



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)	DECISION AND ORDER
ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY TO (1) REVISE)	APPROVING STIPULATION
THE CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM COMPONENT OF)	
ITS SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE RATE AND (2))	
REVISE ITS ON-SYSTEM MARGIN SHARING)	DOCKET NO. GR24070553
CREDIT)	

Parties of Record:

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
Dominick DiRocco, Esq., on behalf of Elizabethtown Gas Company

BY THE BOARD:

On July 31, 2024, Elizabethtown Gas Company ("Elizabethtown" or "Company") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") seeking authority to revise the Clean Energy Program ("CEP") component of its Societal Benefits Charge ("SBC") rate and its On-System Margin Sharing Credit ("OSMC") for the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 ("July 2024 Petition").¹ By this Order, the Board considers a stipulation of settlement ("Stipulation") executed by Elizabethtown, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel and Board Staff (collectively, "Parties") intended to resolve all requests in the July 2024 Petition.

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

As a result of the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act of 1999, the CEP was created in an effort to promote both energy efficiency and renewable energy programs by offering financial incentives, programs, and services to New Jersey residents, business owners, and local governments. The Board annually sets each energy utility's share of the CEP costs to be collected from customers and transferred to the Board as funding for those programs.

The OSMC is the rate mechanism by which eighty percent (80%) of the margins generated from certain on-system non-firm sales and transportation services are flowed back (credited) to the Company's firm sales and residential transportation customers.

¹ Although Elizabethtown's SBC consists of the CEP, the Remediation Adjustment Clause, the Universal Service Fund and Lifeline, only the CEP is addressed in the July 2024 Petition.

JULY 2024 PETITION

Elizabethtown filed the July 2024 Petition with accompanying exhibits and pre-filed direct testimony. The July 2024 Petition provides as follows:

CEP

In the July 2024 Petition, Elizabethtown proposed to modify the per therm CEP component of its SBC rate from \$0.0270 to \$0.0312.² As set forth in the July 2024 Petition, the rate was designed to recover prior period costs, the net actual costs incurred to provide Board-approved CEP and carrying costs for the period ending June 30, 2024, and projected costs for the period ending June 30, 2025, which total \$15,751,896. As a result of the June 27, 2024 Board Order establishing the statewide funding levels for CEP programs for Fiscal Year 2025, Elizabethtown was allocated \$14,313,179 of CEP funding responsibility for the twelve (12) month period ending June 30, 2025.³

OSMC

Elizabethtown proposed to modify its per therm OSMC from a credit rate of \$0.0045 to a credit rate of \$0.0026. The Company's total OSMC balance is \$1,020,551, which would be credited to firm customers.

Following a public notice published in newspapers of general circulation within Elizabethtown's service territory, two (2) virtual public hearings regarding the July 2024 Petition were held on November 12, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. No members of the public virtually attended the hearings, nor submitted written comments to express their views on the July 2024 Petition.

STIPULATION

Following a review of the July 2024 Petition and discovery, the Parties executed the Stipulation, which provides, in pertinent part, as follows:⁴

7. As of the effective date, the Company will make effective as final (1) its CEP component of the SBC rate of \$0.0312 per therm, and (2) its OSMC credit rate of \$0.0026 per therm. The calculation of these rates is set forth in Appendix A which is attached to the Stipulation. These rates shall remain in effect on a final basis until changed by Order of the Board.
8. Upon Board approval of the CEP and OSMC rates reflected in the Stipulation, the Company will file with the Board revised tariff sheets to reflect the final CEP and OSMC rates and changes to the tariff agreed to in the Stipulation.

² All rates quoted herein are inclusive of taxes.

³ In re the Comprehensive Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Resource Analysis for Fiscal Year 2025 Clean Energy Program, BPU Docket No. QO24040223, Order dated June 27, 2024.

⁴ Although summarized in this Order, the detailed terms of the Stipulation are controlling, subject to the findings and conclusions of this Order. Each paragraph is numbered to coincide with the paragraphs in the Stipulation.

