

6, 2003 BGSS Order, the Board authorized the GDCs to, if necessary, self-implement up to a 5% increase effective December 1st of each BGSS year and, if necessary, self-implement a second increase of up to 5% effective February 1st of each BGSS year. Such self-implementing increases are subject to refund with interest, upon subsequent review by the Board. The Board's January 6, 2003 BGSS Order requires each of the GDCs to give written notice to Board Staff ("Staff") and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") 30 days prior to the self-implementing rate increases. Self-implementing decreases, if appropriate, may be implemented by the GDCs at any time upon five (5) days' notice to Staff and Rate Counsel.

The most recent projections of gas costs strongly suggest that even with the potential implementation of self-implementing rate increases, the GDCs will likely be significantly under-recovered as of September 30, 2022, the end of the BGSS annual period. Due to the extreme volatility of the natural gas market this year, on November 1, 2021, the GDCs filed an Emergent Motion of New Jersey's Gas Distribution Companies for Waivers Necessary to Permit Self-Implementing BGSS Increases Effective December 1, 2021 ("Motion"). The Motion requests that the Board, for this year only, waive the 30-day notice requirement for the December 1st self-implementing rate increase. The GDCs contend that this will enable them to closely monitor projected market conditions and to determine, with the maximum possible precision, whether: (a) a self-implementing rate increase is necessary; and (b) if so, how much of such an increase is necessary. In the Motion, ETG also requested a waiver of the language in its tariff, BGSS Rider A, which incorporates the BGSS Pricing Structure provided in the January 6, 2003 BGSS Order. The GDCs requested that the Motion be considered on an emergent basis at the next Board agenda meeting, November 17, 2021.

On November 9, 2021, Rate Counsel submitted comments indicating that it does not object to the GDCs' request, and the relief should only apply to the December 1, 2021 self-implemented rate increases.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The Board carefully reviewed the Motion filed by the GDCs to shorten the notice requirement for the December 1, 2021 self-implementing rate increases and finds the requests to be reasonable in light of the current volatile gas market conditions. Accordingly, the Board **HEREBY GRANTS** the Motion filed by the GDCs to permit a one-time waiver for this BGSS year only, of the requirement that notice of a December 1st self-implementing rate increase be filed no later than November 1st as may be indicated in each GDCs' relevant tariff and as provided in the January 6, 2003 BGSS Order. As such, the Board **HEREBY ORDERS** that any notice of a December 1, 2021 self-implementing rate increase be filed with Staff and Rate Counsel by no later than November 19, 2021. The Board concurs with the GDCs that this action will permit the Board, Rate Counsel, and the GDCs additional time to observe market conditions and perhaps allow for market stabilization to the ultimate benefit of the ratepayer. The Board emphasizes that any self-implementing increase would be provisional and subject to true-up in the annual BGSS filings.

Any requests for additional increases beyond the self-implementing increases will require additional public hearings, upon appropriate notice as required by law.

The effective date of this Order is November 17, 2021.

DATED: November 17, 2021

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



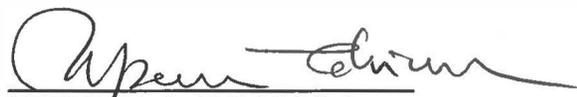
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COMMISSIONER



ROBERT W. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: 

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROVISION OF BASIC GAS SUPPLY SERVICE PURSUANT TO
THE ELECTRIC DISCOUNT AND ENERGY COMPETITION ACT, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 ET SEQ.
DOCKET NO. GX01050304

SERVICE LIST

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