

Agenda Date: 3/29/19 Agenda Item: 2E

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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'S 2018 ANNUAL MARGIN ADJUSTMENT CHARGE ("MAC") DECISION AND ORDER APPROVING STIPULATION FOR MAC RATES

DOCKET NO. GR18060605

Parties of Record:

**Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director,** New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel **Matthew Weissman, Esq.,** Public Service Electric and Gas Company

BY THE BOARD:

By this Order, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") considers a Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") executed by Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Company"), Board Staff ("Staff"), and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") (collectively, "Parties") intended to resolve the Company's requests related to the above docketed matter.

## BACKGROUND

By Order of the Board dated January 9, 2002 in the gas base rate case of PSE&G in Docket No. GR01050328,<sup>1</sup> the Company was authorized to implement the Margin Adjustment Clause ("MAC") to credit the net revenues associated with Transmission Service Gas Non-Firm ("TSGNF") rates to customers on Rate Schedules Residential Service Gas ("RSG"), General Service Gas ("GSG"), Large Volume Service Gas ("LVG"), Firm Transportation Gas Service ("TSG-F") and Street Lighting Service ("SLG"). The purpose of the MAC is to properly allocate transportation/distribution costs to non-firm gas transportation customers having the ability to switch to alternative fuel sources (e.g. oil) in recognition that these customers should contribute, along with firm customers, towards the costs associated with maintaining the distribution system. The MAC is set to ensure margins from TSG-NF customers are credited to firm gas customers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In re the Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company for Approval of an Increase in Gas Rates and for Changes in the Tariff for Gas Service B.P.U.N.J. No. 12, Gas Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1, BPU Docket No. GR01050328 (January 9, 2002).

## PSE&G MAC 2018 PETITION

On June 1, 2018, PSE&G filed a petition ("June 2018 Petition") with the Board seeking authority to adjust its MAC. In the June 2018 Petition, the Company represented that for the period ending April 2018, the net MAC balance including cumulative interest is over-recovered by \$14.4 million. The Company's forecasted MAC balance for the period ending September 2018 was an over-collected balance of \$25.32 million including interest. The MAC rate, including Sales and Use Tax ("SUT"), would change from a credit rate of \$0.006758 per therm to a credit rate of \$0.010873 per therm, a decrease of 0.004115 per therm. The typical bill impact of the proposed rates to a residential heating customer using 165 therms in a winter month and 1,010 annually would be a decrease in their annual bill from \$879.16 to \$875.06 or \$4.10, approximately 0.47%.

The Company updated the information to include actual data through September 2018, which supported a per therm MAC credit rate of \$0.006598 per therm. However, since the change was negligible, the Company proposed maintaining the current MAC credit of \$0.006758 per therm.

## STIPULATION

Following a review of the June 2018 Petition, updates thereto, and discovery, on March 7, 2019, the Parties executed the Stipulation, which provides for the following:<sup>2</sup>

1. The Company's MAC rate currently in effect remains unchanged to reflect a rate of (\$0.006758), including SUT per therm subject to interest on any net over or underrecovered MAC balance. Interest based on the seven-year Treasuries plus sixty (60) basis points is to be adjusted August 1 of each year, on any net over or under-recovered MAC balance.<sup>3</sup>

## **DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

Having reviewed the record in this matter, including the June 2018 Petition, updates thereto, and the Stipulation, the Board <u>FINDS</u> that the Parties have voluntarily agreed to the Stipulation, and that the Stipulation fully disposes of all issues in this proceeding and is consistent with the law. Therefore, the Board <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> the attached Stipulation to be reasonable, in the public interest, and in accordance with the law. Accordingly, the Board <u>HEREBY ADOPTS</u> the Stipulation as its own, as if fully set forth herein.

