



September 10, 2024

***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 2025  
BPU Docket No. GR24060372

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](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:ss

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 2025  
DOCKET NO. GR24060372**

**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 2025  
DOCKET NO. GR24060372**

**SERVICE LIST**

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August 23, 2024

**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 2025  
BPU Docket No. GR24060372

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 May 31, 2024 the Company filed a request with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for an increase in its Basic Gas Supply Service (BGSS) and its Conservation Incentive Program (CIP) 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 re-scheduled for September 17, 2024 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:

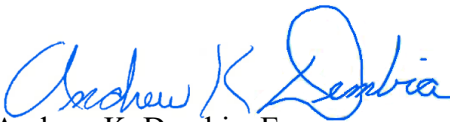
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=VUJpK1V0aDYxZDIIZUIwaElOWDFRZz09>

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:ss  
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 CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CIP) RATES FOR FY 2025  
Docket No. GR24060372

## NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING

### TO OUR CUSTOMERS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 31, 2024, New Jersey Natural Gas ("NJNG" or "Company") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") regarding its 2024–2025 Basic Gas Supply Service ("BGSS") and Conservation Incentive Program ("CIP") rates filing pursuant to Board Orders in Docket Nos. GR01059304 and GR05121020, GR05121020 and GR11300185 ("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. Pursuant to a Board Order in 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 a decrease its BGSS rate and adjust its CIP rates effective October 1, 2024. Additionally, NJNG requested to increase its Balancing Charge effective October 1, 2024. The impact to a residential heating customer using an average of 100 therms per month would be a decrease of \$6.18 per month or 4.1 percent, as a result of the proposed BGSS rate, an increase of \$6.18 per month, or 4.1 percent, as a result of the proposed Balancing Charge rate, and a decrease of \$0.12 per month, or 0.1 percent, as a result of the proposed CIP rate. The combined impact of these rate changes would result in an overall decrease of approximately \$0.12 or 0.1 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, 2024, 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, 2024	Proposed Bill as of October 1, 2024	BGSS	Balancing Charge	CIP	Net Increase/(Decrease)	BGSS	Balancing Charge	CIP	Net Increase/(Decrease)
<b>Residential Heat Sales</b>	100	\$150.04	\$149.92	(\$6.18)	\$6.18	(\$0.12)	(\$0.12)	(4.1%)	4.1%	(0.1%)	(0.1%)
<b>Residential Non-Heat Sales</b>	25	\$44.43	\$44.50	(\$1.55)	\$1.55	\$0.07	\$0.07	(3.5%)	3.5%	0.2%	0.2%
<b>General Service – Small</b>	100	\$170.13	\$169.17	(\$6.18)	\$6.18	(\$0.96)	(\$0.96)	(3.6%)	3.6%	(0.6%)	(0.6%)
<b>General Service – Large</b>	1200	\$1,645.40	\$1,648.88	(\$74.16)	\$74.16	\$3.48	\$3.48	(4.5%)	4.5%	0.2%	0.2%

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 decrease and Balancing Charge increase shown above reflect the proposed Balancing Charge change in both rates resulting in no impact.

Future 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"). Any such self-implementing increase is limited to a maximum of five (5) percent of the total residential bill effective December 1, 2024, and to a maximum of five (5) percent of the total residential bill, effective February 1, 2025. Further, these self-implementing increases would be provisional and subject to true-up in connection with the next annual BGSS filing. The Board authorized NJNG 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, 2024	Proposed Bill Including December and February BGSS 5 Percent Increases	Amount	Percent
<b>Residential Heat Sales</b>	100	\$149.92	165.29	\$15.37	10.3%
<b>Residential Non-Heat Sales</b>	25	\$44.50	48.34	\$3.84	8.6%
<b>General Service – Small</b>	100	\$169.17	184.54	\$15.37	9.1%

The Board has the statutory authority pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 to establish rates at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish rates at levels other than those proposed in the Petition. 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 virtual public hearings will be conducted on the following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Petition:

### VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

Date: September 17, 2024

Hearing Times: 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm

Location: Zoom Virtual Webinar

Join: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=VUJpK1V0aDYxZDIIUWwEIOWDFRZ09>

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 via the Zoom link provide above, or by dialing the toll-free telephone number, followed by entering the listed passcode when prompted.

