

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

ENERGY AND CLEAN ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF TRIENNIUM 2 CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAMS AND ASSOCIATED COST RECOVERY PURSUANT TO THE CLEAN ENERGY ACT ORDER SUSPENDING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

DOCKET NO. QO23120869

Parties of Record:

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel Sheree L. Kelly, JD, MBA, Regulatory Affairs Counsel, Elizabethtown Gas Company John Kolesnik, Esq., Counsel for the Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey Steven S. Goldenberg, Esq., Counsel for the New Jersey Large Energy Users Coalition

BY COMMISSIONER MARIAN ABDOU:

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

By Order dated May 24, 2023, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") directed each electric and gas public utility to propose, for Board approval, energy efficiency ("EE") programs for the second three-year EE program period ("Triennium 2") on or before October 2, 2023, and the Board addressed certain aspects of the Triennium 2 framework.¹

¹ In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Establishment of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs; In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Second Triennium of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs; In re Electric Public Utilities and Gas Public Utilities Offering Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs, Investing in Class I Renewable Energy Resources and Offering Class I Renewable Energy Programs in Their Respective Service Territories on a Regulated Basis, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-98.1 and N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.9 - Minimum Filing Requirements, BPU Docket Nos. QO19010040, QO23030150, and QO17091004, Order dated May 24, 2023.

By Order dated July 26, 2023, the Board approved the remaining aspects of the Triennium 2 framework.²

By Order dated September 27, 2023, the Board extended the filing deadline for Triennium 2 petitions from October 2, 2023 to December 1, 2023 and directed that any entities seeking to intervene or participate in this matter file the appropriate application with the Board by December 8, 2023 and that entities file with the Board any responses to those motions by December 14, 2023.³ By the September 2023 Order, the Board retained this matter for hearing and, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-32, designated President Guhl-Sadovy as Presiding Commissioner in this matter. By Order dated October 25, 2023, the Board delayed the start of Triennium 2 by six (6) months from July 1, 2024, until January 1, 2025.⁴

By Order dated January 10, 2024, the Board redesignated President Guhl-Sadovy as the Presiding Commissioner for the Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G") filing, and designated myself, Commissioner Abdou, as the Presiding Commissioner in this matter, authorized to rule on all motions that arise during the pendency of this proceeding, and modify schedules that may be set as necessary to secure a just and expeditious determination of all issues.⁵

² In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Establishment of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs; In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Second Triennium of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs; In re Electric Public Utilities and Gas Public Utilities Offering Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs, Investing in Class I Renewable Energy Resources and Offering Class I Renewable Energy Programs in Their Respective Service Territories on a Regulated Basis, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-98.1 and N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.9 - Minimum Filing Requirements, BPU Docket Nos. QO19010040, QO23030150, and QO17091004, Order dated July 26, 2023.

In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Establishment of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs; In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Second Triennium of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs; In re Electric Public Utilities and Gas Public Utilities Offering Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs, Investing in Class I Renewable Energy Resources and Offering Class I Renewable Energy Programs in Their Respective Service Territories on a Regulated Basis, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-98.1 and N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.9 - Minimum Filing Requirements, BPU Docket Nos. QO19010040, QO23030150, and QO17091004, Order dated September 27, 2023 ("September 2023 Order"). The September 2023 Order also directed that any entity wishing to file a motion for admission of counsel, *pro hac vice*, should do so concurrently with any motion to intervene or participate. No entity filed a motion for admission *pro hac vice* in this matter.

⁴ In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Second Triennium of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs, BPU Docket No. QO23030150, Order dated October 25, 2023 ("October 2023 Order"). The October 2023 Order also extended Triennium 1 through December 31, 2024.

