



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.nj.gov/bpu/

ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF PUBLIC)
SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY FOR)
APPROVAL OF THE NEXT PHASE OF THE GAS)
SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AND)
ASSOCIATED COST RECOVERY MECHANISM)
("GSMP II"))

ORDER SUBSTITUTING
COMMISSIONER

DOCKET NO. GR17070776

Parties of Record:

Danielle Lopez, Esq., Public Service Electric and Gas Company
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
Steven Goldenberg, Esq., Fox Rothschild, LLP, for the New Jersey Large Energy Users Coalition
Christopher D. Miller, Esq., Maraziti Falcon, LLP, for the Environmental Defense Fund

BY THE BOARD:

On July 27, 2017, Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Company") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for approval of a continuation of the Gas System Modernization Program and associated cost recovery mechanism ("GSMP II" or "Program"). PSE&G anticipates that GSMP II will be conducted over a five (5) year period from 2019 through 2023. The Company states that the GSMP II: (1) is comprised of gas utility projects designed to replace cast iron mains and unprotected steel¹ mains and services; (2) addresses the abandonment of district regulators associated with this cast iron and unprotected steel plant; (3) will rehabilitate large diameter elevated pressure cast iron; (4) includes upgrades to utilization pressure portions of the system to elevated pressure; (5) replaces limited amounts of protected steel and plastic mains; and (6) provides for the relocation of inside meter sets.

By Order dated September 22, 2017 ("September 22, 2017 Order"), the Board determined that the GSMP II petition described above should be retained by the Board for hearing and, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-32, designated President Fiordaliso as the presiding officer authorized to rule on all motions that arise during the pendency of these proceedings and modify any schedules that may be set as necessary to secure a just and expeditious determination of the issues.

¹ For purposes of this petition, "unprotected steel" is steel that is not cathodically protected and includes both bare steel and coated steel.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The Board has determined that it is appropriate to reassign this matter. Accordingly, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-32, the Board **HEREBY DESIGNATES** Commissioner Upendra J. Chivukula as the presiding officer who is authorized to rule on all motions that arise during the pendency of these proceedings and modify any schedules as necessary to secure a just and expeditious determination of the issues. Additionally, the Board **HEREBY AMENDS** the procedural schedule as follows:

A settlement conference will occur among the parties on or about March 9, 2018 at the Board's Offices in Trenton, New Jersey. Evidentiary hearings are scheduled in this matter on April 4, 5, and 6, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Administrative Law, Hearing Room 14, in Newark, New Jersey. The evidentiary hearings will be presided over by Commissioner Chivukula.

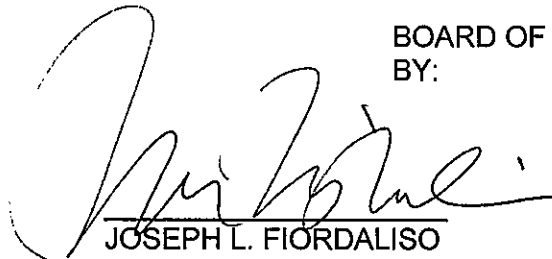
In the interests of economy, all parties are **HEREBY DIRECTED** to continue to serve all documents electronically, while still providing hard copies to the Board for those documents which must be filed with the Board, and also providing two (2) hard copies to each party, unless otherwise requested by the parties. Finally, the Board **HEREBY DIRECTS** Staff to post this Order on the Board's website.


The Board **HEREBY RATIFIES** the decisions of President Fiordaliso rendered during the time he was the presiding officer of these proceedings for the reasons stated in his Orders.

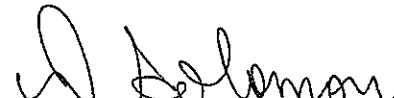
This Order shall be effective on March 10, 2018.

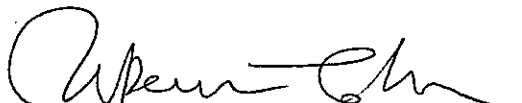
DATED: 2/28/18

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:

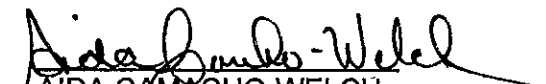

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT


MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER


DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER


UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER


RICHARD S. MROZ
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: 
AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL
OF THE NEXT PHASE OF THE GAS SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROGRAM
AND ASSOCIATED COST RECOVERY MECHANISM ("GSMP II")
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SERVICE LIST

PSE&G

Joseph F. Accardo, Jr.
Deputy General Counsel
Law Department
PSEG Services Corporation
80 Park Plaza-T5
Newark, NJ 07102-4194
joseph.accardojr@pseg.com

Matthew Weissman, Esq.
Associate General Regulatory Counsel
Law Department
PSEG Services Corporation
80 Park Plaza-T5
Newark, NJ 07102-4194
matthew.weissman@pseg.com

Hesser McBride, Esq.
Associate General Regulatory Counsel
Law Department
PSEG Services Corporation
80 Park Plaza-T5
Newark, NJ 07102-4194
hesser.mcbride@pseg.com

Danielle Lopez, Esq.
Associate General Regulatory Counsel
Law Department
PSEG Services Corporation
80 Park Plaza-T5
Newark, NJ 07102-4194
danielle.lopez@pseg.com

Michele Falcao
Regulatory Case Coordinator
PSEG Services Corporation
80 Park Plaza-T5
Newark, NJ 07102-4194
michele.falcao@pseg.com

Board of Public Utilities

44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Paul Flanagan, Executive Director
paul.flanagan@bpu.nj.gov

Jackie O'Grady
Economist's Office
Jackie.ogrady@bpu.nj.gov

Thomas Walker, Director
Division of Energy
thomas.walker@bpu.nj.gov

Stacy Peterson, Deputy Director
Division of Energy
stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov

