



Agenda Date: 6/27/24
Agenda Item: 2J

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 PUBLIC SERVICE)
ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY'S REQUEST) ORDER ACCEPTING TARIFF
FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO ITS TARIFF) REVISIONS
FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE B.P.U.N.J. NO. 16) DOCKET NO. ET24020113
ELECTRIC WHICH DOES NOT PROPOSE AN)
INCREASE IN CHARGES TO CUSTOMERS)
PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11)

Parties of Record:

Danielle Lopez, Esq., Public Service Electric and Gas 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 Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Company") seeking approval of proposed revisions to its Tariff for Electric Service ("Tariff") ("Petition").

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).

PETITION

In the Petition, PSE&G proposed revisions to the Tariff language on Original Sheets No. 22 and No. 23 within its Tariff for Electric Service B.P.U.N.J. No. 16 Electric. PSE&G also proposed new Tariff language at Section 7 (Meters and Other Equipment), Paragraph 7.1 (General) and Paragraph 7.2 (Other Devices), which noted that “[t]he installation of meter collar adapters shall be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:3-111.1.” Additionally, PSE&G added language clarifying that only employees or agents of PSE&G are permitted to remove security features installed on a meter. PSE&G also added language indicating that meter collar adapters may be installed at the expense of the customer, which would allow the customer to have ownership of the meter collar adapter. Further, PSE&G added language stating that a customer seeking to install a meter collar must first submit an application and acquire the necessary authorization from the Company, and all alterations performed during the installation of a meter collar must conform with standards as specified in the “Information and Requirements for Electric Service” document issued by PSE&G.

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

On March 20, 2024, Rate Counsel filed comments stating that PSE&G’s proposed language was confusing and not drafted in the spirit of the law. According to Rate Counsel, PSE&G’s proposed language gave the impression to a PSE&G customer seeking to have a meter collar adapter installed that they must ask permission of PSE&G for the Company to install the meter collar adapter, when the Legislation specifically provides that a party other than the Company may conduct the installation. Rate Counsel did not object to PSE&G requiring the customer to notify and receive permission from PSE&G before installing a meter collar adapter, so long as permission is not unreasonably withheld or delayed for an unreasonable amount of time after the request is made.

Rate Counsel also stated that PSE&G did not clearly indicate that meter collar adapter models approved by the Company will be publicly noticed and that the approved meter collar adapter list will be posted on the utility’s website, as required by the statute. Additionally, Rate Counsel stated that PSE&G’s proposed language lacks any reference to N.J.S.A. 48:3-111.1(c), which states that the Company may charge the customer directly for any costs associated with utility work on the customer-owned meter collar 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 PSE&G’s Tariff language should include language indicating that customers will be directly responsible for these costs. Therefore, Rate Counsel found the Company’s proposed Tariff language inconsistent with the Legislation, and requested that the Board require PSE&G to amend its proposed changes through additional clarifying language, including clear language on cost responsibility.

PSE&G Reply Comments:

On April 3, 2024, PSE&G submitted revised Tariff language to address Rate Counsel's concerns. PSE&G proposed new Tariff language at Section 7 (Meters and Other Equipment), Paragraph 7.1 (General) stating: "Except in the event of a meter collar installation, only a duly authorized employee or agent of [PSE&G] is permitted to alter or change a meter or its connection." PSE&G added additional Tariff language to this paragraph stating "Meter collar adapters, depending on function, may be obtained by customers or purchased by PSE&G. With the exception of customer-obtained meter collar adapters, customers shall not have any ownership interest in the equipment owned and installed by [PSE&G]."

Additionally, PSE&G proposed to add new Section 7.2.1 to its Tariff titled "Meter Collar Adapters", which stated "In the event of a meter collar installation, a customer must first submit an application and acquire authorization and approval from [PSE&G]. The application process and a list of authorized meter collars is available on the Company's website adjacent to 'PSE&G's Information and Requirements for Electric Service.' The installation of the meter collar must be performed by a duly qualified and licensed electrician or electrical contractor. All alterations performed during the installation of a meter collar must conform with standards as specified in the 'Information and Requirements for Electric Service' issued by [PSE&G], and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:3-111.1. Furthermore, the Company may charge the customer for any utility costs associated with a customer-owned meter collar."

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

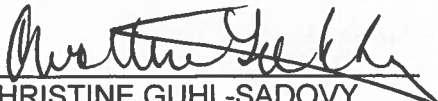
After review of the Legislation, the Petition, Rate Counsel's comments, and PSE&G's reply, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** that PSE&G's proposed Tariff language, as revised in the Company's reply comments, comports with the Legislation's requirements related to the installation and operation of meter collar adapters. Additionally, the Board believes that PSE&G has properly addressed Rate Counsel's concerns regarding installation responsibility, public notice of approved meter collar adapter models, and cost responsibility.

Accordingly, the Board **HEREBY APPROVES** the proposed revisions to the Company's Tariff, as amended in PSE&G's reply comments. The Company is **HEREBY DIRECTED** to file revised Tariff sheets reflecting the Tariff modifications discussed herein within ten (10) days of the effective date of this Order.

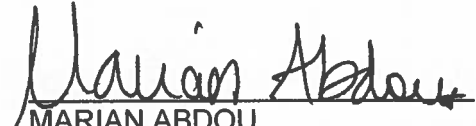
This Order shall be effective on July 5, 2024.

DATED: June 27, 2024

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:

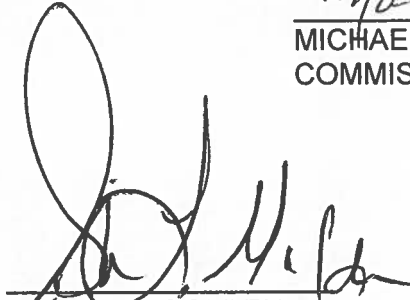

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COMMISSIONER


MARIAN ABDOU
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MICHAEL BANGE
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


SHERRIL 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 PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF
CHANGES TO ITS TARIFF FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE B.P.U.N.J. NO. 16 ELECTRIC WHICH DOES NOT
PROPOSE AN INCREASE IN CHARGES TO CUSTOMERS PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11

DOCKET NO. ET24020113

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