⁵ In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Second Triennium of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs *et al.*, BPU Docket Nos. QO23030150, QO23120868, QO23120869, QO23120870, QO23120871, QO23120872, QO23120874, and QO23120875, Order dated January 10, 2024 ("January 2024 Order"). By the January 2024 Order, the Board additionally redesignated Commissioner Abdou as the Presiding Commissioner for the New Jersey Natural Gas Company ("NJNG") and South Jersey Gas Company ("SJG") fillings, BPU Docket Nos. QO23120868 and QO23120870.

On December 1, 2023, Elizabethtown Gas Company ("ETG" or "Petitioner") filed the requisite petition with the Board ("Petition"), and on December 26, 2023, Board Staff ("Staff") issued ETG a letter of administrative deficiency ("Letter") identifying administratively incomplete portions of the Petition and requesting that the Company cure any deficiencies. On January 5, 2024, ETG filed an update to the Petition to cure the deficiencies identified in the Letter ("Update"). N.J.S.A. 48:3-98.1(b) provides the Board with 180 days to approve, modify, or deny the Company's requested recovery of costs for the Program. The 180-day review period commenced on January 5, 2024, for the Petition.

In the January 2024 Order, the Board directed that any entity wishing to file a motion for leave to intervene or participate, or to update a previously-filed motion for leave to intervene or participate, in this proceeding shall have until seven (7) days following Staff's issuance of a letter of administrative completeness to the Company.⁶ On January 12, 2024, Staff issued a letter of administrative completeness, noting that the Update adequately cured the deficiencies identified in the Letter and that Staff therefore determined the Petition to be administratively complete. The Board subsequently received no additional or updated motions seeking leave to intervene or participate.

By Order dated February 26, 2024, after considering all Motions to Intervene or Participate in this matter and responses to the Motions, I granted intervenor status to the New Jersey Large Energy Users' Coalition ("NJLEUC") and the Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey ("EEA-NJ") (collectively, "Intervenors"), and participant status to Uplight, Inc. and the joint utilities: NJNG, Atlantic City Electric Company, Jersey Central Power & Light Company, PSE&G, Rockland Electric Company, and SJG.⁷

On March 19, 2024, the parties to this matter submitted for approval a stipulation of settlement, proposing to extend the 180-day review period to October 15, 2024 ("Stipulation").

By Order dated April 23, 2024, I approved the Stipulation, extending the 180-day review period to October 15, 2024, and established the procedural schedule for this matter, which was annexed to the Order ("April 23 Procedural Schedule").8

On April 25, 2024, I received correspondence from ETG seeking to amend the April 23 Procedural Schedule, specifically, by extending the deadline for the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") and Intervenors to file testimony by two (2) weeks from May 3, 2024, to May 17, 2024, to allow for further settlement negotiations. ETG did not request further modification to the April 23 Procedural Schedule in its April 25, 2024 correspondence. According to the correspondence, Rate Counsel, Board Staff, and the Intervenors supported the request.

⁶ In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Second Triennium of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs *et al.*, BPU Docket Nos. QO23030150, QO23120868, QO23120869, QO23120870, QO23120871, QO23120872, QO23120874, and QO23120875, Order dated January 10, 2024.

⁷ In re the Petition of Elizabethtown Gas Company for Approval of Triennium 2 Clean Energy Programs and Associated Cost Recovery Pursuant to the Clean Energy Act, BPU Docket No. QO23120869, Order dated February 26, 2024.

⁸ In re the Petition of Elizabethtown Gas Company for Approval of Triennium 2 Clean Energy Programs and Associated Cost Recovery Pursuant to the Clean Energy Act, BPU Docket No. QO23120869, Order dated April 23, 2024.

