

STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 <u>www.nj.gov/bpu/</u>

<u>ENERGY</u>

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF GAS BASE RATE ADJUSTMENTS PURSUANT TO ITS GAS SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (APRIL 2019 GSMP RATE FILING) DECISION AND ORDER APPROVING STIPULATION

DOCKET NO. GR19040522

Parties of Record:

Danielle Lopez, Esq., Public Service Electric and Gas Company **Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

By this Order, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") considers a Stipulation and Agreement ("2019 Stipulation") executed by Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Company"), Board Staff ("Staff"), and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") (collectively, "Parties") intended to resolve the Company's requests related to the above docketed matter.

BACKGROUND

By Order dated November 16, 2015,¹ the Board authorized PSE&G to implement a three year Gas System Modernization Program ("GSMP" or "Program") through which the Company would invest approximately \$650 million (excluding Allowance for Funds Used During Construction) to replace the Company's utilization pressure cast iron ("UPCI") and unprotected steel mains and associated services, and the up-rating of the UPCI segments to higher pressure.² The November 2015 Order also approved a cost recovery mechanism that allowed for annual rate adjustments ("Alternative Rate Mechanism") and required PSE&G to maintain a base level of capital spending of approximately \$85 million that is not recoverable through the Alternative Rate Mechanism.

¹ In re the Petition of Public Service and Gas Company for Approval of a Gas System Modernization Program and Associated Cost Recovery Mechanism, BPU Docket No. GR15030272 (November 16, 2015) ("November 2015 Order").

² For mains installed and pressurized with gas as of December 31, 2018, spending for restoration work in the first six months of 2019 is included in the program, subject to the Program's cost limitations.

April 2019 Filing

On April 29, 2019, in compliance with the November 2015 Order, PSE&G filed the instant petition ("April 2019 Petition") with the Board seeking approval to recover the projected revenue requirement of \$11.6 million associated with actual and estimated GSMP³ investments through June 30, 2019. The April 2019 Petition was based on actual data from October 1, 2018, through March 31, 2019, and projected data from April 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019.

On July 15, 2019, the Company provided updated schedules reflecting actual data through June 30, 2019. The update supports a proposed revenue requirement of \$11.3 million, which is less than the original revenue requirement of \$11.6 million in the April 2019 Petition. The GSMP capital investment costs calculations for \$11.3 million are as follow:

PSE&G Gas System Modernization Program								
Revenue Requirement (\$000)- Roll-in Effective October 1, 2019								
Docket No. 19040522								
	RATE BASE CALCULATION							
		Total						
1	Gross Plant	\$102,871						
2	Accumulated Depreciation	\$3,799						
3	Net Plant	\$106,670						
4	Accumulated Deferred Taxes	-\$2,906						
5	Rate Base	\$103,764						
6	Rate of Return - After Tax (Schedule WACC)	6.48%						
7	Return Requirement (After Tax)	\$6,726						
8	Depreciation Exp, net	\$1,241						
9	Tax Adjustment	\$0						
10	Revenue Factor	1.4137						
11	Roll-in Revenue Requirement	\$11,263						

After publication of notice in newspapers of general circulation in the Company's service territory, public hearings were held on August 22, 27, and 29, 2019, respectively in Mount Holly, Hackensack, and New Brunswick. No members of the public provided comments at any of the hearings or filed written comments with Board.

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³ Pursuant to the November 2015 Order, the investments that can be recovered through the GSMP Alternative Recovery Mechanism ("ARM") is limited to \$650 million as stated in paragraph 12 of the GSMP Order. Since the total investment through June 30, 2019 will exceed the \$650 million eligible for program recovery, the investment included in the ARM is adjusted to include only expenditures up to the \$650 million cap.

STIPULATION

On September 10, 2019, the Parties executed the 2019 Stipulation to resolve this matter. The 2019 Stipulation provides as follows:⁴

- 5. The Company shall implement the requested rates associated with the updated annualized increase in the gas revenue requirement and the rate design in the GSMP Order, which were provided in the July 15, 2019 update to Schedule SS-GSMP-5. The Company shall implement the gas rates effective October 1, 2019.
- 6. The annual impact of the increased rates to the typical residential gas heating customer using 172 therms in a winter month and 1,040 therms annually would be an initial increase in the annual bill from \$889.81 to \$896.49, or \$6.68 or approximately 0.75%.
- 7. The Parties agree that pursuant to the terms of the GSMP Order, PSE&G may implement the rates effective October 1, 2019. The rate adjustments established shall be provisional and subject to refund contingent upon the Board finding that PSE&G imprudently incurred capital expenditures under GSMP. Such prudency review shall take place in the Company's next base rate case. The Company will file its next base rate case no later than January 1, 2024 ("the 2024 base rate case"), in accordance with paragraph 40 of the Gas System Modernization Program II Stipulation, which was approved by the Board of Public Utilities in Docket Number GR17070776, in an Order dated May 22, 2018. Nothing will preclude any party from raising any objection in the 2024 base rate case that could have been raised in the annual GSMP cost recovery filings.

