

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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

ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION OF)	ORDER SUSPENDING
JERSEY CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT)	INCREASES, CHANGES OR
COMPANY FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF)	ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR
INCREASES IN, AND OTHER ADJUSTMENTS TO,)	SERVICE
ITS RATES AND CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC)	
SERVICE, AND FOR APPROVAL OF OTHER)	
PROPOSED TARIFF REVISIONS IN)	
CONNECTION THEREWITH ("2020 BASE RATE)	
FILING"))	BPU DOCKET NO. ER20020146

Parties of Record:

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel **Gregory Eisenstark, Esq.,** Cozen O'Connor, on behalf of Jersey Central Power & Light Company

BY THE BOARD:

On February 18, 2020, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, Jersey Central Power and Light Company ("JCP&L" or "Company"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), filed a petition for approval of an increase in its operating revenues of approximately \$186.94 million, to be effective for electric service provided on or after March 19, 2020. The Company also sought Board approval to implement new depreciation rates. JCP&L's petition requested a return on equity of 10.15%.

According to the petition, the Company's current electric distribution rates are not just and reasonable because they do not produce an adequate, reasonable return on the Company's invested capital, and do not provide sufficient revenues to recover the Company's investment in rate base and its operating expenses.

The Company also sought the following: 1) revisions to certain terms and conditions of its existing tariff; 2) certain revisions to its LED Street Lighting tariff; and 3) approval to roll in all of the capital investments under the Company's Reliability Plus program.

By Order dated March 9, 2020, the Board issued an Order suspending the proposed rate increase until July 19, 2020 pending further action on this matter. The matter was subsequently transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") as a contested case and was assigned to Administrative Law Judge Irene Jones for consideration and hearing.

On June 2, 2020, JCP&L updated its petition to include nine (9) months of actual data and three (3) months of estimated dated. The requested rate increase was modified to \$181.98 million.

In light of the fact that this matter will not be completed by July 19, 2020, and in order to allow the ALJ sufficient time to conduct the case, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21(d), the proposed revisions are suspended until November 19, 2020, unless prior to that date the Board makes a determination disposing of the petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- JCP&L shall, at least 10 days prior to the date set for public hearing on the petition, file proof of compliance with the notice provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:2-32.2 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12(b) and (c), which notice shall include a statement that any relief found by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board to any class or classes of customers on any rate or schedule as the Board may determine; and
- (3) JCP&L shall, at the same time it files with the Board, also file proof of service of copies of this Order upon the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel, the clerks of each affected municipality, the clerks of the Boards of Chosen Freeholders of each affected County, and where appropriate, the executive officer of each affected County within its service area. Service of the petition, notice of hearings and this Suspension Order may be made simultaneously.

This Order shall be effective on July 15, 2020.

DATED: July 15, 2020

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

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IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION OF JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF INCREASES IN, AND OTHER ADJUSTMENTS TO ITS RATES AND CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE, AND FOR APPROVAL OF OTHER PROPOSED TARIFF REVISIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH ("2020 BASE RATE FILING")

DOCKET NO. ER20020146

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