Subsequently, on May 9, 2024, ETG filed correspondence requesting the filing for Rate Counsel and Intervenor testimony be extended to May 31, 2024. The correspondence indicated that the request was supported by Rate Counsel, Board Staff, and the Intervenors. By Order dated May 15, 2024, I extended the deadline for the filing of Respondent/Intervenor testimony to May 31, 2024, and, with the consent of the parties, suspended the April 23 Procedural Schedule until May 31, 2024.⁹

On May 23, 2024, ETG filed correspondence seeking to suspend the April 23 Procedural Schedule indefinitely so that the parties may continue settlement negotiations. Rate Counsel and the Intervenors indicated their consent to ETG's request in writing on May 23, 2024. Board Staff indicated its consent to the request on May 29, 2024.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

I reviewed, in detail, the Petitioner's correspondence dated May 23, 2024. To allow further settlement negotiations and to ensure an equitable determination of the issues, and with the consent of the parties, I **HEREBY SUSPEND** the April 23 Procedural Schedule in its entirety.

I <u>HEREBY ORDER</u> that the parties shall participate in a status update conference with myself that will occur during the last week of June 2024 to discuss progress made toward settlement and to determine whether to reinstate the April 23 Procedural Schedule. The Parties will be notified of the exact date of the status update conference by email.

I HEREBY DIRECT that this Order be posted on the Board's website.

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

DATED: June 4, 2024

BY:

COMMISSIONER

⁹ In re the Petition of Elizabethtown Gas Company for Approval of Triennium 2 Clean Energy Programs and Associated Cost Recovery Pursuant to the Clean Energy Act, BPU Docket No. QO23120869, Order dated May 15, 2024.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF TRIENNIUM 2 CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAMS AND ASSOCIATED COST RECOVERY PURSUANT TO THE CLEAN ENERGY ACT

DOCKET NO. QO23120869

SERVICE LIST

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Sherri Golden, Board Secretary board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Robert Brabston, Esq., Executive Director robert.brabston@bpu.nj.gov

Stacy Peterson, Deputy Executive Director stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov

General Counsel's Office

Michael Beck, General Counsel michael.beck@bpu.nj.gov

Carol Artale, Deputy General Counsel carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov

Steven Athanassopoulos steven.athanassopoulos@bpu.nj.gov

Rachel Boylan rachel.boylan@bpu.nj.gov

Office of the Economist

Benjamin Witherell, Ph.D., Chief Economist benjamin.witherell@bpu.nj.gov

Dianne Crilly dianne.crilly@bpu.nj.gov

Jackie O'Grady jackie.ogrady@bpu.nj.gov

Division of Revenue and Rates

Jacqueline Galka jacqueline.galka@bpu.nj.gov

Cindy Bianco cindy.bianco@bpu.nj.gov

Division of State Energy Services

Sara Bluhm Gibson, Director sara.bluhm@bpu.nj.gov

Michelle Rossi michelle.rossi@bpu.nj.gov NJBPU, cont'd.

Division of Clean Energy

Stacy Ho Richardson, Deputy Director stacy.richardson@bpu.nj.gov

Kevin Monte de Ramos
Bureau Chief, Energy Efficiency and Building
Decarbonization
kevin.montederamos@bpu.nj.gov

Philip Chao philip.chao@bpu.nj.gov

Rupa Deshmukh rupa.deshmukh@bpu.nj.gov

Paul Heitmann paul.heitmann@bpu.nj.gov

Kevin Nedza kevin.nedza (bpu.nj.gov

Indrani Pal indrani.pal@bpu.nj.gov

Brandee Sullivan brandee.sullivan@bpu.nj.gov

David Titus david.titus@bpu.nj.gov

Alexis Trautman alexis.trautman@bpu.nj.gov

Dustin Wang dustin.wang@bpu.nj.gov

NJBPU Consultants

Andrew Grant
The Cadmus Group
720 SW Washington St., Suite 400
Portland, OR 97205
andrew.grant@cadmusgroup.com

Jason Meyer DNV Energy Insights USA Inc. 1400 Ravello Rd Katy, TX 77449 jason.meyer@dnv.com

NJBPU Consultants, cont'd.