DISCUSSION AND FINDING

Having carefully reviewed the record in this proceeding, including the April 2019 Petition and the 2019 Stipulation executed by the Parties, the Board <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> the 2019 Stipulation to be reasonable, in the public interest, and in accordance with the law. Therefore, the Board <u>HEREBY ADOPTS</u> the Stipulation in its entirety, and <u>HEREBY INCORPORATES</u> its terms and conditions as though fully set forth herein.

The Board <u>HEREBY</u> <u>APPROVES</u> the rate adjustments calculated in Attachment 1 of the 2019 Stipulation, on a provisional basis, to be effective for services rendered on and after October 1, 2019.

Based on the 2019 Stipulation, the annual bill impact on the typical residential gas heating customer using 172 therms in a winter month and 1,040 therms annually is an increase of \$6.68 or approximately 0.75%.

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⁴ Although summarized in this Order, the detailed terms of the 2019 Stipulation are controlling, subject to the findings and conclusions of this Order. Paragraphs are numbered to coincide with the Stipulation.

The Company is <u>HEREBY</u> <u>DIRECTED</u> to file the appropriate tariff sheets conforming to the terms and conditions of this Order prior to October 1, 2019.

The Company's costs remain subject to audit by the Board. This Decision and Order shall not preclude or prohibit the Board from taking any actions determined to be appropriate as a result of any such audit.

The effective date of this Order is September 27, 2019.

DATED: 9/27/19 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY: ÍÓSEPH L. FIORDALÍSO PRESIDENT

MARY-ANNA HOLDER

UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA COMMISSIONER

DIANNE

COMMISSIONER

ROBERT M. GORDON

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH SECRETARY

HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF GAS BASE RATE ADJUSTMENTS PURSUANT TO ITS GAS SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (APRIL 2019 GSMP RATE FILING) BPU DOCKET NO. GR19040522

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September 10, 2019

In the Matter of the Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company for Approval of Gas Base Rate Adjustments Pursuant to its Gas System Modernization Program (April 2019 GSMP Rate Filing)

BPU Docket No.: GR19040522

VIA E-MAIL & OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Dear Secretary Camacho-Welch:

Attached please find the fully executed Stipulation (of which 10 copies are enclosed) in the above-referenced matter resolving all aspects of this matter. All the parties have signed the Stipulation: Public Service Electric and Gas Company, the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Samilt

c: Attached Service List (E-Mail)

05/23/2019

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Public Service Electric and Gas Company GSMP 2019 GR19040522

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05/23/2019

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Public Service Electric and Gas Company GSMP 2019 GR19040522

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF GAS BASE RATE ADJUSTMENTS PURSUANT TO ITS GAS SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (APRIL 2019 GSMP RATE FILING)

BPU Docket No. GR19040522

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

APPEARANCES:

Matthew M. Weissman, Esq., General Regulatory Counsel-Rates, PSEG Services Corp., and Danielle Lopez, Esq., Assistant General Regulatory Counsel, for the Petitioner, Public Service Electric and Gas

Felicia Thomas-Friel, Esq., Managing Attorney – Gas, Maura Caroselli, Esq., Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel (Stefanie A. Brand, Director)

Emma Yao Xiao, Deputy Attorney General, for the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General of New Jersey)

On April 29, 2019, Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G or Company) filed a Petition (April 2019 Petition) with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Board or BPU) seeking BPU approval to recover the revenue requirements associated with certain capitalized gas investment costs of the Gas System Modernization Program (GSMP) through June 30, 2019. Upon review of the April 2019 Petition and discovery responses, the staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Board Staff), the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (Rate Counsel), and PSE&G, the only parties to this proceeding (collectively, Parties), stipulate and agree as follows:

1. PSE&G's April 2019 Petition in this matter sought Board approval for gas base rate changes to provide for cost recovery associated with the Company's GSMP, which was addressed on November 16, 2015 in BPU Docket No. GR15030272 ("GSMP Order") that adopted a Stipulation that authorized the request for rate increases. Paragraph 19d of the Stipulation associated with the GSMP Order provides that: Revenue Requirements associated with Program investments that are placed into service through and including June 30, 2019 shall go into base rates effective October 1, 2019. PSE&G shall make its initial filing for such rates in April 2019, and update such filing for actual data through June 30, 2019 by July 15, 2019.