Representatives of the Board's Staff and Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. All comments will be made part of the final record 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 in advance to the Board Secretary at [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov).

Copies of NJNG's May 31, 2024 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 electronic comments. Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket number listed above using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's Public Document Search tool at <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/>. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Only documents that are intended to be public 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, Sherri L. Golden. Please include "Confidential Information" in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board's webpage at <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: 609-292-1599

Email: [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov)

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

Order Number : 10351276

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**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**Brown County**

Of the **Asbury Park Press**, a newspaper printed in Freehold, New Jersey and published in Neptune, in State of New Jersey and Monmouth/Ocean Counties, and of general circulation in Monmouth/Ocean Counties, who being duly sworn, depose and saith that the advertisement of which the annexed is a true copy, has been published in said newspaper in the issue:

07/05/2024

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Clerk

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public State of Wisconsin County of Brown

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
My commission expires

VICKY FELTY  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Order Number : 10351342

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Brown County

Of the **Daily Record**, a newspaper printed in Freehold, New Jersey and published in Parsippany, in State of New Jersey and Morris County, and of general circulation in Morris County, who being duly sworn, depose and saith that the advertisement of which the annexed is a true copy, has been published in said newspaper in the issue:

07/05/2024

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Clerk

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public State of Wisconsin County of Brown

9.19.25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
My commission expires

VICKY FELTY  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin



# Major sentenced for defrauding Gold Star families

**Erik Larsen**

Asbury Park Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

TRENTON - An Army major from Colts Neck who provided financial advice to the families of fallen soldiers but then defrauded them, was sentenced Wednesday to 12½-years in federal prison, said U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger.

Caz Craffy, aka "Carz Craffey," 41, previously pleaded guilty to six counts of wire fraud, one count each of securities fraud, making false statements in a loan application, committing acts affecting a personal financial interest and making false statements to a federal agency.

"Caz Craffy was sentenced to prison (Wednesday) for brazenly taking advantage of his role as an Army financial counselor to prey upon families of our fallen service members, at their most vulnerable moment, when they were dealing with a tragedy born out of their loved one's patriotism," Sellinger said.

"These Gold Star families have laid the dearest sacrifice on the altar of freedom. ... Instead of offering guidance, Caz Craffy chose to defraud these heroic families. The lengthy term of imprisonment imposed today is just punishment for this heinous and shameless crime."

From November 2017 to January 2023, Craffy — who is a major in the Army Reserves — was a civilian Army employee, working as a financial counselor with the Casualty Assistance Office.

In his role, Craffy was responsible for providing general financial education to surviving beneficiaries, but was prohibited from offering any personal opinions regarding their financial decisions. However, without telling the Army, Craffy simultaneously maintained outside employment with two separate financial investment firms, Sellinger said.

When an active duty service member dies, their surviving beneficiary is enti-

led to a \$100,000 payment and their life insurance payout of up to \$400,000.

Craffy used his position in the Army to identify and target those families. He admitted to encouraging these Gold Star families to invest their survivor benefits in investment accounts that he managed in his outside, private employment. Based upon Craffy's false representations and omissions, the vast majority of his victims mistakenly believed that Craffy's management of their money was done on behalf of and with the Army's authorization, according to court documents.

From May 2018 to November 2022, Craffy obtained more than \$9.9 million from those families to invest in accounts managed by Craffy in his private capacity. Once in control of their money, Craffy repeatedly executed trades, often without the family's authorization, which earned him high commissions.

During those four years, the families lost more than \$3.7 million, while Craffy

personally earned more than \$1.4 million in commissions, according to the documents.

In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Judge Georgette Castner sentenced Craffy to three years of supervised release and ordered forfeiture of \$1.4 million. Restitution will be determined at a later date.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has a pending civil complaint against Craffy based on the same and additional conduct. Craffy has been permanently prohibited from association with any member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Inc.

