



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/

ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE)
BOROUGH OF MATAWAN, MONMOUTH)
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING)
RENEWAL OF THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT)
WITH NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY) ORDER APPROVING RENEWAL
OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENT
DOCKET NO. GE20030225

Parties of Record:

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
Andrew K. Dembia, Esq., New Jersey Natural Gas Company

BY THE BOARD:

New Jersey Natural Gas ("NJNG" or "Company"), a regulated public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), is a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey engaged in the distribution and transportation of natural gas to approximately 530,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers located in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, and parts of Middlesex, Burlington, and Morris counties in New Jersey.

NJNG currently provides natural gas service within the Borough of Matawan ("Borough") to 3,324 residential customers and 632 commercial customers. The Company's franchise to use the streets within the Borough for the provision of gas service expired on April 1, 2019.¹ On November 6, 2019, by Resolution No. 19-11-07 ("Resolution"), the Borough renewed NJNG's franchise for a period of 50 years and granted NJNG consent to lay, maintain, and operate gas facilities in the Borough. A copy of the Resolution is attached to this Order as Exhibit "A". By letter dated November 15, 2019, NJNG accepted and agreed to the terms and conditions of the Resolution consistent with N.J.S.A. 48:3-16. Copies of the letter of acceptance and the hearing notice are attached to this Order as Exhibits "B" and "C", respectively.

¹ The Board notes that municipal consents often expire some time prior to their renewal even when the Company initiates the renewal process prior to the expiration of the previous term. This is primarily the result of the time necessary for a municipality to fulfill the legal requirements that attend to all formal actions it must take along with the additional time for hearing and Board approval as required by law. The Board has been assured that pending review of its petition, NJNG represents that it has continued to provide service to its customers within the Borough in an uninterrupted manner.

On March 9, 2020, NJNG filed a petition with the Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-14 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.5, seeking approval of the franchise renewal agreement granted by the Borough. As required by law and after notice, a municipal consent hearing in this matter was held on August 17, 2020. Heather Weisband, Esq., the Board's duly appointed hearing officer, presided over the hearing. Appearances were made on behalf of the Company, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") and Board Staff. No other party participated in the hearing or filed any written comments with the Board related to this matter.

At the hearing, the Company relied on its petition and exhibits filed with the Board and presented the testimony of Joseph Puglisi, Supervising Engineer. According to Mr. Puglisi's testimony and discovery responses, NJNG anticipates growth in the Borough over the next five (5) years of approximately 10 to 15 customers annually. Mr. Puglisi also testified that the Company has the capacity to meet the anticipated level of growth within the municipality and has no plans to change its gas distribution system within the Borough.

Rate Counsel, in its written comments to the petition dated October 2, 2020, indicated that it does not object to the Company's petition since the Company represented that it has the capacity necessary to continue to provide natural gas service to the Borough. The term of the municipal consent related to the use of streets is limited to a term of 50 years. However, Rate Counsel requested the approval of the petition include certain restrictions which are incorporated in this Order.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

After careful review and consideration of the petition and exhibits submitted in this matter, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** that the renewal of the franchise agreement granted to NJNG by the Borough of Matawan is necessary and proper for the public convenience, and properly serves the public interest, and that NJNG has the ability to continue to provide safe, adequate, and proper service. The Board **FURTHER FINDS** that the Company has the necessary experience, financial capability, capacity, and facilities in the Borough to continue to provide adequate and appropriate service to its existing and future customers, and that the 50 year duration of the municipal consent to use the streets is consistent with N.J.S.A. 48:3-15. Accordingly, the Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-14, **HEREBY APPROVES** the consent granted to NJNG by the Borough to continue to provide gas service, and for the continued use of its public streets for that purpose for a period of 50 years.