Pankaj Lal, PhD
Cassidy Rucker
Montclair State University
426 Center for Environment & Life Sciences
Montclair, NJ 07043
lalp@montclair.edu
ruckerc@montclair.edu

Jennifer Senick
Rutgers Center for Green Building
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public
Policy
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
33 Livingston Ave #158
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
jsenick@rutgers.edu

Lisa Skumatz Skumatz Economic Research Associates PO Box 1486 Silverthorne, CO 80498 skumatz@serainc.com

New Jersey Division of Law
Department of Law & Public Safety
R.J. Hughes Justice Complex, 7th Floor West
25 Market Street
Post Office Box 112
Trenton, NJ 08625-0112

Daren Eppley, Section Chief, DAG daren.eppley@law.njoag.gov

Pamela Owen, Assistant Section Chief, DAG pamela.owen@law,njoag.gov

Matko Ilic, DAG matko.ilic@law.njoag.gov

Steven A. Chaplar, DAG steven.chaplar@law.njoag.gov

New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Floor Post Office Box 003 Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Brian Lipman, Esq., Director blipman@rpa.nj.gov

Maura Caroselli, Esq., Managing Attorney mcaroselli@rpa.nj.gov

Megan Lupo, Esq. mlupo@rpa nj gov

Mamie W. Purnell, Esq. mpurnell@rpa.nj.gov

Rate Counsel, cont'd.

Andrew Gold, Esq. agold@rpa.nj.gov

Carlena Morrison, Paralegal cmorrison@rpa.nj.gov

Terrence Coleman, Paralegal tcoleman2@rpa.nj.gov

Rate Counsel Consultants

Robert J. Henkes Henkes Consulting 7 Sunset Road Old Greenwich, CT 06870 rhenkes@optonline.net

Acadian Consulting Group 5800 One Perkins Place Drive Building 5, Suite F Baton Rouge, LA 70808

David Dismukes, Ph.D. daviddismukes@acadianconsulting.com

Michael Deupree michaeldeupree@acadianconsulting.com

Melissa Firestone melissa.firestone@acadianconsulting.com

Nicolas Alvarez nicolasalvarez@acadianconsulting.com

Taylor Deshotels taylordeshotels@acadianconsulting.com

Roberto Hasbun robhasbun@acadianconsulting.com

Emily Mouch emilymouch@acadianconsulting.com

Tyler French tylerfrench@acadianconsulting.com

Jackson Gaspard
jacksongaspard@acadianconsulting.com

Applied Economics Clinic 6 Liberty Square PMB 98162 Boston, MA 02109

Elizabeth A. Stanton, PhD liz.stanton@aeclinic.org

Sumera Patel sumera.patel@aeclinic.org

Rate Counsel Consultants, cont'd.

Jordan M. Burt jordan.burt@aeclinic.org

Tanya Stasio tanya.stasio@aeclinic.org

Elizabethtown Gas Company

SJI Utilities, Inc. One South Jersey Place Folsom, NJ 08037

Dominick DiRocco, Esq. VP, Rates & Regulatory Affairs ddirocco@sjindustries.com

Carolyn A. Jacobs
Regulatory Compliance Specialist Sr. cjacobs@sjindustries.com

Jennifer Weitz
Regulatory Affairs Counsel Intermediate jweitz@sjindustries.com

Ed McFadden, VP, Sales & Marketing emcfadden@sjindustries.com

Cindy Capozzoli, Director, Rates ccapozzoli@sjindustries.com

Maureen Minkel
Senior Director, Marketing and Energy Efficiency
mminkel@sjindustries.com

Michael Savacool
Manager, Financial Planning/Energy Efficiency
msavacool@sjindustries.com

Sheree Kelly, Esq.
Regulatory Affairs Counsel
SJI Utilities, Inc.
520 Green Lane
Union, NJ 07083
skelly@sjindustries.com

Elizabethtown Gas Company 520 Green Lane Union, NJ 07083

Thomas Kaufmann Manager, Rates & Tariffs tkaufmann@sjindustries.com

Andrew McNally Senior Director, Government & Regulatory Affairs amcnally@sjindustries.com

Elizabethtown Gas Company, cont'd.