The federal government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Carolyn Silane of the Economic Crimes Unit in Newark and Martha K. Nye of the Criminal Division in Trenton.

Fair Lawn-based defense attorney Mark Berman represents Craffy.

Contact Asbury Park Press reporter Erik Larsen at [elarsen@gannettnj.com](mailto:elarsen@gannettnj.com).

## Shelter

Continued from Page 3A

Salonis, Acting Clerk Stephen Hensel, township attorneys Gregory P. McGuckin and Peter Pascarella and township council members Craig Coleman, Lynn O'Toole, George Lobman and Justin Lamb — pay \$1,000 each to support the animal shelter.

Pascarella responded to Brilliant's complaint with a letter calling the action "frivolous" and asking Brilliant to withdraw it.

He noted the council repealed the ordinance in Brilliant's complaint, replacing the lease agreement with a shared services agreement that can be approved by resolution.

"Once the Committee of Petitioners filed the referendum petition, the ordinance authorizing the lease of the Toms River Animal Shelter to the Ocean County Board of Health was suspended from taking effect," Pascarella wrote. "Moreover, as you acknowledge in paragraph 36 of your verified complaint, the Township Council voted Aug. 7, 2024, to repeal said ordinance. Accordingly, you have failed to articulate any violation of the law by defendants."

He said the township will ask the judge to require Brilliant to pay Toms River's legal fees. The township must hire outside counsel as township attorneys McGuckin and Pascarella are named as defendants in the suit.

"It is political, frivolous and it will be thrown out of court," Rodrick said of the complaint. "They have already been granted the relief that they sought. ... I have to hire outside counsel that will cost us money."

## State may pay off \$100M in NJ medical debts

**Scott Fallon**

NorthJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

Nearly 50,000 New Jerseyans will see some or all of their medical debt paid off under a plan funded by federal tax dollars, Gov. Phil Murphy announced Tuesday.

The plan affects 17,905 patients who owe \$61.5 million to the for-profit chain Prime Healthcare, which operates five hospitals in North Jersey. Another \$38.4 million that has already gone to collection agencies will be erased, affecting 31,738 residents.

The announcement is part of an effort to reduce medical bills in a state with some of the highest health care costs in the nation. Almost 1 million New Jerseyans have unpaid medical bills that have gone to debt collectors.

"New Jerseyans should not have to scrimp and save to ensure their basic health care needs are met, or to pay down lofty medical debts resulting from tragic accidents or devastating diagnoses," Murphy said in a statement.

Medical debt relief targets mostly middle- to lower-income residents or those who owe considerable sums.

Those who qualify have debts that equal 5% or more of their annual income or they have incomes not higher than four times the federal poverty level, which would be about \$60,000 this year for an individual.

It also directly affects many Prime Healthcare patients. The nationwide chain has taken over several distressed New Jersey hospitals in the past decade. They are:



St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic shown in 2012 file photo. NORTHJERSEY.COM FILE PHOTO

- St. Mary's General Hospital, Passaic
- Saint Clare's Denville Hospital
- Saint Clare's Behavioral Health, Boonton
- Saint Clare's Dover Hospital
- Saint Michael's Medical Center, Newark

The Murphy administration partnered with Undue Medical Debt, a national nonprofit group that helps lower or eliminate medical debt.

Because medical debt is so enormous and often goes unpaid, it is sold on the secondary markets for pennies on the dollar. In this case, it's for under a penny a dollar.

Undue used \$550,000 from a portion of New Jersey's American Rescue Plan fund — the \$1.9 trillion pandemic stimulus bill passed in 2021 — to buy \$100 million of debt. That amounts to just 0.6% of the total.

There is no application process. Let-

ters began going out Monday from Undue to those who are having their debt lowered or erased.

Undue is in talks with other New Jersey hospital networks and collection agencies to buy and erase debt, said Daniel Lempert, a spokesman for the group.

There is more taxpayer money budgeted for the effort. Murphy said in his State of the State address in January that he would use \$10 million from the federal rescue plan to buy and erase medical debt.