9. Upon the Board's approval of the Stipulation, all issues related to Elizabethtown's CEP and OSMC and the costs recovered through these clauses are deemed resolved for purposes of this proceeding but remain subject to audit by the Board.
10. The overall impact of the CEP and OSMC rate changes will increase the monthly bill of a typical residential heating customer using 100 therms by \$0.61 from \$156.28 to \$156.89, or 0.4%, compared to the Company's January 1, 2025 rates.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The Board, having carefully reviewed the record in this proceeding, including the July 2024 Petition, and the attached Stipulation, **HEREBY FINDS** the Stipulation to be reasonable, in the public interest, and in accordance with the law. Accordingly, the Board **HEREBY ADOPTS** the Stipulation in its entirety, and **HEREBY INCORPORATES** its terms and conditions as though fully set forth herein, subject to any terms and conditions set forth in this Order.

The Board **HEREBY APPROVES** a per therm CEP rate of \$0.0312 and a per therm OSMC credit rate of \$0.0026, effective for service rendered on and after May 1, 2025. As a result of the Stipulation, a typical residential heating customer using 100 therms will experience an increase in their monthly bill of \$0.61.

The Board **HEREBY DIRECTS** Elizabethtown to file tariffs consistent with the Board's Order by May 1, 2025.

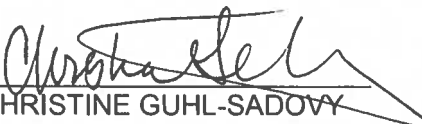
The Company's costs, including those related to the CEP and OSMC, remain subject to audit by the Board. This Decision and Order shall not preclude or prohibit the Board from taking any actions determined to be appropriate as a result of any such audit.

Agenda Date: 4/23/25
Agenda Item: 2D

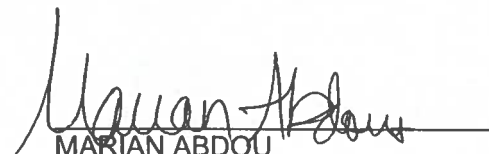
This Order shall be effective April 25, 2025.

DATED: April 23, 2025

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:

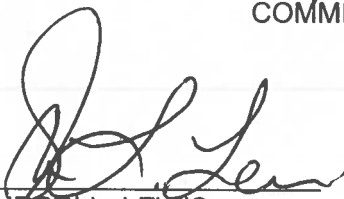

CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOVY
PRESIDENT


DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU
COMMISSIONER


MARIAN ABDOU
COMMISSIONER


MICHAEL BANGE
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


SHERRI L. LEWIS
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 ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY TO (1) REVISE THE CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM COMPONENT OF ITS SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE RATE AND (2) REVISE ITS ON-SYSTEM MARGIN SHARING CREDIT

DOCKET NO. GR24070553

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Vice President, Rates & Regulatory Affairs

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February 5, 2025

Via Electronic Filing

Sherri L. Golden
Secretary of the Board
NJ Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue
P. O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

**Re: In the Matter of the Petition of Elizabethtown Gas Company To (1) Revise the Clean Energy Program Component of its Societal Benefits Charge Rate and (2) Revise Its On-System Margin Sharing Credit
BPU Docket No. GR24070553**

Dear Secretary Golden:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced proceeding is a Stipulation executed by representatives of Elizabethtown Gas Company, the Staff of the Board of Public Utilities and the Division of Rate Counsel. It is respectfully requested that the Board consider the Stipulation at its March 19, 2025 agenda meeting.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominick DiRocco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Dominick DiRocco

DD:slp
Enclosures

cc: Service List

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY
TO (1) REVISE THE CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM COMPONENT OF ITS SOCIETAL BENEFITS
CHARGE RATE AND (2) REVISE ITS ON-SYSTEM MARGIN SHARING CREDIT
BPU DOCKET NO. GR24070553**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

	X	
	:	
In the Matter of the Petition of Elizabethtown	:	: BPU Docket No. GR24070553
Gas Company to (1) Revise the Clean Energy	:	
Program Component of its Societal Benefits	:	: FINAL STIPULATION
Charge Rate and (2) Revise its On-System Margin	:	
Sharing Credit	:	

APPEARANCES:

Dominick DiRocco, Esq., Vice President, Rates and Regulatory Affairs, SJI Utilities, Inc. for Petitioner, Elizabethtown Gas Company

Maura Caroselli, Esq., Manager of Gas & Clean Energy, **Megan C. Lupo, Esq.**, Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel, and **Andrew H. Gold, Esq.**, Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel, for the Division of Rate Counsel (**Brian O. Lipman, Esq.**, Director)

Steven Chaplar, Deputy Attorney General, for the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (**Matthew Platkin**, Attorney General of the State of New Jersey)

TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

1. On July 31, 2024, Elizabethtown Gas Company (“Elizabethtown” or “Company”) filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”) in BPU Docket No. GR24070553 seeking authority to revise the Clean Energy Program (“CEP”) component of the Societal Benefits Charge (“SBC”) rate and its On-System Margin Sharing Credit (“OSMC”) for the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 (“July 2024 Petition”).

