



**State of New Jersey**  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

**INITIAL DECISION**  
**APPROVING SETTLEMENT**

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 00926-24  
AGENCY DKT 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.**

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**Joseph F. Accardo Jr.**, Esq., Vice President Regulatory & Deputy General Counsel, **Katherine E. Smith**, Esq., Managing Counsel - State Regulatory, **Matthew M. Weissman**, Esq., Special Counsel - State Regulatory, and **Aaron I. Karp**, Esq., Associate Counsel - Regulatory for the petitioner, Public Service Electric and Gas Company

**Brian O. Lipman**, Esq., Director, **T. David Wand**, Esq., Managing Attorney – Electric, **Maura Caroselli**, Esq., Managing Attorney – Gas, **Robert Glover**, Esq., **Christine M. Juarez**, Esq., **Brian Weeks**, Esq., **Lisa Littman**, Esq.,

**Megan Lupo**, Esq., **Mamie Purnell**, Esq., **Bethany Rocque-Romaine**, Esq.,  
**Emily Lam**, Esq., Staff Attorneys, for New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

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

**Steven S. Goldenberg**, Esq., Counsel for the New Jersey Large Energy Users  
Coalition (Giordano, Halleran & Ciesla, attorneys)

**Janine Bauer**, Esq. (Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C., attorneys) and  
**Evelyn Liebman**, Esq., Counsel for American Association of Retired Persons

**Barry A. Naum**, Esq., and **Steven W. Lee**, Esq., Counsel for Walmart Inc.  
(Spilman, Thomas & Battle, PLLC, attorneys)

Record Closed: October 2, 2024

Decided: October 4, 2024

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

### **STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On December 29, 2023, petitioner, Public Service Electric and Gas Company, (“petitioner” or “PSE&G”) filed with the BPU a verified petition requesting an increase in its annual operating revenues of approximately \$826 million. The petition sought to increase electric revenues by approximately \$462 million, and gas revenues by \$364 million for an overall increase of approximately nine percent (9%). In the Petition, the Company proposed numerous accounting adjustments, a change in its depreciation rates, new and modified programs and an adjustment to its return on equity, among other things. The specifics of these adjustments and proposals are set forth in detail in the petition and supporting testimonies and exhibits.

The matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on January 17, 2024, and assigned to the undersigned for determination as a contested case

pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to 15, and the Uniform Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C.1:1-1.1 to 21.6. A prehearing conference was held on February 12, 2024. Motions to Intervene and or Participate were filed by numerous parties. Intervenor status was granted to Walmart Inc. (“Walmart”), the New Jersey Large Energy Users Coalition (“NJLEUC”), and American Association of Retired Persons (“AARP”). Participant status was granted to Electrify America LLC (“Electrify America”), and NRG Energy Inc., and its affiliates Reliant Energy Northeast, LLC, d/b/a NRG Home/NRG Business, Energy Plus Natural Gas LP, Xoom Energy New Jersey, LLC, Stream Energy New Jersey, LLC, Direct Energy Services LLC, Direct Energy Business, LLC, Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC, and Gateway Energy Services Corporation (collectively “NRG”), Jersey Central Power & Light Company (“JCP&L”), New Jersey Natural Gas Company (“NJNG”), South Jersey Gas Company and Elizabethtown Gas Company (“SJG-ETG”), Atlantic City Electric Company (“ACE”), and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (“AMTRAK”).

Duly noticed public hearings were held via Zoom Video Communications (“Zoom”) on May 13, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Evidentiary hearings were scheduled for numerous dates in September and October 2024. Those dates were adjourned at the request of the parties. Thereafter, the parties filed a Stipulation of Settlement (J-1) with the undersigned on October 2, 2024, which resolves all issues in this proceeding. Said Stipulation of Settlement has been signed by petitioner, Staff of the Board of Public Utilities and the Division of Rate Counsel. It indicates the terms of settlement and is attached and fully incorporated herein.

I have reviewed the terms of settlement and I **FIND:**

1. The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlements as evidenced by their signatures or their representatives’ signatures on the attached document.
2. The settlements fully dispose of all issues in controversy between the parties and is consistent with the law.

I **ORDER** that the settlement agreement is **APPROVED**, that its terms are **INCORPORATED** into this decision, and that this case is **CONCLUDED**.

I **FILE** my decision with the **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** for consideration. This recommended decision may be adopted, modified, or rejected by **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**, who is empowered by law to make a final decision in this case. If the **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** does not so act within 45 days, and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision becomes a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

October 4, 2024

DATE



IRENE JONES, ALJ (Ret., on recall)

Date Received at Agency:

October 4, 2024

Date Mailed to Parties:

October 4, 2024

Isr

**APPENDIX**

**EXHIBITS**

**Jointly Submitted**

J-1 Stipulation of Settlement