Despite ranking high in per capita income, about 11% of New Jerseyans have medical debt that has gone to a collections bureau despite only 6.8% of residents being uninsured in 2022. About 11% of minorities were uninsured and 16% had medical debt in collections, according to the nonprofit Urban Institute.

New Jersey has some of the highest health care costs in the nation with the average resident paying more than \$11,000 a year, ranking it 11th. It also has some of the highest hospital costs, with admitted patients racking up an average of \$3,157 in expenses each day.

A 2022 report by the University of Arizona and University of Utah showed that New Jersey has one of the nation's worst medical debt protection policies, ranking it 45th among states.

Patients who acquire medical debt are less likely to seek care in the future for fear of economic ruin. "We hope the tens of thousands of recipients in this first wave of medical debt relief are encouraged to re-engage with the health care system and feel both financial and emotional relief," said Allison Sesso, CEO of Undue.

**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 CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CIP) RATES FOR F/Y 2025  
Docket No. GR24060372

NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING

TO OUR CUSTOMERS:  
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In the Petition, NJNG a decrease its BGSS rate and adjust its CIP rates effective October 1, 2024. Additionally, NJNG requested to increase its Balancing Charge effective October 1, 2024. The impact to a residential heating customer using an average of 100 therms per month would be a decrease of \$6.18 per month, or 4.1 percent, as a result of the proposed BGSS rate, an increase of \$6.18 per month, or 4.1 percent, as a result of the proposed Balancing Charge rate, and a decrease of \$0.12 per month, or 0.1 percent, as a result of the proposed CIP rate. The combined impact of these rate changes would result in an overall decrease of approximately \$0.12 or 0.1 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, 2024, on natural gas bills for the applicable customer classes is estimated to be as follows:

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		Bill as of May 1, 2024	Proposed Bill as of October 1, 2024	BGSS	Balancing Charge	CIP	Net Increase/(Decrease)	BGSS	Balancing Charge	CIP	Net Increase/(Decrease)
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$150.04	\$149.92	(\$6.18)	\$6.18	(\$0.12)	(\$0.12)	(4.1%)	4.1%	(0.1%)	(0.1%)
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General Service - Small	100	\$170.13	\$169.17	(\$6.18)	\$6.18	(\$0.96)	(\$0.96)	(3.6%)	3.6%	(0.6%)	(0.6%)
General Service - Large	1200	\$1,645.40	\$1,648.88	(\$74.16)	\$74.16	\$3.48	\$3.48	(4.5%)	4.5%	0.2%	0.2%

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 decrease and Balancing Charge increase shown above reflect the proposed Balancing Charge change in both rates resulting in no impact.

Future 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"). Any such self-implementing increase is limited to a maximum of five (5) percent of the total residential bill effective December 1, 2024, and to a maximum of five (5) percent of the total residential bill, effective February 1, 2025. Further, these self-implementing increases would be provisional and subject to true-up in connection with the next annual BGSS filing. The Board authorized NJNG 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, 2024	Proposed Bill Including December and February BGSS 5 Percent Increases	Amount	Percent
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$149.92	165.29	\$15.37	10.3%
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$44.50	48.34	\$3.84	8.6%
General Service - Small	100	\$169.17	184.54	\$15.37	9.1%

The Board has the statutory authority pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 to establish rates at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish rates at levels other than those proposed in the Petition. 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 virtual public hearings will be conducted on the following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Petition:

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS  
Date: September 17, 2024  
Hearing Times: 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm  
Location: Zoom Virtual Webinar  
Join: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=VUJk1V0aDyYXZlZUwlaEJlOWFRZz09>  
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 via the Zoom link provide above, or by dialing the toll-free telephone number, followed by entering the listed passcode when prompted.

Representatives of the Board's Staff and Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. All comments will be made part of the final record 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 in advance to the Board Secretary at [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov).