The Board <u>HEREBY</u> <u>APPROVES</u> the maintenance of the Company's MAC per therm credit rate of \$0.006758, inclusive of SUT. Such rate shall remain in effect until changed by further Order. Any net over-recovered MAC balance at the end of the MAC period shall be subject to refund with interest. The Company is <u>HEREBY</u> <u>DIRECTED</u> to file tariffs consistent with the Board's Order by April 15, 2019.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Although described in this Order, should there be any conflict between this summary and the Stipulation, the terms of the Stipulation control, subject to the findings and conclusions in this Order.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Paragraph 12 of the Board's July 9, 2010 Order in BPU Docket No. GR09050422 directs that "[t]he Prospective MAC Balance will accrue two-way interest in the same manner as the existing MAC balance."

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The Company's costs, including those related to the MAC, will remain subject to audit by the Board. This Decision and Order shall not preclude the Board from taking any actions deemed to be appropriate as a result of any such audit.

The effective date of this Order is April 8, 2019.

DATED: 3/29/19

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

FIORDALISO JOSEPH L. PRESIDENT

MARY-ANNA HOLDER

UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: Aida Canacho-Mulch AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH SECRETARY

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

DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

ROBERT M. GORDON COMMISSIONER

# IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY'S 2018 ANNUAL MARGIN ADJUSTMENT CHARGE ("MAC") DOCKET NO. GR18060605

## SERVICE LIST

# Public Service Electric & Gas Company

PSE&G Services Corporation 80 Park Plaza, T-5 P.O Box 570 Newark, NJ 07102

Matthew M. Weissman Esq. matthew.weissman@pseg.com

Justin Incardone, Esq justin.incardone@pseg.com

Caitlyn White caitlyn.White@pseg.com

Christina Mulligan chistina.mulligan@pseg.com

Department of Law & Public Safety Post Office Box 45029

Newark, NJ 07101-45029

Patricia Krogman patricia.krogman@law.njoag.gov

Emma Xiao emma.xiao@law.njoag.gov

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

Peter Van Brundt, DAG peter.vanbrundt@law.njoag.gov Board of Public Utilities Post Office Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

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

Kevin Moss, Bureau Chief Division of Energy kevin.moss@bpu.nj.gov

Oneil Hamilton Division of Energy oneil.hamilton@bpu.nj.gov

Ilene Lampitt, Esq. Counsel's Office ilene.lampitt@bpu.nj.gov

### **New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel**

Division of Rate Counsel Post Office Box 003 Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director <u>sbrand@rpa.nj.gov</u>

Brian Lipman, Esq. blipman@rpa.nj.gov

Sarah Steindel, Esq. ssteinde@rpa.ni.gov

Felicia Thomas-Friel, Esq. <u>fthomas@rpa.nj.gov</u>

Justin B. Incardone Associate General Regulatory Counsel Law Department 80 Park Plaza, T-5G, Newark, New Jersey 07102-4194 Tel: 973.430.6163 fax: 973.430.5983 email: Justin Incardone@pseg.com



March 7, 2019

# In the Matter of the Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company's 2018 Annual Margin Adjustment Charge ("MAC")

BPU Docket No. GR18060605

## VIA E-MAIL & OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Flr. P.O. Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Dear Secretary Camacho-Welch:

Attached please find the fully executed Stipulation (of which 10 copies are enclosed) in the above-referenced matter. The following parties have signed the Stipulation: Public Service Electric and Gas Company, the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Justin B. Incardone

C Attached Service List (electronic only)

### 07/09/2018

### <u>BPU</u>

Paul Flanagan Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue 3rd Floor, Suite 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton NJ 08625-2836 paul,flanagan@bpu.nj.gov

### <u>BPU</u>

Stacy Peterson Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue 3rd Floor, Suite 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton NJ 08625-0350 (609) 292-4517 stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov

#### DAG

Patricia A. Krogman DAG NJ Dept of Law & Public Safety Division of Law 124 Halsey Street, 5th Flr. P.O. Box 45029 Newark NJ 07101 (973) 648-3441 patricia.krogman@dol.lps.state.nj.us

#### <u>DAG</u>

Emma Xiao DAG NJ Dept of Law & Public Safety Division of Law 124 Halsey Street, 2nd Floor Newark NJ 07101 emma.xiao@law.njoag.gov

#### PSE&G

Christina Mulligan PSEG Services Corporation 80 Park Plaza, T8 P.O. Box 570 Newark NJ 07102 (973) 430-6273 Christina Mulligan@pseg.com

