



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

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 THE PETITION OF JERSEY)
CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY FOR)
THE APPROVAL OF CERTAIN TARIFF)
AMENDMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT)
P.L. 2023, c. 156) ORDER ACCEPTING TARIFF
REVISIONS, SUBJECT TO
MODIFICATION
DOCKET NO. ET24020114

Parties of Record:

James A. Meehan, Esq., Jersey Central Power & Light 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 Jersey Central Power & Light Company (“JCP&L” or “Company”) seeking approval of proposed revisions to its Tariff for Electric Service (“Tariff”) (“Petition”).

PETITION

In the Petition, JCP&L proposed revisions to the Tariff language at Section II – Standard Terms and Conditions. Specifically, JCP&L proposed new Tariff language at Paragraph 4.13 (Meter Collars), which largely tracked the requirements of P.L. 2023, c. 156. Additionally, the Company proposed Tariff revisions to Paragraph 4.01 (Continuity of Service), Paragraph 6.06 (Service Disconnection and Meter Removal Authorized), and Paragraph 6.08 (Sealing of Meters and

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).

Devices) to further align with P.L. 2023, c. 156 and to accord with access Tariff provisions elsewhere approved by the Board.

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

On March 20, 2024, Rate Counsel filed comments stating, in part, that it did not object to the proposed Tariff language regarding the criteria for installation, because the language appeared to incorporate the requirements set forth in the Legislation.

However, Rate Counsel stated that JCP&L’s proposed Tariff language lacked any reference to the Legislation’s requirement that customers, not ratepayers, are responsible for 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.

JCP&L Reply Comments:

On April 3, 2024, JCP&L filed a reply to Rate Counsel’s comments. JCP&L noted that, as provided in the Petition, the Company does not seek a rate increase in connection with its proposed Tariff language. JCP&L explained that the meter collar installations are generally associated with distributed energy resource interconnection projects for which the Board’s regulations already require the interconnecting customer to pay the costs of upgrades and equipment associated with the interconnection. Accordingly, JCP&L stated that it did not see the need to include further revisions to its proposed Tariff changes and requested that the Board approve its filing as submitted.

In the alternative, should the Board deem it necessary to include such language, JCP&L explained that Rate Counsel’s concerns could be resolved via a limited revision of the proposed Tariff language, and the submission of final Tariff sheets subsequent to an Order from the Board. Specifically, JCP&L stated that the Tariff could include the following language at the end of Paragraph 4.13: “Customers will be directly responsible for any and all costs associated with meter collars.” While JCP&L stated that this language would fulfill Rate Counsel’s request, the Company maintained that no changes are needed to its proposed Tariff amendments.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

After review of the Legislation, the Petition, Rate Counsel’s comments, and JCP&L’s reply, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** that additional Tariff language is necessary to ensure that JCP&L’s Tariff comports with the Legislation’s requirements regarding cost responsibility. As provided in the Legislation at N.J.S.A. 48:3-111.1(c), “[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.” As such, notwithstanding JCP&L’s assertion that it does not seek a rate increase, the Board believes that additional language is necessary to ensure that any costs related to the installation and operation of a meter collar adapter are attributed to the customer and not allocated to ratepayers.

Therefore, consistent with the Legislation, the Board **HEREBY ORDERS** JCP&L to incorporate the following language into its proposed Tariff: “Customers will be directly responsible for any and all costs associated with meter collars.”

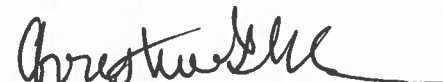
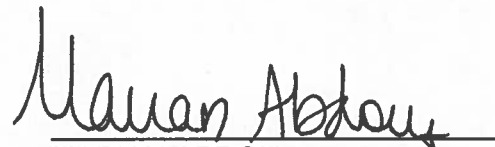
Subject to inclusion of the language provided above, the Board **HEREBY APPROVES** JCP&L's proposed Tariff revisions.

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

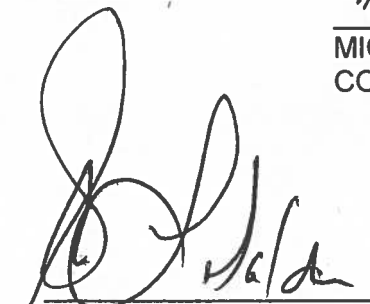
This Order shall be effective on July 5, 2024.

DATED: June 27, 2024

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU
COMMISSIONER
CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOVY
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 THE PETITION OF JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY FOR THE APPROVAL
OF CERTAIN TARIFF AMENDMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT P.L. 2023, c. 156

DOCKET NO. ET24020114

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