Copies of NJNG's May 31, 2024 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 electronic comments. Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket number listed above using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's Public Document Search tool at <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/>. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Only documents that are intended to be public 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, Sherri L. Golden. Please include "Confidential Information" in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board's webpage at <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

Email and/or written comments may also be submitted to:  
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44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor  
PO Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350  
Phone: 609-292-1599  
Email: [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov)

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

**NOTICE TO NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY CUSTOMERS**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

In The Matter of the Petition of New Jersey Natural Gas Company For Approval of a Base Rate Adjustment Pursuant to the IIP Programs  
Docket No. GR24040207

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on March 28, 2024, New Jersey Natural Gas Company ("NJNG" or "Company") filed a petition and supporting documentation ("Petition") with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board", or the "BPU") seeking Board approval for base rate changes to provide for cost recovery associated with the Company's Infrastructure Investment Program ("IIP").

By Order dated October 28, 2020, the BPU approved the Company's IIP, and acknowledged that replacement of aging infrastructure should mitigate damage to the system as well as enhance public safety.<sup>1</sup> The October 2020 Order approved NJNG's request to invest up to \$150 million, excluding Allowance for Funds Used During Construction ("AFUDC"), to be recovered through base rate adjustments. The IIP was to undertake 22 infrastructure projects and install excess flow valves and regulator protector projects aimed at making the Company's distribution system more resilient.

The IIP is a series of capital investment projects that promote enhanced reliability and safety through facility enhancements. The IIP, as approved, consists of 15 reliability and resilience projects, four (4) replacement and reinforcement projects, one (1) regulator station reconstruction project, two (2) trunk line replacement projects, 8,000 excess flow valves, and 47,500 regulator protector vents.

The October 2020 Order also authorized the Company to make annual filings with the Board to recover the actual costs associated with the IIP projects through June 30, 2024, and to earn an return on and a return of those investments through annual adjustments to rates.

At this time, the Company requests BPU approval to adjust base rates, effective October 1, 2024, to recover approximately \$41.9 million in IIP investment costs made through June 30, 2024, resulting in a base rate increase of approximately \$5.65 million. If the proposed rates are approved by the Board, the impact on the monthly bill of a typical residential heating customer using 100 therms per month is an increase of \$0.86, or 0.6 percent.

The Petition's monthly impact, as of the date of a Final Board Order in this proceeding, on a typical residential customer (both heat and non-heat), a typical general service small customer, and a typical general service large customer is estimated based on the usage levels shown in Table 1, included as Attachment A below.

The Board has the statutory authority to approve the requested changes to base rates at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish the new rates at levels other than those proposed by NJNG.

Copies of the Petition 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" section.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that virtual public hearings are scheduled for the following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Petition:

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Meeting ID: 245 813 6397  
Passcode: 819208  
Dial-In Number: +1 646 876 9923

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 are invited to participate and express their views on the Petition by utilizing the Zoom Virtual Webinar link or the Dial-In Number set forth above. All comments will become part of the final record in this proceeding to be considered by the Board. In order to encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for accommodations, such as interpreters, or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearing to the Board Secretary at [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov).

The Board is also accepting written and electronic comments. Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket number listed above using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's Public Document Search tool at <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/>. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Only documents that are intended to be public 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, Sherri L. Golden. Please include "Confidential Information" in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board's webpage at <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

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**ATTACHMENT A**  
**Table 1: The Petition's Projected Impact on Certain Customer Classes**

Customer Type	Therm Level	Total Bill		Increase	
		Bill as of June 1, 2024	Proposed Bill	Amount	Percent
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$150.04	\$150.90	\$0.86	0.6%
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$44.43	\$44.65	\$0.22	0.5%
General Service - Small	100	\$170.13	\$171.22	\$1.09	0.6%
General Service - Large	1200	\$1,675.16	\$1,684.76	\$9.60	0.6%

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

<sup>1</sup> In re the Petition of New Jersey Natural Gas Company for Approval to Implement an Infrastructure Investment Program ("IIP") and Associated Cost Recovery Mechanism Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:3-2A, BPU Docket No. GR19020278, Order dated October 28, 2020 ("October 2020 Order").



