

Agenda Date: 1/31/18 Agenda Item: IIA

STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314 Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.ni.gov/bpu/

ENERGY

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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 TARIFFS FOR ELECTRIC AND GAS SERVICE, B.P.U.N.J. NO. 16 ELECTRIC AND B.P.U.N.J. NO. 16 GAS, AND FOR CHANGES IN DEPRECIATION RATES, PURSUANT TO <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-18, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-21 AND <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-21.1, AND FOR OTHER APPROPRIATE RELIEF ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR SERVICE

BPU DOCKET NOS. ER18010029 & GR18010030

Parties of Record:

Matthew M. Weissman, Esq., General Regulatory Counsel, PSEG Services Company Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On January 12, 2018, pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-18, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-21 and 48:2-21.1, <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:1-5.7 and <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:1-5.12, Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("Company" or "PSE&G"), 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 \$95 million, or 1.2%, to be effective for electric and gas service provided on or after February 23, 2018. The Company has requested an electric revenue increase of \$27 million or approximately 0.49% and a gas revenue increase of \$68 million or approximately 2.97%. The Company also seeks Board approval to implement new depreciation rates that include cost of removal rates that the Company submits are more appropriate and will allow it to more fully recover its expected costs as it replaces aging infrastructure, as well as certain other tariff changes.

According to the petition, the primary reasons for the requested increase are: (1) the Company's current electric and gas rates do not reflect an adequate return on the Company's invested capital dedicated to the service of electric and gas customers; (2) the insufficiency of the Company's current depreciation rates; (3) flat sales since the filing of the Company's prior base rate case; (4) unrecovered incremental storm costs of approximately \$240 million; and (5) the Company's return to customers of approximately \$90 million of cost of removal in excess of the amount deemed to have been over-recovered in a prior rate case.

It appearing that the proposed revisions, if approved, will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in PSE&G's tariff, it is <u>HEREBY</u> <u>ORDERED</u> that:

- Pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-21(d), the proposed revisions are suspended until June 23, 2018, unless prior to that date the Board makes a determination disposing of the petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (2) PSE&G shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for public hearing on the petition, file with this Board proof of compliance with the notice provisions of <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-32.2 and <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 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) PSE&G shall, at the same time it files with the Board, also file proof of service of copies of this Order upon the 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 February 10, 2018.

DATED: 131/18 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY: JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO PRESIDENT DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER. COMMISSIONER RICHARD S. MROZ UPENØRA J. CHIVUKULA COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER ATTEST: I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities. CARMEN D. DIAZ ASSISTANT BOARD SECRETARY

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