#### Rate Counsel Stefanie A. Brand

Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Flr. P.O. Box 003 Trenton NJ 08625 (609) 984-1460 sbrand@rpa.state.nj.us

## Public Service Electric and Gas Company MAC 2018-2019 GR18060605

## <u>BPU</u>

Oneil Hamilton Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Ávenue 3rd Floor, Suite 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton NJ 08625-0350 Oneil.Hamilton@bpu.nj.gov

### <u>BPU</u>

Bethany Rocque-Romaine Esq. Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue 3rd Floor, Suite 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton NJ 08625-0350 (609) 292-1496 bethany.romaine@bpu.nj.gov

### DAG

Alex Moreau DAG NJ Dept. of Law & Public Safety Division of Law 124 Halsey Street, 5th Flr. P.O. Box 45029 Newark NJ 07101 (973) 648-3762 Alex.Moreau@dol.lps.state.nj.us

#### <u>PSE&G</u>

Michele Falcao PSEG Services Corporation 80 Park Plaza, T5 P.O. Box 570 Newark NJ 07102 (973) 430-6119 michele.falcao@pseg.com

#### PSE&G

Matthew M. Weissman Esq. PSEG Services Corporation 80 Park Plaza, T5 P.O. Box 570 Newark NJ 07102 (973) 430-7052 matthew.weissman@pseg.com

#### Rate Counsel

Maura Caroselli Esq. Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street 4th Floor Trenton NJ 08625 mcaroselli@rpa.nj.gov

## <u>BPU</u>

Megan Lupo Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue 3rd Floor, Suite 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton NJ 08625-0350 megan.lupo@bpu.nj.gov

### <u>DAG</u>

Geoffrey Gersten NJ Dept. of Law & Public Safety Division of Law 124 Halsey Street, 5th Flr. P.O. Box 45029 Newark NJ 07101 (973) 648-3510 geoffrey.gersten@dol.lps.state.nj.us

#### DAG

Caroline Vachier DAG NJ Dept. of Law & Public Safety Division of Law 124 Halsey Street, 5th Flr. P.O. Box 45029 Newark NJ 07101 (973) 648-3709 caroline.vachier@dol.lps.state.nj.us

#### PSE&G

Justin Incardone Esq. PSEG Services Corporation 80 Park Plaza, T5 P.O. Box 570 Newark NJ 07102 (973) 430-6163 justin.incardone@pseg.com

#### PSE&G

Caitlyn White PSEG Services Corporation 80 Park Plaza, T-5 P.O. Box 570 Newark NJ 07102 (973)-430-5659 caitlyn.white@pseg.com

#### Rate Counsel

James Glassen Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Flr. P.O. Box 003 Trenton NJ 08625 (609) 984-1460 jglassen@rpa.state.nj.us

### Rate Counsel

Kurt Lewandowski Esq. Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Flr. P.O. Box 003 Trenton NJ 08625 (609) 984-1460 klewando@rpa.state.nj.us

### Rate Counsel

Sarah Steindel Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Flr. P.O. Box 003 Trenton NJ 08625 (609) 984-1460 ssteinde@rpa.state.nj.us

## Public Service Electric and Gas Company MAC 2018-2019 GR18060605

## <u>Rate Counsel</u>

Brian O. Lipman Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Flr. P.O. Box 003 Trenton NJ 08625 (609) 984-1460 blipman@rpa.nj.gov

### <u>Rate Counsel</u>

Felicia Thomas-Friel Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Flr. P.O. Box 003 Trenton NJ 08625 (609) 984-1460 fthomas@rpa.nj.gov

### Rate Counsel

Shelly Massey Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Flr. P.O. Box 003 Trenton NJ 08625 (609) 984-1460 smassey@rpa.nj.gov

### Rate Counsel Consultant

Andrea Crane The Columbia Group, Inc. 2805 East Oakland Park Blvd., #401 Ft. Lauderdale FL 33306 203-917-9709 ctcolumbia@aol.com