Andrea Reid
Division of Energy
andrea.reid@bpu.nj.gov

Christopher Oprysk
Division of Energy
christopher.oprysk@bpu.nj.gov

Michael Stonack
Division of Reliability and Security
michael.stonack@bpu.nj.gov

Noreen Giblin, Chief Counsel
Counsel's Office
noreen.giblin@bpu.nj.gov

Bethany Rocque-Romaine, Esq.
Counsel's Office
bethany.romaine@bpu.nj.gov

Megan Lupo, Esq.
Counsel's Office
megan.lupo@bpu.nj.gov

Caitlyn White
PSEG Services Corporation
80 Park Plaza-T5
Newark, NJ 07102-4194
caitlyn.white@pseg.com

Bernard Smalls
PSEG Services Corporation
80 Park Plaza-T5
Newark, NJ 07102-4194
bernard.smalls@pseg.com

Division of Rate Counsel

140 East Front Street, 4th Floor
Post Office Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director
stefanie.brand@rpa.nj.gov

Brian Lipman, Litigation Manager
brian.lipman@rpa.nj.gov

Felicia Thomas-Friel, Esq.
felicia.thomas@rpa.nj.gov

Sarah Steindel, Esq.
sarah.steinde@rpa.nj.gov

Henry Ogden, Esq.
henry.ogden@rpa.nj.gov

Kurt Lewandowski
kurt.lewando@rpa.nj.gov

Maura Caroselli, Esq.
maura.caroselli@rpa.nj.gov

Shelly Massey
shelly.massey@rpa.nj.gov

Andrea Crane
The Columbia Group
2805 East Oakland Park Boulevard, #401
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306
ctcolumbia@aol.com

NJLEUC

Steven S. Goldenberg, Esq.
Fox Rothschild, LLP
997 Lenox Drive, Bldg. 3
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
sgoldenberg@foxrothschild.com

Paul F. Forshay, Esq.
Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, LLP
700 Sixth Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004
paul.forshay@sutherland.com

AARP

Stephanie Hunsinger, NJ State Director
AARP
101 Rockingham Row Forrestal Village
Princeton, NJ 08540
shunsinger@aarp.org

Evelyn Liebman, State Director for Advocacy
AARP
101 Rockingham Row Forrestal Village
Princeton, NJ 08540
eliebman@aarp.org

Janine Bauer, Esq.
Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Balde, P.C.,
101 Grovers Mill Road, Suite 200
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
jbauer@szaferman.com

Unions

Kenneth Thoman
IBEW Local Union 94
219 Franklin Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520
bud@ibew94.org

Roger M. Schwarz, Esq.
Roger M. Schwarz Governmental Affairs
1 Benjamin Rush Lane
Princeton, NJ 08540
rms@rmsga.com

David Dismukes, Ph.D.
Acadian Consulting Group
5800 One Perkins Place Drive
Building 5, Suite F
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
daviddismukes@acadianconsulting.com

Edward McGee
Acadian Consulting Group
P.O. Box 1659
Bethany Beach, DE 19930
edmcgee@acadianconsulting.com

Julie McKenna
Acadian Consulting Group
5800 One Perkins Place Drive
Building 5, Suite F
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
juliemckenna@acadianconsulting.com

Kevin O'Donnell, CFA
Nova Energy Consultants, Inc.
1350 SE Maynard Road
Suite 101
Cary, NC 27511
kodonnell@novaenergyconsultants.com

Deputy Attorneys General

124 Halsey Street
Post Office Box 45029
Newark, NJ 07101-45029

Geoffrey Gersten, DAG
geoffrey.gersten@law.njoag.gov

Andrew Kuntz, DAG
andrew.kuntz@law.njoag.gov

Alex Moreau, DAG
alex.moreau@law.njoag.gov

Patricia Krogman, DAG
patricia.krogman@law.njoag.gov

Emma Xiao, DAG
emma.xiao@law.njoag.gov

Jenique Jones
jenique.jones@law.njoag.gov

Thomas Kelly, Esq.
Russo, Tumulty, Nester, Thompson & Kelly,
LLP
175 Fairfield Avenue #1A
West Caldwell, NJ 07006
tkelly@russotumulty.com

CSJV

Kevin G. Walsh, Esq.
Gibbons, P.C.
One Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102
kwalsh@gibbonslaw.com

Michael D. DeLoreto, Esq.
Gibbons, P.C.
One Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102
mdeloreto@gibbonslaw.com

EDF

Christopher D. Miller, Esq.
Maraziti Falcon, LLP
150 John F. Kennedy Parkway
Short Hills, NJ 07078
cmiller@mfhenvlaw.com

Holly Pearen, Esq.
Environmental Defense Fund
2060 Broadway Street, Suite 300
Boulder, CO 80302
hpearen@edf.org

NJLECET

Bradley M. Parsons, Esq.
Kroll Heineman Carton, LLC
Metro Corporate Campus I
99 Wood Avenue South
Suite 307
Iselin, NJ 08830
bparsons@krollfirm.com

ELEC

Daniel J. Brennan, Esq.
Susanin, Widman & Brennan, P.C.
656 E. Swedesford Road, Suite 330
Wayne, PA 19087
dbrennan@swbcounselors.com

Elizabeth Schlax, Esq.
Susanin, Widman & Brennan, P.C.
656 E. Swedesford Road, Suite 330
Wayne, PA 19087
eschlax@swbcounselors.com

Ferreira:

Michael Rato, Esq.
McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP
1300 Mount Kemble Avenue
P.O. Box 2075
Morristown, NJ 07962-2075
mrato@mdmc-law.com