The approval granted hereinabove shall be subject to the following provisions:

1. As required by N.J.S.A. 48:3-15, and limited by the Resolution, the municipal consent to construct, maintain and operate gas lines in the streets and other public places in the Borough is limited to a term not exceeding 50 years.
2. This Order shall not be construed as directly or indirectly fixing for any purposes whatsoever the value of any tangible or intangible assets now owned or hereafter to be owned by NJNG.
3. This Order shall not affect, nor in any way limit, the exercise of the authority of this Board or of the State in any future petition or in any proceedings with respect to rates, franchises, services, financing, accounting, capitalization, depreciation, or in any other matters affecting NJNG.

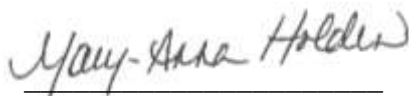
This Order shall be effective on November 28, 2020.

DATED: November 18, 2020

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER



DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER

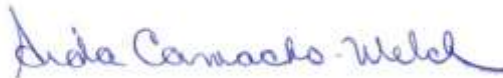


UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MATAWAN, MONMOUTH
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT
WITH NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY
BPU DOCKET NO. GE20030225

SERVICE LIST

Borough of Matawan:

Ms. Karen Wynne, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Borough of Matawan
201 Broad Street
Matawan, NJ 07744

New Jersey Natural Gas Company:

1415 Wyckoff Road
Post Office Box 1464
Wall, NJ 07719

Mark G. Kahrer
mkahrer@njng.com

Andrew Dembia
adembia@njng.com

Division of Rate Counsel:

140 East Front Street, 4th Floor
Post Office Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director
sbrand@rpa.nj.gov

Felicia Thomas-Friel, Esq.
ftthomas@rpa.nj.gov

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Litigation Manager
blipman@rpa.nj.gov

Brian Weeks, Esq.
bweeks@rpa.nj.gov

Shelly Massey, Paralegal
smassey@rpa.nj.gov

NJ Board of Public Utilities:

44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Aida Camacho-Welch
Secretary of the Board
board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Division of Energy

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

Dean Taklif
dean.taklif@bpu.nj.gov

Counsel's Office

Heather Weisband, Esq.
heather.weisband@bpu.nj.gov

Division of Law:

R.J. Hughes Justice Complex
25 Market Street
Post Office Box 112
Trenton, N.J. 08625

Pamela Owen, ASC
pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov

Terel Klein, DAG
terel.klein@law.njoag.gov

Michael Beck, DAG
michael.beck@law.njoag.gov

Exhibit A: Resolution

A058

RESOLUTION 19-11-07

**AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE FRANCHISE
AGREEMENT WITH NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY**

WHEREAS, New Jersey Natural Gas Company (NJNG) has heretofore been granted a franchise and consent to lay, maintain and operate gas facilities in the Borough of Matawan; and

WHEREAS, NJNG is desirous of obtaining a franchise and consent of the municipality to continue serving the municipality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Matawan that New Jersey Natural Gas Company be and it hereby is authorized to lay, maintain and operate its conductors, mains, and pipes, together with the appurtenances thereto, in all the public streets, alleys, squares and public places in this municipality which are under the control and jurisdiction of the Borough of Matawan for the purpose of conducting gas, including natural gas, or any mixture of gases of various types and for the purpose of transmitting and distributing such gas in this municipality for a period of fifty (50) years from the date hereof, upon the following terms and conditions:

