



Agenda Date: 12/16/15  
Agenda Item: IIA

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350  
[www.nj.gov/bpu/](http://www.nj.gov/bpu/)

ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY )	ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES,
NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN )	CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN
INCREASE IN GAS BASE RATES AND FOR )	RATES FOR SERVICE
CHANGES IN ITS TARIFF FOR GAS SERVICE, )	
APPROVAL OF SAFE PROGRAM EXTENSION, AND )	
APPROVAL OF SAFE EXTENSION AND NJ RISE )	
RATE RECOVERY MECHANISMS PURSUANT TO )	
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-21, 48:2-21.1 AND FOR CHANGES TO )	
DEPRECIATION RATES FOR GAS PROPERTY )	
PURSUANT TO <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-18. )	BPU DOCKET NO. GR15111304

**Parties of Record:**

**Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.**, New Jersey Natural Gas Company, Petitioner  
**Stefanie A. Brand, Esq.**, Director, Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:<sup>1</sup>

On November 13, 2015, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, New Jersey Natural Gas Company (“Company” or “NJNG”), 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 the authority to (1) increase its base tariff rates and charges for gas service by \$147.6 million to be effective for gas service provided on or after December 17, 2015; (2) extend its Safety Acceleration and Facility Enhancement (“SAFE”) Program; (3) implement its New Jersey Reinvestment in System Enhancements (“NJ RISE”) and SAFE extension rate recovery mechanisms and (4) implement certain other rate and tariff revisions.

According to the petition, the requested increase is necessary to ensure the Company’s continued ability to construct, operate and maintain its natural gas system in a safe, adequate and proper manner as required by N.J.S.A. 48:2-23. The Company also states that the additional revenue is needed to provide it with the opportunity to recover operating revenues through base rates sufficient to meet operating expenses, taxes and fixed charges, and provide

<sup>1</sup> Commissioner Joseph L. Fiordaliso was not present at the December 16, 2015 agenda meeting.

a reasonable rate of return on the fair value of the Company's property devoted to the provision of service to its customers, i.e. rate base investments.

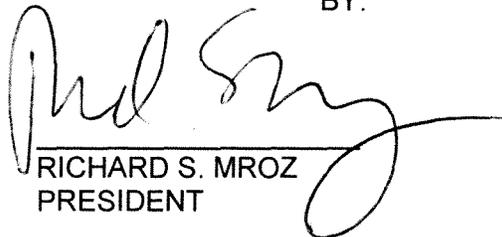
It appearing that the proposed revisions, if approved, will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in NJNG's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

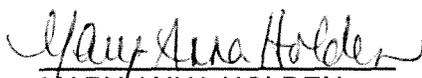
- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21(d), the proposed revisions are suspended until March 13, 2016, unless prior to that date the Board makes a determination disposing of the petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (2) NJNG shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition, file with this Board 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) NJNG 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.

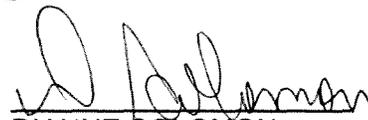
This Order shall be effective on December 26, 2015.

DATED: 12/16/15

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

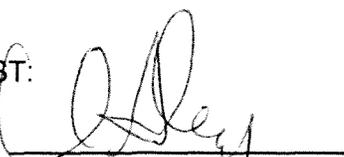
  
RICHARD S. MROZ  
PRESIDENT

  
MARYANNA HOLDEN  
COMMISSIONER

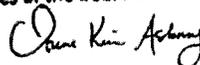
  
DIANNE SOLOMON  
COMMISSIONER

  
UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

  
IRENE KIM ASBURY  
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 THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN GAS BASE RATES AND FOR CHANGES IN ITS TARIFF FOR GAS SERVICE, APPROVAL OF SAFE PROGRAM EXTENSION, AND APPROVAL OF SAFE EXTENSION AND NJ RISE RATE RECOVERY MECHANISMS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, 48:2-21.1 AND FOR CHANGES TO DEPRECIATION RATES FOR GAS PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-18.

SERVICE LIST

BPU DOCKET NO. GR15111304

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