Agenda Date: 2/11/10 Agenda Item: IIA



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## **ENERGY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED BASE TARIFF RATES AND CHANGES FOR GAS SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF REVISIONS

ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES AND CHARGES

BPU DOCKET NO. GR10010035

Ira G. Megdal, Esq., Cozen O'Connor, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, for South Jersey Gas Company

## BY THE BOARD:

On January 15, 2010, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, South Jersey Gas Company ("Petitioner" or "South Jersey"), 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 \$35.9 million or 7.15% to be effective for gas service provided on or after February 15, 2010, as well as for certain other tariff changes. According to the petition, the primary reasons for the requested increase are the ongoing increasing capital expenditures for infrastructure improvements to ensure system reliability and to comply with federal pipeline safety regulations, combined with increased pension and healthcare costs and other expenses.

It appearing that the proposed revisions, if approved, will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is HEREBY ORDERED that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 (d), the proposed revisions are suspended until June 15, 2010, unless prior to that date the Board makes a determination disposing of the petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (2) Petitioner shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition by the Office of Administrative Law, file with this Board and with the Office of Administrative Law, 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) Petitioner shall, at the same time it files with the Board, also file proof of service of copies of this Order upon the Office of Administrative Law, the Department of the Public Advocate, Division of the 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.

DATED: 2/11/10

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

ELIZABETH RANDALI ACTING PRESIDENT

FREDERICK F. BUTLER COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSEL COMMISSIONER JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY I 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 Petition of South Jersey Gas Company for Approval of Increased Base Tariff Rates and Changes for Gas Service and Other Tariff Revisions BPU Docket No. GR09080664

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