2. In the July 2024 Petition, Elizabethtown proposed to modify the current CEP component of its SBC rate from \$0.0270 per therm to \$0.0312 per therm, effective October 1,

2024.¹ As provided in the July 2024 Petition, the rate was designed to recover prior period costs, the net actual costs incurred to provide Board-approved CEP and carrying costs for the period ending June 30, 2024, and projected costs for the period ending June 30, 2025.

3. In the July 2024 Petition, Elizabethtown proposed to modify its current OSMC from a credit rate of \$0.0045 per therm, to a credit rate of \$0.0026 per therm, effective October 1, 2024. The Board originally approved the OSMC as a separate rider by Board Order dated March 30, 2001, in BPU Docket No. GX99030121, and various Board orders in subsequent Board proceedings. The rate is set in accordance with the mechanisms approved by the Board in Docket Nos. GT8602131, GM90090949, TC94030057, GR96080574, et. al, GR97070552, et al., and Docket Nos. GX99030121, et al., under which margins from certain on-system sales and transportation services are shared between firm sales customers, certain firm transportation customers, and the Company on an 80%/20% basis through a credit, the OSMC, to the transportation rates charged to firm sales and all Service Classification RDS customers.

4. The July 2024 Petition was retained by the Board, and following public notice published in newspapers of general circulation within Elizabethtown's service territory, two (2) virtual public hearings were held on November 12, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. No members of the public virtually attended the hearings, nor submitted written comments to express their views on the July 2024 Petition.

5. Elizabethtown, Board Staff, and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") (collectively, "Parties") engaged in discovery and resolved all issues in this proceeding in accordance with the Stipulation set forth below.

¹ All rates quoted herein are inclusive of all applicable taxes unless otherwise stated.

II. STIPULATED TERMS

Based upon, and subject to, the terms and conditions set forth herein, the Parties stipulate and agree as follows:

Effective Date

6. The Parties stipulate and agree that the proposed CEP and OSMC rates should be made final as of the effective date of a Board Order approving this Stipulation of Settlement (“Stipulation”) in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:2-40, or upon such date thereafter as the Board may specify (“Effective Date”).

Effective Rate

7. As of the Effective Date, the Company will make effective as final (1) its CEP component of the SBC rate of \$0.0312 per therm, and (2) its OSMC credit rate of \$0.0026 per therm. The calculation of these rates is set forth in Appendix A attached hereto. These rates shall remain in effect on a final basis until changed by Order of the Board.

8. Upon Board approval of the CEP and OSMC rates reflected in this Stipulation, the Company will file with the Board revised tariff sheets to reflect the final CEP and OSMC rates and changes to the tariff agreed to in this Stipulation. Draft tariff sheets are attached as Appendix B.

9. Upon the Board’s approval of this Stipulation, all issues related to Elizabethtown’s CEP and OSMC and the costs recovered through these clauses are deemed resolved for purposes of this proceeding but remain subject to audit by the Board.

Rate Impact

10. The overall impact of the CEP and OSMC rate changes will increase the monthly bill of a typical residential heating customer using 100 therms by \$0.61 from \$156.28 to \$156.89, or 0.4%, compared to the Company’s January 1, 2025, rates.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

11. This Stipulation represents a mutual balancing of interests and therefore is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety. In the event that the Board does not adopt this Stipulation in its entirety in an Order, then any Party hereto is free to pursue its then-available legal remedies with respect to all issues in this Stipulation as though this Stipulation had not been signed.


12. It is the intent of the Parties that the provisions hereof be approved by the Board, as appropriate, as being in the public interest. The Parties further agree that they consider the Stipulation to be binding on them for all purposes herein.

