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OCT 19 2015

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

# Stacey M. Barnes, Esq.

Director, Legal Compliance
Office of General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

October 14, 2015

Kenneth J. Sheehan, Esquire Secretary Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor PO Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625

GE15101197

Re:

In the Matter of the Petition of South Jersey Gas Company for Approval of a Municipal Consent in the Township of Washington, Gloucester County

BPU Docket No.

Dear Secretary Sheehan:

Enclosed for filing please find an original and ten (10) copies of the Petition of South Jersey Gas Company ("South Jersey") for approval of the municipal consent granted by the Township of Washington, Gloucester County. Also included is the Ordinance, South Jersey's correspondence accepting the terms and conditions of the Ordinance, and a proposed notice of public hearing.

Copies of this filing are being served upon the Division of Law and Rate Counsel.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this filing by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter, providing the assigned docket number, and returning same in the self-addressed stamped envelope.

LEGAL DIAG RPA S. Peterson A. Bator ENERBY(H)

Very truly yours,

Stacey M. Barnes, Esq. sbarnes@sjindustries.com

SMB/lnjm

CMS

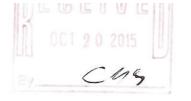
Enclosure

cc:

Division of Law

Division of Rate Counsel

(both with 2 copies of enclosure)





OCT 19 2015

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITI

MAIL ROOM

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF

BPU DOCKET NO.

SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY FOR

APPROVAL OF A MUNICIPAL CONSENT

IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON : PETITION

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#### TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

By this Petition, South Jersey Gas Company ("South Jersey" or the "Company"), hereby requests that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("BPU" or the "Board") pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 48:2-14 and *N.J.A.C.* 14:1-5.5 approve the municipal consent granted by the Township of Washington, Gloucester County, New Jersey (the "Township"). In support of its Petition, South Jersey states the following:

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 1. South Jersey is a regulated public utility engaged in the transmission, distribution, transportation and sale of natural gas in its defined service territory within the State of New Jersey. As such, South Jersey is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board. Within its service territory, the Company services approximately 360,000 customers.
- 2. South Jersey currently provides natural gas service within the Township and serves approximately 14,088 residential, 1,160 commercial and 7 industrial customers. South Jersey anticipates customer growth within its defined service territory to be approximately 1% annually and for the next 3-5 years.
- 3. South Jersey has the capacity necessary to ensure a continuation of its natural gas service and does not foresee any concerns regarding its ability to meet the existing and future demands of the Township.

4. Moreover, the Township is serviced by South Jersey's Glassboro Division customer service center located at 142 South Main Street, Glassboro, NJ 08028. The Glassboro Division will continue to serve South Jersey's customers within the Township for the foreseeable future. No modifications to the location or hours of operation of the center are proposed by virtue of this Petition.

#### **MUNICIPAL CONSENT**

- 5. On or about November 5, 1947, pursuant to ordinance, the Township consented to: (1) the Company furnishing natural gas service in the Township; and (2) the Company's use of the streets (the "Original Consent"). See November 5, 1947 Ordinance attached hereto as Exhibit "A".
- 6. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-15, the portion of the Original Consent applicable to the Company's use of the streets expired on November 5, 1997. Specifically, N.J.S.A. 48:3-15 provides, in relevant part, that "the board or body of such municipality authorized to grant consent may, by ordinance and not otherwise, grant for a period not exceeding fifty years, the right to use the streets petitioned for."
- 7. By virtue of this fifty (50) year statutory limitation, South Jersey obtained the renewed consent of the Township applicable to its use of the streets. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 13-2015, the Township acknowledged the Original Consent and granted exclusive consent and permission to South Jersey to lay and construct its pipes and mains and related appurtenances and facilities within the streets, alleys, squares and public places within the Township for a period of Fifty (50) years. *See* Ordinance No. 13-2015 attached hereto as Exhibit "B".
- 8. By letter to the Township dated October 5, 2015, South Jersey accepted and agreed to the terms and conditions of such municipal consent pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 48:3-16. A

true and correct copy of the Company's October 5, 2015 correspondence is attached hereto as

Exhibit "C".

**MISCELLANEOUS** 

9. A proposed public notice is attached to this Petition as Exhibit "D". A copy of

this Petition will be served on the Clerk of the Township and the Clerk of the Board of Chosen

Freeholders.

10. N.J.S.A. 48:2-14 requires Board approval of a municipal consent granted by a

municipality to a public utility subject to the Board's jurisdiction. The consent, which is the

subject matter of this Petition, complies with all statutory and administrative requirements

necessary for its approval. The Board's approval of the consent is necessary and proper for the

public convenience and properly conserves the public interests.

WHEREFORE, South Jersey Gas respectfully requests that the Board grant the

following:

1. Approve the municipal consent granted to South Jersey by the Township; and

2. Provide any and other further relief deemed just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

South Jersey Industries

Bv:

Stacey M. Barnes, Esq.

Dated: 10/10/15

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Communications addressed to the Petitioner in this case are to be sent to:

South Jersey Industries Stacey M. Barnes, Esq. 1 South Jersey Plaza Folsom, NJ 08037 (609) 561-9000, ext 6964

#### VERIFICATION

- I, Robert Fatzinger, of full age, being duly sworn to law upon my oath, depose and say:
- 1. I am Senior Vice President, Engineering Services and System Integrity of South Jersey Gas Company and am authorized to make this Verification on behalf of the Company.
- 2. I have reviewed the foregoing Petition and the information contained therein is true according to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Robert Fatzinger

Sworn to and subscribed

Before me this day of

Notary Public

KELLY L HALL
Notary Public
State of New Jersey
My Commission Expires Jul 25, 2018