# Pascrell

Continued from Page 4A

Pascrell co-chaired the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, a platform for discussing and developing ideas to support the law enforcement community and a hub for information and grants. He sponsored legislation such as the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program and the Probation Officer Protection Act, designed to enhance safety and support for law enforcement officers nationwide.

On the health care front, Pascrell was

a staunch supporter of the Affordable Care Act and policies to protect and enhance health care access for millions of Americans. He authored the Alternatives to Opioids in the Emergency Department Act, which became law in 2018, to provide alternative treatment options in emergency settings to help the nation manage its opioid crisis. To help local veterans get health care, Pascrell secured the establishment of a Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Paterson.

Pascrell was also the founder and co-chairman of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force. During his time in Congress, he raised national awareness

about traumatic brain injury, particularly among military personnel and young athletes. He authored the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act and the Concussion Treatment and Care Tools Act, also called the ConTACT Act. Both became law, advancing federal protocols for traumatic brain injury prevention and treatment.

In environmental legislation, Pascrell supported the development of renewable energy, particularly offshore wind energy, and backed the Paris climate accord and the Green New Deal. The former high school history teacher also helped establish Paterson's Great Falls as a national historical park to pre-

serve a key piece of New Jersey's industrial heritage.

As a member of the House Transportation Committee in his early years in Congress, Pascrell helped bring in money for NJ Transit and key transportation projects. Pascrell sponsored the Bring Jobs Home Act, aimed at incentivizing companies to bring jobs back to the United States, and sought to restore the full state and local tax deduction, known as SALT, which was capped in 2017.

He also fought for closing the carried interest tax loophole, which he said has benefited wealthy investors at the expense of working families.

# Harris

Continued from Page 1A

"As a woman of color, it means everything. It means everything to me," Angela Evans, 48, a delegate from Lexington, Kentucky, following a tradition of serving as a delegate that her mother set 40 years ago. "She just brings different attributes to the table."

After years of quiet inroads on issues she cares about without undermining the president's agenda, Harris has raced to lay out an agenda that hits on Americans' most pressing problems, excites the party's base and is palatable to moderates.

But the pressure is on for Harris to provide a detailed vision of her own coming out of the party's four-day gathering in Chicago. It's the post-Labor Day slog, when the newness of her candidacy wears off, that Democrats say Harris needs to brace for, when Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump finds a soft spot.

"She needs to be herself. And she needs to get out there and ... send the message that we are focused on the middle class, we are focused on families," said Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth, a co-chair of Harris' campaign.

Harris' honeymoon can't last forever, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro told reporters Wednesday at a Bloomberg News event. "I do, of course, expect Donald Trump to figure out how to land a political punch. I mean, he's been horrible, right?"

Harris' husband Doug Emhoff offered a similarly blunt assessment in a Tues-

day convention speech.

"Kamala doesn't tolerate any B.S. You've all seen the look. You know what I'm talking about. It's not just a meme - it reflects her true belief in honest and direct leadership," he said. "She won't be distracted by the nonsense."

Emhoff's passionate support of his wife was another reminder of how the power structure in the Democratic Party is shifting with a woman back in charge.

It's not only the face of the ticket. It's the first major signal that the party's priorities are shifting, too.

## Defining a generational shift

The change was previewed two years ago when House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries succeeded House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as the top Democrat in the House. Now, as Harris becomes the face of the new, multicultural Democratic Party, the torch is being passed to a younger generation.

"We have an opportunity to define what that shift means," Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., said Tuesday at a breakfast of roughly 150 advocates pushing for progressive policies in areas like criminal justice, climate change and AI reforms.

And that's what Harris is doing, her allies said. Ahead of the convention, Harris laid out an economic platform that hits on key policies that are top of mind for voters: housing, high costs and credits to Americans with children.

"This is a moment when we're going to have a new leader ... that is being responsive and understands a lot of what many Americans go through, that can

speak to different experiences," said Cristina Tzintzún Ramirez, president of NextGen America, a progressive advocacy nonprofit. However, Harris is still running on a platform that reflects her current boss. "Her record is Joe Biden's record," Timmaraju said.

