

Agenda Date: 6/7/10 Agenda Item: IIA

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.nj.gov/bpu/

ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED BASE TARIFF RATES AND CHARGES FOR GAS SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF REVISIONS)	ORDER FURTHER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES AND CHARGES
)	DOCKET NO. GR10010035

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

Felicia Thomas-Friel, Esq., Deputy Public Advocate Sarah H. Steindel, Esq., Assistant Deputy Public Advocate, Henry M. Ogden, Esq., Assistant Deputy Public Advocate, and Judy Appel, Esq., Department of the Public Advocate, Division of Rate Counsel (Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Acting Public Advocate, Division of Rate Counsel)

Cynthia Holland, Deputy Attorney General and Alex Moreau, Deputy Attorney General, for the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Paula T. Dow, Attorney General of New Jersey)

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.

This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") on January 27, 2010.

On February 11, 2010, the Board suspended the Petitioner's proposed rates until June 15, 2010. Since this matter will not be completed by June 15, 2010, an Order further suspending the rates until October 13, 2010 is warranted. The Board <u>HEREBY ORDERS</u> the following:

- Pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-21 (d), the proposed revisions are further suspended until October 13, 2010, unless prior to that date the Board makes a determination disposing of the petition; and
- 2) At the same time it files with the Board, Petitioner shall also file proof of service of copies of this Order upon the OAL, 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.

DATED:

6/7/0

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

LEE A. SOLOMON PRESIDENT

Jeanne M. Fox

JEANNE M. FOX COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY JØSEPH L. FIÓRDALISO COMMISSIONER

ELIZABETH RANDALL COMMISSIONER

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

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED BASE TARIFF RATES AND CHARGES FOR GAS SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF REVISIONS DOCKET NO. GR10010035

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