



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
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**ENERGY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY )  
NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR A DETERMINATION )  
CONCERNING THE SOUTHERN RELIABILITY LINK )  
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:55D-19 AND N.J.S.A. 48:9- )  
25.4 ) **ORDER ESTABLISHING**  
**POST-HEARING BRIEFING**  
**SCHEDULE**  
**DOCKET NO. GO15040403**

**John G. Valeri Jr., Esq.**, Chiesa, Shahinian & Giantomasi, P.C., on behalf of New Jersey Natural Gas Company  
**Stefanie A. Brand, Esq.**, Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel  
**William R. Burns, Esq.**, Capehart Scatchard, on behalf of Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
**John C. Gillespie, Esq.**, Parker McCay, P.A., on behalf of Township of Chesterfield  
**Mark Roselli, Esq.**, Roselli Griegel Lozier & Lazzaro, P.C., on behalf of Township of North Hanover  
**Denis P. Kelly, Esq.**, Gilmore & Monahan, P.C., on behalf of Township of Plumsted  
**Paul Leodori, Esq.**, Law Offices of Paul Leodori, P.C., on behalf of Pinelands Preservation Alliance

BY COMMISSIONER DIANNE SOLOMON:

On April 2, 2015, New Jersey Natural Gas ("NJNG" or "Company"), a New Jersey public utility that supplies natural gas to approximately 510,000 customers in Monmouth, Ocean, Morris, Middlesex and Burlington Counties, filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-19 of the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law ("MLUL") and N.J.S.A. 48:9-25.4.

According to the petition, NJNG's customers at the southern end of its pipeline system, particularly those in Ocean, Burlington and Monmouth Counties, may be adversely affected by a supply interruption or system failure. The Company represents that the proposed Southern Reliability Link project ("Project") will connect the natural gas system in these counties to a new supply point with the Transcontinental Pipe Line Company ("Transco") in Chesterfield, New Jersey, adjacent to the New Jersey Turnpike. The Company further represents that, by creating a new redundant major feed, the Project will support safe, reliable, and resilient delivery of natural gas to its customers in Ocean, Burlington and Monmouth Counties.

By Order dated May 19, 2015 ("May 19 Order"), the Board retained this matter for hearing and I was designated as the Presiding Officer with the authority to establish and modify schedules, decide all motions and otherwise control the conduct of this case, subject to Board ratification. Additionally, the May 19 Order set June 30, 2015 as the deadline to file motions to intervene or participate in this matter.

On June 18, 2015, I issued a Prehearing Order and accompanying procedural schedule. The procedural schedule set June 30, 2015 at the deadline for the filing of motions to intervene and participate. The procedural schedule further indicated that hearings would be held on December 1<sup>1</sup> and 7, 2015 and that the briefing schedule would be determined at a future date.

By Order dated July 21, 2015, I granted the motions to intervene of the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Township of Chesterfield and Township of North Hanover. I also granted the motions to participate of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance ("PPA") and Township of Plumsted to participate in this proceeding, granting them the right to argue orally and file a brief or statement as permitted by N.J.A.C. 1:1-16.6(c).

The evidentiary hearing occurred on December 7, 2015. At the conclusion of the hearing, the parties discussed a proposed briefing schedule, but could not agree upon the dates. The Company proposed an expedited briefing schedule, with initial briefs to be filed on December 23, 2015 and reply briefs on January 6, 2015. The intervenors and PPA proposed that initial briefs be filed on January 15, 2016 and reply briefs be filed on January 29, 2016.

Since there was no resolution reached among the parties at the evidentiary hearing, I indicated that I would take the proposals under advisement and issue an order establishing the briefing schedule.

### **DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

As noted above, the May 19 Order authorized me to rule on all motions and otherwise control the conduct of this proceeding. Accordingly, I have reviewed the proposals concerning the briefing schedule, and have concluded that the expedited briefing schedule proposed by the Company does not provide sufficient time for the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel, Board staff, the intervenors and participants to thoroughly review the extensive record that was created in this proceeding to prepare and file their positions on the petition. Furthermore, I am cognizant of the staffing issues that arise during this holiday season.

Therefore, after giving due consideration to the proposals, I **HEREBY DIRECT** that initial briefs are to be filed on or before January 15, 2016, and reply briefs are to be filed on or before January 29, 2016.


I **HEREBY DIRECT** Board Staff to post this Order on the Board's website and serve a copy of the Order to the service list electronically.

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<sup>1</sup> The December 1 hearing was subsequently adjourned.

This ruling is provisional and subject to ratification or other alteration by the Board as it deems appropriate during the proceeding in this matter.

DATED: December 10, 2015



DIANNE SOLOMON  
COMMISSIONER

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR A  
DETERMINATION CONCERNING THE SOUTHERN RELIABILITY LINK PURSUANT TO  
N.J.S.A. 40:55D-19 AND N.J.S.A. 48:9-25.4

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