1. That New Jersey Natural Gas Company shall agree that, in all cases in which street openings or excavations are made for the purposes aforesaid, the pavement and the surface of the streets, alleys, squares or roadways shall be restored as required by the ordinances of the Borough of Matawan; and
2. That New Jersey Natural Gas Company shall conduct the work or the laying or maintaining of gas pipes therein in a careful and prudent manner and in accordance with all established Federal, State and Local applicable rules and regulations in place at the time of the event; and
3. That New Jersey Natural Gas Company shall safeguard the public interest in continuous and uninterrupted service at and after the expiration of the term of the grant; and
4. That New Jersey Natural Gas Company shall maintain its property in good order throughout the full term of the grant; and
5. That New Jersey Natural Gas Company shall continuously afford safe, adequate and proper service at just and reasonable rates as applicable under all Federal, State and BPU regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this franchise consent, upon approval of the Board of Public Utilities of the State of New Jersey, shall supersede the Resolution granted by the Borough of Matawan on April 1, 1969.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NJNG shall file with the Clerk of this municipality within sixty (60) days from the date hereof, its acceptance of the terms and provisions of the franchise consent herein granted and its agreement to be bound by the terms and provisions thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall not become effective unless and until it is approved by the Board of Public Utilities of the State of New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Matawan that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized as signatory on behalf of the Borough of Matawan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a true certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the following Borough of Matawan Departments: Clerk, Construction, Finance, Fire Department, Fire Prevention, Police, Public Works as well as New Jersey Natural Gas Company.

CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION

I, Karen Wynne, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Matawan, County of Monmouth, and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of Matawan on November 6, 2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand and official seal of the Borough of Matawan this 6th day of November, 2019.


Karen Wynne, BMC
Municipal Clerk

Exhibit B: Letter of Acceptance



November 15, 2019

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Ms. Karen Wynne, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Borough of Matawan
201 Broad Street
Matawan, New Jersey 07747

**Re: RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MATAWAN, MONMOUTH
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE
FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS
COMPANY
RESOLUTION NO. 19-11-07**

Dear Ms. Wynne:

New Jersey Natural Gas Company ("NJNG") hereby accepts the terms and provisions of the franchise consent granted by the Borough of Matawan on November 6, 2019, and hereby agrees to be bound by the terms and provisions thereof. See Resolution No. 19-11-07 (the "Resolution") herein enclosed.

NJNG will submit the Resolution to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (the "BPU") for approval and provide you with advance notice of the BPU hearing on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AG', written over a faint circular stamp.

Alex Gonzalez, Esq.
Assistant General Counsel

AG:sg
Enclosure

219463

1415 Wyckoff Road P.O. Box 1464 Wall, NJ 07719 Phone: 800-221-0051 www.njng.com

Exhibit C: Hearing Notice



July 28, 2020

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Karen Wynne, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Borough of Matawan
201 Broad Street
Matawan, New Jersey 07747

Marion Masnick, Clerk of the Board
Monmouth County Board of Freeholders
Monmouth County Hall of Records
One East Main Street
P.O. Box 1255
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

Christine Giordano Hanlon, County Clerk
Monmouth County Market Yard
33 Mechanic Street
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

RE: In the Matter of the Petition of New Jersey Natural Gas Company for the Approval of a Municipal Franchise in the Borough of Matawan, Monmouth County BPU Docket No. GE20030225

Dear the Parties Addressed:

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:2-14, New Jersey Natural Gas Company ("NJNG") has applied to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for approval of the Borough of Matawan's ("Borough") Resolution No. 19-11-07, which granted NJNG permission to continue to provide natural gas service in the Borough as provided in said Resolution. Please be advised that the Board has set August 17, 2020 at 10:00am-12:30pm EST, as the date and time for the Municipal Consent Hearing. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Municipal Consent Hearing will be held via Zoom. The Zoom log-in information is as follows:

<https://zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=V3ZURkMxRnhlDVk43SFEybGZsRktFZz09>
Passcode: 871017

My assistant, Susan Fastuca is the Zoom meeting organizer. A Zoom meeting invitation will be sent to you in advance of the scheduled date for this Municipal Consent Hearing. You are welcome to participate in the Zoom meeting to put your views on the record if you so desire. Also, notice of the hearing is posted on the Company's web site, njng.com, so interested members of the public may view the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew K. Dembia'.

Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.
Regulatory Affairs Counsel

AKD:sf
C: Service List

1415 Wyckoff Road P.O. Box 1464 Wall, NJ 07719 Phone: 800-221-0051 www.njng.com