



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
September 20, 2013

Contact:
Greg Reinert
609-777-3305

Christie Administration Enables South Jersey Gas Customers to Pay Less to Heat Their Homes this Winter

TRENTON, N.J. – The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities announced this week that natural gas customers with South Jersey Gas Company (SJG) will pay less to heat their homes this fall and winter. The average residential natural gas customer of SJG, using 1000 therms annually, will see a net decrease in their annual bill in the amount of \$42.80 or 3.2% as compared to last year's October 1 rates.

With this week's Board action, SJG gas customers will see the decrease take effect in October 1, 2013. The low cost of natural gas for consumers is a reflection of the abundant supply of natural gas in the market place. These rates will remain in effect until September 30, 2014.

"Reducing energy costs for all ratepayers is one of the goals of Governor Chris Christie's Energy Master Plan," said Bob Hanna, President of the NJ Board of Public Utilities. "With this goal in mind, the Board strives to see that utility customers across the State reap the benefits of lower gas and electric prices while also improving the environment and increasing the reliability and safety of the natural gas infrastructure."

The Board's action results in a change to SJG's Conservation Incentive Program (CIP) and maintains the level of SJG's Periodic Basic Gas Supply Service (BGSS) after-tax rate at \$0.5325. CIP encourages the Company to foster customer conservation by allowing it to share in energy related savings due to conservation. The non-weather related CIP surcharges are limited to corresponding decreases in specific supply related costs incorporated into the Company's Basis Gas Supply Service ("BGSS") rate, which are reviewed in a separate filing. Residential customers saw their CIP rate decrease from a charge of \$0.1024 to \$0.0392. It is anticipated that the changes in the CIP rates will result in a \$17.88 million decrease in revenues for SJG. The Board also approved base rates of approximately \$117 million of accelerated infrastructure investments that allows the company to create jobs while also invest in the safety and stability of its infrastructure.

###

About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)

The NJBPU is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBPU include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents. To find out more about the NJBPU, visit our web site at www.nj.gov/bpu <<http://www.nj.gov/bpu>>.