

Chairman, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Post Office Box 350

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Subject: Support for Elizabethtown Gas Company's Infrastructure Investment Program (IIP)

Dear Chairman,

I am writing on behalf of Skoda Contracting Co. to express our wholehearted support for the petition submitted by Elizabethtown Gas Company (ETG) to implement an Infrastructure Investment Program (IIP) and associated recovery mechanism, as outlined in Docket No. GR23120882.

Skoda Contracting Co. recognizes the critical importance of modernizing and maintaining the infrastructure that supports our communities, and we believe that ETG's proposed program aligns with these goals. ETG's plan to invest approximately \$625 million over a five-year period demonstrates a commitment to enhancing the safety, reliability, and resiliency of New Jersey's natural gas distribution system.

We believe that this investment will yield significant benefits for both ETG and its customers. By installing approximately 250 miles of new main and upgrading the low-pressure system to elevated pressure, ETG aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations. Additionally, the retirement of approximately 274 miles of at-risk cast iron, vintage steel, and vintage plastic mains will contribute to improving safety and reducing the risk of leaks and failures.

As a utility contractor based in Flanders, New Jersey, Skoda Contracting Co. employs approximately 200 direct and indirect employees who work on the ETG/South Jersey Industries system. We understand firsthand the importance of infrastructure investments in creating job opportunities and supporting economic growth in our state.

Moreover, we believe that ETG's proposed Program will have a positive impact on our employees and their families. The increased investment in infrastructure projects will create a demand for skilled labor, providing our employees with stable employment opportunities and potential for career advancement. Additionally, the enhanced reliability and safety of the natural gas distribution system will contribute to the well-being and peace of mind of our employees and their families.



In conclusion, Skoda Contracting Co. fully supports Elizabethtown Gas Company's petition to implement the Infrastructure Investment Program. We commend ETG for its proactive approach to infrastructure modernization and believe that this initiative will benefit not only the company and its customers but also our employees and their families.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this matter. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Dane Evans
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