- 2. PSE&G's April 2019 Petition sought authority to establish rates to recover an annualized increase in gas revenue requirement of \$11.6 million. The proposed revenue requirement increase is associated with GSMP investment costs. The annualized increase in gas revenue requirement was supported by Attachment 2, Schedule SS-GSMP-2 attached to the April 2019 Petition, which was based upon actual expenditures through March 31, 2019 and projected expenditures through June 30, 2019.
- 3. Notice of the Company's April 2019 Petition, including the date, time and place of public hearings, was placed in newspapers having a circulation within the Company's gas service territory, and was served on the Clerks of the municipalities, the Clerks of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the County Executives within the Company's gas service territory. In accordance with that notice, public hearings on the Company's requests were held in the afternoon and evening on the following dates and locations in PSE&G's gas service territory: August 22, 2019 in Mt. Holly, New Jersey; August 27, 2019 in Hackensack, New Jersey; and August 29, 2019 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. No members of the public provided comments at any of the hearings or filed written comments with the Board.

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- 4. On July 15, 2019, the Company provided updated schedules in this matter, which replaced the projected data in the original schedules with actual data through June 30, 2019. As a result of the update for actuals costs through June 30, 2019, the Company's proposed revenue requirement increase decreased from \$11.6 million to \$11.3 million.
- 5. The Company shall implement the requested rates associated with the updated annualized increase in the gas revenue requirement and the rate design in the GSMP Order, which were provided in the July 15, 2019 update to Schedule SS-GSMP-5. Those pages are attached hereto as Attachment 1. The Company shall implement the gas rates discussed in this paragraph effective October 1, 2019.
- 6. The annual impact of the increased rates to the typical residential gas heating customer using 172 therms in a winter month and 1,040 therms annually would be an initial increase in the annual bill from \$889.81 to \$896.49, or \$6.68 or approximately 0.75%.
- 7. The Parties agree that pursuant to the terms of the GSMP Order, PSE&G may implement the rates in Attachment 1 effective October 1, 2019. The rate adjustments established herein shall be provisional and subject to refund contingent upon the Board finding that PSE&G imprudently incurred capital expenditures under GSMP. Such prudency review shall take place in the Company's next base rate case. The Company will file its next base rate case no later than January 1, 2024 ("the 2024 base rate case"), in accordance with paragraph 40 of the Gas System Modernization Program II Stipulation, approved by the Board on May 22, 2018 in Docket Number GR17070776. Nothing herein will preclude any party from raising any objection in the 2024 base rate case that could have been raised in the annual GSMP cost recovery filings.

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- 8. This Stipulation represents a mutual balancing of interests, contains interdependent provisions and, therefore, is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety. In the event any particular aspect of this Stipulation is not accepted and approved in its entirety by the Board, any Party aggrieved thereby shall not be bound to proceed with this Stipulation and shall have the right to litigate all issues addressed herein to a conclusion. More particularly, in the event that this Stipulation is not adopted in its entirety by the Board in any applicable Order(s), then any Party hereto is free to pursue its then available legal remedies with respect to all issues addressed in this Stipulation as though this Stipulation had not been signed.
- 9. The Parties agree that they consider the Stipulation to be binding on them for all purposes herein.
- 10. It is specifically understood and agreed that this Stipulation represents a negotiated agreement and has been made exclusively for the purpose of these proceedings. Except as expressly provided herein, PSE&G, Board Staff, and Rate Counsel shall not be deemed to have approved, agreed to, or consented to any principle or methodology underlying or supposed to underlie any agreement provided herein, in total or by specific item. The Parties further agree that this Stipulation is in no way binding upon them in any other proceeding, except to enforce the terms of this Stipulation.

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11. The Parties further acknowledge that a Board Order approving this Stipulation will become effective upon the service of said Board Order, or upon such date after the service thereof as the Board may specify, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:2-40.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

BY: Danielle Lopez, Esq. Assistant General Regulatory Counsel

DATED: September 9, 2019

GURBIR S. GREWAL ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY Attorney for the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

BY: Emma Yao Xiao, Esq.

