a separate order.

14. OTHER SPECIAL MATTERS:

See Paragraphs 3 and 8. All exhibits that will be marked into evidence shall be on three-hole punched paper.

This order may be reviewed by the **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** either upon interlocutory review pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.10 or at the end of the contested case pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-18.6.

March 6, 2024

DATE

lsr



IRENE JONES, ALJ

(Ret., on recall)

PSE&G Base Rate Proceeding 2023-2024

Proposed Procedural Schedule	
December 29, 2023	Petition filing date
February 2024	Discovery commences*
February 12, 2024	Pre-hearing conference
Seven (7) days from date of Prehearing Order	Deadline for all motions to intervene/participate
March 1, 2024	Initial discovery requests to PSE&G
March 18, 2024	Initial PSE&G discovery responses
April 15, 2024	PSE&G to provide 9+3 update
Week of April 15, 2024	Discovery/settlement conference(s)
April 26, 2024	Follow-up discovery requests to PSE&G
April/May 2024	Virtual public hearings (4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.)
May 13, 2024	All discovery responses and updates due from PSE&G
Week of May 20, 2024	Settlement conference(s)
Week of May 27, 2024	Settlement conference(s) (if needed)
Week of June 3, 2024	Settlement conference(s) (if needed)
July 15, 2024	PSE&G to provide 12+0 update
July 19, 2024	Rate Counsel/ Intervenor Direct Testimony
Week of July 22, 2024	Settlement conference(s) (if needed)
July 26, 2024	Deadline for discovery on Rate Counsel/ Intervenor Direct Testimony
Week of July 29, 2024	Settlement conference(s) (if needed)
August 9, 2024	Responses to discovery on Rate Counsel/ Intervenor Direct Testimony
Week of August 12, 2024	Settlement conference(s) (if needed)
August 16, 2024	PSE&G Rebuttal Testimony
Week of August 19, 2024	Settlement conference(s) (if needed)
August 23, 2024	Discovery on rebuttal testimony
September 10, 2024	Response to rebuttal
September 18-20; 23-27, 30 and October 1-2, 2024	Evidentiary hearings with live Rate Counsel/Intervenor surrebuttal
TBD	Settlement Conference(s) (if needed)
TBD	Initial briefs
TBD	Reply briefs
TBD	Initial Decision
TBD	Exceptions
TBD	BPU final decision

* The parties agree that discovery is ongoing and will endeavor to answer all discovery requests within fifteen days of service or earlier if possible.