

**NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY
NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND PURSUANT TO
SECTION 12 OF THE ELECTRIC DISCOUNT AND ENERGY COMPETITION ACT OF 1999
BPU DOCKET NO. EX00020091**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY
2026/2027 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE FILING FOR THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND
PROGRAM FACTOR WITHIN THE SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE RATE
BPU DOCKET NO. ER26060356**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49, et seq., the Universal Service Fund ("USF") Program was established by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), to provide funds to assist qualifying low-income individuals in paying their energy bills. Pursuant to Board Orders dated April 30, 2003, July 16, 2003, and June 22, 2005, the State's electric and gas public utilities' Societal Benefits Charge ("SBC") includes recovery of funding for the USF Program through uniform statewide rates. The SBC also includes funding for the Lifeline Program, which provides assistance with heating costs to qualifying elderly and disabled persons and incorporates funds for the Work First New Jersey Program.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs is the Administrator of the USF Program, and the New Jersey Department of Human Services is the Administrator of the Lifeline Program and authorizes the disbursement of benefits to eligible customers in the respective programs.

New Jersey Natural Gas Company ("NJNG" or "Company") made a compliance filing with the Board on June 29, 2026, requesting authority to implement a decrease related to the statewide USF/Lifeline Program charges, as described below, to be effective on October 1, 2026 ("Filing"). The current combined after-tax USF/Lifeline Program charge for natural gas customers is \$0.0262 per therm. The proposed USF component is decreasing by \$0.00238 per therm and the proposed Lifeline component is increasing by \$0.0001 per therm. The proposed combined after-tax USF/Lifeline program charge will decrease to \$0.0235 per therm to recover approximately \$75.4 million for the statewide natural gas USF program and \$24.6 million for the Lifeline program.

The present and proposed statewide charges for natural gas customers are as follows:

Universal Service/Lifeline Fund Components of Societal Benefits Charge				
	Present	Present (Incl. Sales and Use Tax)	Proposed	Proposed (Incl. Sales and Use Tax)
USF- per therm	\$0.0192	\$0.0205	\$0.0166	\$0.0177
Lifeline- per therm	\$0.0053	\$0.0057	\$0.0054	\$0.0058
Total USF/Lifeline	\$0.0245	\$0.0262	\$0.0220	\$0.0235

If approved by the Board, the impact of the proposed changes in the USF/Lifeline Charge on typical natural gas monthly bills is illustrated below:

Customer Type	Therm Level	Rates		Decrease	
		Monthly Bill as of June 1, 2026	Proposed Monthly Bill as of October 1, 2026	Amount	Percent
Residential Heat Sales	100	\$185.80	\$185.53	\$0.27	0.15%
Residential Non-Heat Sales	25	\$53.93	\$53.86	\$0.07	0.13%
General Service Small	100	\$210.36	\$210.09	\$0.27	0.13%
General Service Large	1200	\$2,193.22	\$2,189.98	\$3.24	0.15%

Based on this Filing, a typical residential-heat natural gas customer using 100 therms per month would see a decrease in their monthly bill from \$185.80 to \$185.53, or \$0.27, or approximately 0.15 percent.

The above request will not result in any profit to the Company. The revenues received under the proposed USF charge are designed to recover only costs for the USF and Lifeline Programs and are remitted to the State by the Company. Actual program costs will be reconciled with the revenues received through the USF Program charge in the next annual filing scheduled to be made no later than July 1, 2027.

The Board also has statutory authority to establish the USF and Lifeline charges at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish the USF and Lifeline charges at levels other than those proposed by NJNG.

Copies of the Filing can be reviewed on the Company's website at www.njng.com/regulatory, in the "Filings & Updates" subsection of the "Regulatory Info."

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that virtual public hearings are scheduled for the following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Filing.

DATE: August 17, 2026

TIMES: 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

There are two options for joining:

Go to <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397>

and enter the following information:

Meeting ID: 245 813 6397

Passcode: 819208

-or-

Join by Phone

Dial-In: +1 646 876 9923

Representatives from the Company, Board Staff and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. Members of the public are invited to participate by utilizing the link or dial-in information above to express their views on the Filing. All comments will be made as part of the final record of the proceedings to be considered by the Board. To encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters and/or listening assistance, forty-eight (48) hours prior to the above hearings to the Board Secretary at board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

The Board is also accepting written and electronic comments. Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket listed above using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's Public Document Search tool: (<https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us>). Comments are considered public documents for the purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's Public Document Search tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board's e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board. Please include "Confidential Information" in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board's webpage: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

Emailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:

Secretary of the Board
44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor
PO Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Phone: 609-913-6241
Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

**New Jersey Natural Gas Company
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