



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

IN THE MATTER OF ROCKLAND ELECTRIC)
COMPANY (“RECO”) TARIFF REVISION 2ND)
REVISED LEAF NO. 9 TO ITS SCHEDULE FOR)
ELECTRIC SERVICE B.P.U. NO. 3 –)
ELECTRICITY (THE “ELECTRIC TARIFF”))
EFFECTIVE MARCH 16, 2024 ALLOWING THE)
INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF METER)
COLLAR ADAPTERS) DOCKET NO. ET24020112

Parties of Record:

John L. Carley, Esq., Rockland Electric Company
Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

BACKGROUND

On September 12, 2023, Acting Governor Tahesha Way signed into law P.L. 2023, c. 156 (N.J.S.A. 48:3-111.1) (“Legislation”) regarding the installation and operation of meter collar adapters, subject to certain conditions, and other related criteria.¹ The Legislation directed the State of New Jersey’s electric public utilities to “modify [their] electric service requirements as necessary” to implement the Legislation’s provisions. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) now considers the February 15, 2024 petition filed by Rockland Electric Company (“RECO” or “Company”) seeking approval of proposed revisions to its Tariff for Electric Service (“Tariff”) (“Petition”).

PETITION

In the Petition, RECO proposed modifications to General Information Section No. 5 within 2nd Revised Leaf No. 9 to its Schedule for Electric Service B.P.U.N.J. No. 3 – Electricity. The

¹ “Meter collar adapter” is defined as “an electronic device that is installed between a residential electric meter and the meter socket, for the purpose of facilitating the deployment and interconnection of an onsite electricity generation source or for the purpose of isolating a customer’s electrical load to enable the provision of backup power.” N.J.S.A. 48:3-111.1(h).

proposed language provided that, “[t]he Company will allow the installation of a meter collar adapter, accepted by the Company, between a residential electric meter and the meter socket.” Additionally, the Company’s proposed language notes that “[a] list of meter collar adapters accepted by the Company is posted on the Company’s website.”

New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (“Rate Counsel”) Comments:

On March 20, 2024, Rate Counsel filed comments stating that RECO’s proposed Tariff language only included the bare minimum because it did not reference the Legislation, nor did it identify the enumerated criteria requirements as set for the meter collar installation. Rate Counsel stated that it further objected to the proposed Tariff language because it does not contain critical information for RECO’s customers to understand the requirement allowing installation of meter collar adapters by the customer or the customer’s contractor.

Rate Counsel further stated that RECO’s proposed Tariff language does not include the requirements for the specific meter collar adapter model, and the requirement that the work be performed by a duly qualified and licensed electrician or electrical contractor. Rate Counsel also stated that RECO’s proposed language lacks any reference to the Legislation which states that the Company may charge the customer directly for any costs associated with utility work on the customer-owned meter collar adapter or maintenance or repair of utility-owned equipment due to the installation of the meter collar.

To ensure that the Company does not seek to recover these costs in rates, Rate Counsel stated that RECO’s Tariff language should include language that customers will be directly responsible for these costs. Therefore, Rate Counsel concluded that the Company’s proposed Tariff language was inconsistent with the Legislation, and requested that the Board require RECO to amend its proposed changes to include this additional information from the Legislation.

RECO Reply Comments:

On March 29, 2024, RECO filed a reply to Rate Counsel’s comments. In response to Rate Counsel’s assertion that RECO’s proposed Tariff language did not reference the Legislation, RECO noted that it “does not routinely clutter its Electric Tariff with statutory references.” RECO further stated that the inclusion of specific statutory references in the Tariff may necessitate Tariff revisions if the Legislation is revised and/or amended later. However, RECO confirmed that the obligations under the Legislation will apply, and RECO will comply with them, regardless of whether they are repeated in the Tariff. Therefore, RECO stated that the Board should reject Rate Counsel’s position on this matter.

With respect to Rate Counsel’s assertion that RECO failed to include the requirements for the specific meter collar adapter model that may be installed, and the requirement that the work be performed by a duly qualified and licensed electrician or electrical contractor, RECO stated that it is opposed to including the statutory requirements for the same reason it is opposed to incorporating a reference to the statute. However, RECO stated that it is willing to insert additional language stating that “Accepted meter collar adapters shall be installed by a duly qualified and licensed electrician or electrical contractor.”

Regarding Rate Counsel’s concerns about the lack of any language related to cost responsibility, RECO stated that it would not charge customers for this work, maintenance, or repair. Additionally, RECO stated that it is plainly understood as a matter of Tariff construction and interpretation that RECO will only be charging customers for matters that are specifically called

out in the Tariff as being subject to charges. Therefore, RECO stated that the Board should reject Rate Counsel's position on this matter.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

After review of the Legislation, Petition, Rate Counsel's comments, and RECO's reply, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** that additional Tariff language is necessary to ensure that RECO's Tariff comports with the Legislation's requirement that the work be performed by a "duly qualified and licensed electrician or electrical contractor."² The Board agrees that this additional language, as proposed in RECO's reply comments, appropriately addresses the requirements of the Legislation. Accordingly, the Board **HEREBY ORDERS** RECO to include the following language in its Tariff: "Accepted meter collar adapters shall be installed by a duly qualified and licensed electrician or electrical contractor."

Additionally, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** that additional Tariff language is necessary regarding cost responsibility. The Legislation specifically provides that, "[a]n electric public utility may recover the cost of service work on any customer-owned meter collar adapter, or maintenance or repair work on any electric public utility-owned equipment necessary due to the installation of a customer-owned meter collar adapter, by charging the customer directly."³ Notwithstanding RECO's assertion that it would not charge customers for this work, additional Tariff language is necessary to ensure that any costs related to the installation and operation of meter collar adapters is attributed to the customer and not allocated to ratepayers. Accordingly, the Board **HEREBY ORDERS** RECO to incorporate the following language into its Tariff: "Customers will be directly responsible for any and all costs associated with meter collars."

Subject to the inclusion of the above language, the Board **HEREBY APPROVES** RECO's proposed Tariff revisions.

The Board **HEREBY DIRECTS** RECO to file revised Tariff sheets within ten (10) days of the effective date of this Order.

² See N.J.S.A. 48:3-111.1(b)(1).

³ See N.J.S.A. 48:3-111.1(c).


This Order shall be effective on July 5, 2024.

DATED: June 27, 2024

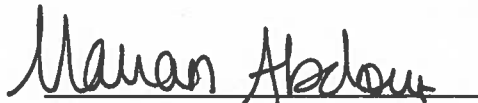
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



DR. ZEMON CHRISTODOULOU
COMMISSIONER



CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOWY
PRESIDENT

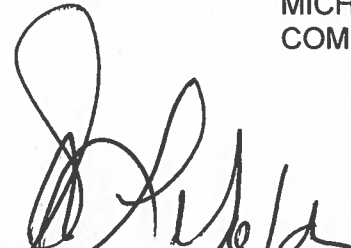


MARIAN ABDOU
COMMISSIONER



MICHAEL BANGE
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



SHERRI L. GOLDEN
SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within
document is a true copy of the original
in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

IN THE MATTER OF ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY ("RECO") TARIFF REVISION 2ND REVISED LEAF NO. 9
TO ITS SCHEDULE FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE B.P.U. NO. 3 – ELECTRICITY (THE "ELECTRIC TARIFF")
EFFECTIVE MARCH 16, 2024 ALLOWING THE INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF METER COLLAR
ADAPTERS

DOCKET NO. ET24020112

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