

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

	1	
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF THE))	ORDER
SAFETY ACCELERATION AND FACILITY)	
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.)	
48:2-23, AND FOR APPROVAL OF THE ASSOCIATED)	DOCKET NO. GO12030255
RECOVERY MECHANISM PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.)	
48:2-21 AND 2-21.1)	
)	

Tracey Thayer, Esq., New Jersey Natural Gas **Stefanie A. Brand, Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

By Commissioner Holden:

New Jersey Natural Gas Company ("NJNG") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), seeking approval of what the company calls its Safety Acceleration and Facility Enhancement ("SAFE") program, including associated interim rate recovery pursuant to the negotiated rate statute, N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1. The proposed SAFE program is a five-year capital investment program for the replacement of existing cast iron and unprotected steel distribution mains and services. The proposed interim rate recovery mechanism is similar to that put into place by the Board in prior accelerated infrastructure investment programs.

By Order dated June 18, 2012, the Board retained jurisdiction over this matter and appointed me as the presiding officer to rule on all motions and set and modify any schedules as necessary to secure a just and expeditious determination of the issues, and otherwise control the conduct of this case, without the need for full Board approval, subject to subsequent Board ratification.

The Board also directed that any company intending to file for an accelerated infrastructure program be given the opportunity to address whether such request for accelerated replacement of cast iron and unprotected steel infrastructure on an expedited basis, with interim rate, should be addressed through a contested case proceeding or through a rule making process similar to

that employed to develop the Distribution System Improvement Charge ("DSIC") rules at N.J.A.C. 14:9-10.

Under the authority granted by the June 18 Order, I <u>HEREBY SET</u> the following procedural schedule for submissions by interested parties on the above question. In conducting this as an open proceeding, no formal motions to intervene or participate are required at this time.

Initial Briefs

July 30, 2012

Reply Briefs

August 8, 2012

I <u>HEREBY DIRECT</u> Staff to distribute this Order to the current parties as listed on the attached service list, to all gas and electric public utilities in the State, and post it on the Board's website. All filings should be made by electronic mail to the Board's Secretary at <u>Board.Secretary@bpu.state.nj.us</u>, to <u>Anissa.Torres@bpu.state.nj.us</u>, and to parties listed on the attached e-service list or any subsequently issued e-service list. A hard copy of any filing should also be made with the Board's Secretary. Parties wishing to be added to the e-service list may do so by emailing Anissa Torres at Anissa.Torres@bpu.state.nj.us.

This provisional ruling is subject to the ratification or other alteration by the Board as deemed appropriate.

DATED: 7/19/12

BY:

MAR∦-ANNA HOLDEN COMMISSIONER

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF THE SAFETY ACCELERATION AND FACILITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-23, AND FOR APPROVAL OF THE ASSOCIATED RECOVERY MECHANISM PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 AND 2-21.1

DOCKET NO. GO12030255

SERVICE LIST

Kenneth Sheehan, Esq. Chief Counsel New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 7 th Floor P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08526-0350 Kenneth.sheehan@bpu.state.nj.us	Rosalie Serapiglia Division of Energy New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 7 th Floor P.O. Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 Rosalie.serapiglia@bpu.state.nj.us
Jerome May, Director Division of Energy New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 7 th Floor P.O. Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 Jerome.May@bpu.state.nj.us	Caroline Vachier, DAG Division of Law – Public Utilities Section 124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101 Caroline.Vachier@dol.lps.state.nj.us
Mark R. Sperduto New Jersey Natural Gas Company 1415 Wyckoff Road P.O. Box 1464 Wall, NJ 07719 MSperduto@NJNG.com	Babette Tenzer, DAG Division of Law—Public Utilities Section 124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101 Babette.tenzer@dol.lps.state.nj.us
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel 31 Clinton Street, 11 th Floor P.O. Box 46005 Newark, NJ 07101 Email: sbrand@rpa.state.nj.us	Alex Moreau, DAG Veronica Beke, DAG Division of Law—Public Utilities Section 124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101 Alex.moreau@dol.lps.state.nj.us Veronica.beke@dol.lps.state.nj.us
Tracey Thayer New Jersey Natural Gas Company 1415 Wyckoff Road P.O. Box 1464 Wall, NJ 07719 Email: TThayer@NJNG.com	