



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION

APPROVING SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 03991-24

AGENCY DKT. NO. GR24020158

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY FOR
APPROVAL OF INCREASED BASE TARIFF
RATES AND CHARGES TO DEPRECIATION
RATES AND OTHER TARIFF REVISIONS.**

Kenneth T. Maloney, Esq., for petitioner, Elizabethtown Gas Company (Cullen and Dykman LLP, attorneys)

Sheree L. Kelly, Esq., Regulatory Affairs Counsel, for petitioner, Elizabethtown Gas Company

Steven Chaplar and **Matko Ilac**, Deputy Attorneys General, for Staff of the Board of Public Utilities (Matthew J. Platkin, Attorney General of New Jersey, attorney)

Maura Caroselli, Esq., Managing Attorney, and **Brian Lipman**, Director, for Division of Rate Counsel

Andrew K. Dembia, Esq., Regulatory Affairs Counsel, for participant, New Jersey Natural Gas Company

Steven S. Goldenberg, Esq., for intervenor, New Jersey Large Energy Users Coalition (Giordano, Halleran & Ciesla, P.C., attorney)

Danielle Lopez, Esq., Associate Counsel-Regulatory, for participant, PSE&G Services Corporation

BEFORE **JACOB S. GERTSMAN**, ALJ t/a:

Record Closed: November 6, 2024

Decided: November 6, 2024

BEFORE **JACOB S. GERTSMAN**, ALJ t/a:

This proceeding involves a petition by Elizabethtown Gas Company (Company) for approval of an increase in gas base rates, for increased base tariff rates and changes to depreciation rates and other tariff revisions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:21 and N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1, N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.7. The petition was filed with the Board of Public Utilities (Board) on February 29, 2024, and transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on March 20, 2024, for determination as a contested case.

The matter was assigned to the undersigned who conducted the initial case management conference on May 8, 2024. The motion to intervene was granted by order dated May 29, 2024. Duly noticed public hearings were held via Zoom Video Communications (Zoom) on July 23, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. No members of the public appeared at either hearing, and no written comments were received.

Evidentiary hearings were scheduled for January 21, 22, 23, 28 and 29, 2025. Prior to the commencement of the hearings, the parties notified the undersigned that they have agreed to settle this case and have entered into an agreement.¹ Having reviewed the terms of their agreement, I have determined that the settlement is voluntary,

¹ Said Stipulation of Settlement has been signed by the petitioner, Staff of the Board of Public Utilities, the Division of Rate Counsel, and the Intervenors.

consistent with the law, and fully dispositive of all issues in controversy between the parties in this case.

I **ORDER** that the settlement agreement is **APPROVED**, that its terms are **INCORPORATED** into this decision, and that this case is **CONCLUDED**.

I hereby **FILE** my initial decision with the **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified or rejected by the **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. If the Board of Public Utilities does not adopt, modify or reject this decision within forty-five days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

November 6, 2024

DATE



JACOB S. GERTSMAN, ALJ t/a

Date Received at Agency:

Date Mailed to Parties:

JSG/cab