Former Labor Secretary Tom Perez, a senior White House adviser to Biden, told USA TODAY in an interview that Harris is expanding on Biden's policies. He pointed to her proposal taking on "greedification" through the first-ever federal ban on price gouging of groceries and expanding the child tax credit.

"She is not reluctant to take on these powerful interests," he said, noting Harris' attorney general background.

## Strengths and challenges

Biden relied heavily on male senators he served with to help him muscle through legislation when he took office. When Biden became a senator in 1973, there were no women senators.

One-quarter of the Senate is now female. Harris has hosted them at her home, and they would be her administration's backbone.

"She's one of us. She knows how the institution works, and she's going to be able to help us lead and get legislation passed that's going to support her administration," Duckworth said.

Those relationships will help her to keep reproductive rights at the fore, Timmaraju said. While Biden has been an advocate, "She's much more steeped and versed and an expert, and with the women's senators completely will be transformative."

Ultimately, any policies that Harris wants to push forward - "like codifying a federal right to abortion," Timmaraju said - comes down to the makeup of Congress. Without Democrats controlling the Senate, in particular, her agenda would be stymied. Democrats are worried about holding two Senate seats in particular: Jon Tester in Montana and Sherrod Brown in Ohio.

**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 CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CIP) RATES FOR FY 2025  
Docket No. GR24060372  
NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING

TO OUR CUSTOMERS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 31, 2024, New Jersey Natural Gas ("NJNG" or "Company") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") regarding its 2024-2025 Basic Gas Supply Service ("BGSS") and Conservation Incentive Program ("CIP") rates filing pursuant to Board Orders in Docket GR20100304 and GR20121020, GR20121020 and GR23010301 ("Orders"). The BGSS Change includes actual 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. Pursuant to a Board Order in 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 decrease its BGSS rate and adjust its CIP rates effective October 1, 2024. Additionally, NJNG requested to increase its Balancing Charge effective October 1, 2024. The impact to a residential heating customer using an average of 100 therms per month would be a decrease of \$6.18 per month, or 4.1 percent, as a result of the proposed BGSS rate, an increase of \$6.18 per month, or 4.1 percent, as a result of the proposed Balancing Charge rate, and a decrease of \$0.12 per month, or 0.1 percent, as a result of the proposed CIP rate. The combined impact of these rate changes would result in an overall decrease of approximately \$0.12, or 0.1 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, 2024, 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, 2024	Proposed Bill as of October 1, 2024	BGSS	Balancing Charge	CIP	Net Increase/(Decrease)	BGSS	Balancing Charge	CIP	Net Increase/(Decrease)
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$150.04	\$149.92	(\$6.18)	\$6.18	(\$0.12)	(\$0.12)	(4.1%)	4.1%	(0.1%)	(0.1%)
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$44.43	\$44.50	(\$1.55)	\$1.55	\$0.07	\$0.07	(3.5%)	3.5%	0.2%	0.2%
General Service - Small	100	\$170.13	\$169.17	(\$6.18)	\$6.18	(\$0.96)	(\$0.96)	(3.6%)	3.6%	(0.6%)	(0.6%)
General Service - Large	1200	\$1,645.40	\$1,648.88	(\$74.16)	\$74.16	\$3.48	\$3.48	(4.5%)	4.5%	0.2%	0.2%

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 decrease and Balancing Charge increase shown above reflect the proposed Balancing Charge change in both rates resulting in no impact.

Future 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"). Any such self-implementing increase is limited to a maximum of five (5) percent of the total residential bill effective December 1, 2024, and to a maximum of five (5) percent of the total residential bill, effective February 1, 2025. Further, these self-implementing increases would be provisional and subject to true-up in connection with the next annual BGSS filing. The Board authorized NJNG 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, 2024	Proposed Bill including December and February BGSS 5 Percent Increases	Amount	Percent
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$149.92	165.29	\$15.37	10.3%
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$44.50	48.34	\$3.84	8.6%
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