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE	)	S
ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY'S 2018	)	S
ANNUAL MARGIN ADJUSTMENT CHARGE	)	ľ
("MAC")	)	Æ

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT FOR MARGIN ADJUSTMENT CHARGE BPU DOCKET NO. GR18060605

## **APPEARANCES:**

Matthew M. Weissman, General State Regulatory Counsel, and Justin B. Incardone, Associate General Regulatory Counsel, for the Petitioner, Public Service Electric and Gas Company

Felicia Thomas-Friel, Esq., Deputy Rate Counsel, Sarah H. Steindel, Esq., Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel, for the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (Stefanie A. Brand, Director)

Patricia Krogman, Peter Van Brunt, and Emma Yao Xiao, Deputy Attorneys General, for the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General of New Jersey)

On June 1, 2018, Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("Public Service" or "Company") made a filing with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") in the above-referenced matter, recommending a Margin Adjustment Charge ("MAC") rate for firm customers of (\$0.010873) per therm (*i.e.*, a credit of \$0.010873), including New Jersey Sales and Use Tax ("SUT").

By way of background, on January 9, 2002, as a result of the Board's Order in Public Service's gas base rate case under BPU Docket No. GR01050328, the MAC was implemented to credit the net revenues associated with the rate schedule Non-Firm Transportation Gas Service ("TSG-NF") to customers on Rate Schedules Residential Service Gas ("RSG"), General Service Gas ("GSG"), Large Volume Service Gas ("LVG"), Street Lighting Gas ("SLG"), and Firm Transportation Gas Service ("TSG-F"). The current MAC is in accordance with the Board's Order dated February 28, 2018 in Docket No. GR17060593.

In the Company's June 1, 2018 filing, Public Service represented that the current MAC balance supported a newly calculated rate of (\$0.010873) per therm, including SUT, that would result in a minor rate decrease of \$0.004115 per them from the current rate of (\$0.006758) per therm, including SUT. The filing was subsequently updated with actual data through September 2018 that supported a rate of (\$0.006598) per therm including SUT. However, since this newly calculated rate would result in an increase that was not publically noticed by the Company, Public Service proposes maintaining the current MAC rate of (\$0.006758), including SUT of 6.625% as of January 1, 2018.

The Parties agree that the current MAC rate is reasonable at this time and HEREBY AGREE as follows:

1. The Company's MAC rate currently in effect remain unchanged to reflect a rate of (\$0.006758), including SUT per therm subject to interest on any net over or underrecovered MAC balance. Interest based on the seven-year Treasuries plus sixty (60)

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basis points is to be adjusted August 1 of each year, on any net over or under-recovered MAC balance.<sup>1</sup>

2. The undersigned agree that this Settlement contains mutually balancing and interdependent provisions and is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety. In the event any particular aspect of this Settlement is not accepted and approved by the Board, this Settlement shall be null and void, and the parties shall be placed in the same position that they were in immediately prior to its execution. More particularly, in the event this Settlement is not adopted in its entirety by the Board, then any party hereto is free to pursue its then available legal remedies with respect to all issues addressed in this Settlement as though this Settlement had not been signed.

3. The undersigned further acknowledge that a Board Order approving this Stipulation will become effective upon the service of said Board Order, or upon such date after the service thereof as the Board may specify, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:2-40.

4. The undersigned parties further HEREBY AGREE that this Settlement has been made exclusively for the purpose of this proceeding and that this Settlement, in total or specific item is in no way binding upon them in any other proceeding, except to enforce the terms of this Settlement.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Paragraph 12 of the Board's July 9, 2010 Order in BPU Docket No. GR09050422 directs that "[t]he Prospective MAC Balance will accrue two-way interest in the same manner as the existing MAC balance."

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

Justin B. Incardone Associate General Regulatory Counsel STEFANIE A. BRAND DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL

BY:

Sarah H. Steindel Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel

DATED: February 25, 2019

BY:

March DATED: February 7, 2019

GURBIR S. GREWAL ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY Attorney for the Staff of the Board of Public Utilities

BY: Emma Yao Xiao

Deputy Attorney General

DATED: February 28, 2019