Deputy Attorney General

DATED: September 10, 2019

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL STEFANIE A. BRAND, DIRECTOR

BY: Maura Caroselli, Esq.,

Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel

DATED: September <u>10</u>, 2019

GR 19040522

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Gas Tariff Rates GSMP

·	Present		Proposed		
Rate Schedule	Description	Charge without SUT	Charge Including SUT	Charge without SUT	Charge Including SUT
RSG	Service Charge	\$8.08	\$8.62	\$8.08	\$8.62
	Distribution Charges	\$0.345322	\$0.368200	\$0.351392	\$0.374672
	Balancing Charge	\$0.096436	\$0.102825	\$0.096436	\$0.102825
	Off-Peak Use	\$0.172661	\$0.184100	\$0.175696	\$0.187336
GSG	Service Charge	\$14.50	\$15.46	\$14.77	\$15.75
	Distribution Charge - Pre July 14, 1997	\$0,280009	\$0.298560	\$0.283256	\$0,302022
	Distribution Charge - All Others	\$0.280009	\$0.298560	\$0.283256	\$0.302022
	Balancing Charge	\$0.096436	\$0.102825	\$0.096436	\$0.102825
	Off-Peak Use Dist Charge - Pre July 14, 1997	\$0,140005	\$0.149280	\$0,141628	\$0,151011
	Off-Peak Use Dist Charge - All Others	\$0.140005	\$0.149280	\$0.141628	\$0,151011
LVG	Service Charge	\$128.76	\$137.29	\$131.15	\$139.84
•	Demand Charge	\$3.9207	\$4.1804	\$3.9314	\$4.1919
	Distribution Charge 0-1,000 pre July 14, 1997	\$0.039047	\$0.041634	\$0.040281	\$0.042950
	Distribution Charge over 1,000 pre July 14, 1997	\$0.042397	\$0.045206	\$0.042215	\$0.045012
	Distribution Charge 0-1,000 post July 14, 1997	\$0.039047	\$0.041634	\$0.040281	\$0.042950
	Distribution Charge over 1,000 post July 14, 1997	\$0.042397	\$0.045206	\$0.042215	\$0.045012
	Balancing Charge	\$0.096436	0.102825	\$0.096436	\$0.102825
SLG	Single-Mantle Lamp	\$13.2351	\$14.1119	⁻ \$13.2351	\$14.1119
	Double-Mantle Lamp, inverted	\$13.23 51	\$14.1119	\$13.2351	\$14.1119
	Double Mantle Lamp, upright	\$13.2351	\$14.1119	\$13.2351	\$14.1119
	Triple-Mantle Lamp, prior to January 1, 19933	\$13.2351	\$14.1119	\$13.2351	\$14.1119
	Triple-Mantle Lamp, on and after January 1, 1993		\$71.9465	\$67.4762	\$71,9465
	Distribution Therm Charge	\$0.045455	\$0.048466	\$0.045943	\$0.048987

Gas Tariff Rates GSMP

•	Present			Proposed	
Rate Schedule	Description	Charge without SUT	Charge Including SUT	Charge without SUT	Charge Including SUT
TSG-F	Service Charge	\$689.62	\$735.31	\$702.43	\$748.97
•	Demand Charge	\$2.0476	\$2.1833	\$2.0574	\$2,1937
	Distribution Charges	\$0.078269	\$0.083454	\$0.078643	\$0.083853
TSG-NF	Service Charge	\$689.62	\$735.31	\$702.43	\$748.97
	Distribution Charge 0-50,000	\$0.083251	\$0.088766	\$0.084225	\$0.089805
	Distribution Charge over 50,000	\$0.083251	\$0.088766	\$0.084225	\$0.089805
	Special Provision (d)	\$1.89	\$2.02	\$1.89	\$2.02
CIG	Service Charge	\$166.28	\$177.30	\$168.34	\$179.49
	Distribution Charge 0-600,000	\$0.074642	\$0.079587	\$0.075543	\$0.080548
	Distribution Charge over 600,000	\$0.064642	\$0.068925	0.065543	\$0.069885
	Special Provision (c) 1st para	\$1.89	\$2.02	\$1.89	\$2.02
BGSS RSG	Commodity Charge including Losses	\$0.327371	\$0.349059	\$0.327338	\$0.349024
CSG	Service Charge	\$689.62	\$735.31	\$702.43	\$748.97
	Distribution Charge - Non-Firm	\$0.083251	\$0.088766	\$0.084225	\$0.089805