Susan Potanovich, Manager, Rates spotanovich@sjindustries.com

Frank Vetri, Manager, Energy Efficiency fvetri@sjindustries.com

ETG Consultants

Gabel Associates, Inc. 417 Denison St. Highland Park, NJ 08904

Isaac Gabel-Frank isaac@gabelassociates.com

Brendon Baatz brendon@gabelassociates.com

Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey John M. Kolesnik, Esq., Policy Counsel 614 S. 4th St., #307 Philadelphia, PA 19147 jkolesnik@eeaofnj.org

New Jersey Large Energy Users Coalition Steven S. Goldenberg, Esq. Giordano, Halleran & Ciesla, P.C. 125 Half Mile Road, Suite 300 Red Bank, NJ 07701-6777 sgoldenberg@ghclaw.com

Atlantic City Electric Company 92DC42 500 North Wakefield Drive P.O. Box 6066 Newark, DE 19702-6066

Philip J. Passanante, Esq. Assistant General Counsel philip.passanante@pepcoholdings.com

Nathanael Gillespie
nathanael.gillespie@exeloncorp.com

Jacob B. Sneeden jacob.sneeden@exeloncorp.com

Jessica Yu jessica.yu@exeloncorp.com

Heather Hall heather.hall@pepcoholdings.com

Imran Bell imran.bell@exeloncorp.com

Daniel Anderson danderson@pepco.com

Atlantic City Electric, cont'd

Ruth C. Kiselewich ruth.kjselewich@exeloncorp.com

Susan Marinelli smarinelli@pepcoholdings.com

Sherryl Chen sherryl.chen@pepcoholdings.com

Brendon Baatz brendon@gabelassociates.com

Jersey Central Power & Light Company

Michael Martelo, Esq., Attorney 300 Madison Avenue P.O. Box 1911 Morristown, NJ 07962-1911 mmartelo@firstenergycorp.com

Kurt E. Turosky Diane L. Rapp 76 South Main Akron, Ohio 44308 turoskyk@firstenergycorp.com drapp@firstenergycorp.com

Edward C. Miller
Eric R. Rundy
800 Cabin Hill Drive
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601
emille3@firstenergycorp.com
erundy@firstenergycorp.com

Mackenzie Klie 14997 Park Ave Ext Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335 mklie@firstenergycorp.com

Kori R. Auman-Krebs Viktor Lackmann 2800 Pottsville Pike Reading, Pennsylvania 19605 kauman@firstenergycorp.com vlackmann@firstenergycorp.com

New Jersey Natural Gas Company
Andrew K. Dembia, Esq., Regulatory Affairs Counsel
1415 Wyckoff Road
P.O. Box 1464
Wall, New Jersey 07719
adembia@ning.com

Public Service Electric and Gas Company
Stacey M. Mickles, Associate Counsel – Regulatory
Law Department

PSEG Services Corporation 80 Park Plaza – T10 Newark, New Jersey 07102-4194 stacey.mickles@pseg.com

Rockland Electric Company

Margaret Comes, Esq., Associate Counsel 4 Irving Place
New York, New York 10003
comesm@coned.com

South Jersey Gas Company
Sheree L. Kelly, Esq., Regulatory Affairs Counsel
South Jersey Industries
520 Green Lane
Union, NJ 07083

skelly@sjindustries.com

Uplight

Norris McLaughlin, P.A. 400 Crossing Boulevard, 8th Floor P.O. Box 5933 Bridgewater, NJ 08807

James H. Laskey, Esq. ilaskey@norris-law.com

Anthony D'Elia adelia@norris-law.com

Neil Veilleux Uplight Inc. 2350 Junction PI, Ste 200 Boulder, CO 80301 neil.veilleux@uplight.com