13. It is specifically understood and agreed that this Stipulation represents a negotiated agreement and has been made exclusively for the purpose of this proceeding. Except as expressly provided herein, the Parties shall not be deemed to have approved, agreed to, or consented to any principle or methodology underlying or supposed to underlie any agreement provided herein.

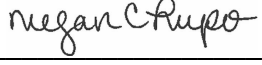
WHEREFORE, the Parties hereto do respectfully submit this Stipulation to the Board and request the Board to issue a Decision and Order approving this Stipulation in its entirety in accordance with the terms hereof.

ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY

**BRIAN O. LIPMAN
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
RATE COUNSEL**

By: 

Dominick DiRocco
VP, Rates & Regulatory Affairs

By: 

Megan C. Lupo
Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel

**MATTHEW PLATKIN
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Attorney for the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities**

By: 

Steven Chaplar
Deputy Attorney General

Dated: February 4, 2025

GR24070553 – ETG 2024 CEP/OSMC

ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY
SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE (SBC)
CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM (CEP)

CALCULATION OF THE CEP COMPONENT OF THE SBC
October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025
RECOVERY YEAR - 2025

1	Prior Year Balance, (over) / under (Sch. TK-2)		\$1,235,429
2	Current Year Company Program Costs (Sch. TK-2, col c)		\$2,227,453
3	Current Year and Carry Over Fiscal Agent Payments (Sch. TK-2, col d&e)		\$10,118,011
4	Current Year Recoveries (Sch. TK-4)		(\$11,843,993)
5	Current Year Carrying Costs (Sch. TK-2)		<u>(\$54,424)</u>
6	Current Year Ending Balance - Under Collection (Sum L1-L5)		\$1,682,476
	<u>Projected Fiscal Agent Payments:</u>		
7	Prior Period Payable (Sch. TK-3, col h)	\$311,689	
	Next Year's Scheduled Payments July - May (Sch. TK-5)	<u>\$13,757,731</u>	<u>\$14,069,420</u>
8	Total Proposed Recoveries (L6+L7)		\$15,751,896
9	Projected Normalized Sales and Services (Forecast Sch. TK-1)		538,218,988 therms
10	CEP COMPONENT, before taxes (L8/L9)		\$0.0293
11	Sales & Use Tax @ 6.625%		<u>\$0.0019</u>
12	CEP COMPONENT (L10+L11)		<u><u>\$0.0312</u></u> /therm

ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY
CALCULATION OF THE ON-SYSTEM MARGIN SHARING CREDIT (OSMC)

October 2024 through September 2025
Disbursement Year 2025

1	Projected OSMC Margin Contributions for Disbursement (Sch. TK-2)		\$620,228
2	Prior Year Balance, (Over) / Under Disbursement (Sch. TK-3)		\$667,435
3	Current Year Balance, (Over) / Under Disbursement (Sch. TK-3)		<u>(\$400,323)</u>
4	Total OSMC Customer Credits / (Charge) (L1+L2+L3)		\$887,340
5	Projected Therm Volumes (Forecast Sch. TK-1)		
	- RDS and GLS	261,459,062	
	- SGS, GDS and NGV	89,311,169	
	- LVD and EGF	<u>12,259,712</u>	363,029,943
6	OSMC Rate, before taxes (L4/L5)		\$0.0024
7	Sales & Use Tax @ 6.625%		<u>\$0.0002</u>
8	OSM Credit / (Charge) per therm, (L6+L7)		<u><u>\$0.0026</u></u>

RIDER "C"

ON-SYSTEM MARGIN SHARING CREDIT ("OSMC")

Applicable to all Firm Service Classifications that pay the BGSS of Rider A and RDS customers that receive gas supply from a TPS in accordance with the Board's Order in Docket No. GO99030122.

The OSMC is subject to change to reflect the Company's actual recovery of such margins and shall be adjusted annually in its BGSS filing.

(\$~~0.00450~~50.0026) per therm

The charges applicable under this Rider include provision for the New Jersey Sales and Use Tax, and when billed to customers exempt from this tax shall be reduced by the amount of such tax included therein.

Determination of the OSMC

On or about July 31 of each year, the Company shall file with the Board an OSMC rate filing based on the credits generated from on-system margin sharing during the previous OSMC year July 1 through June 30.

The OSMC shall be calculated by taking the current year's credits, plus the prior year's OSMC over or under recovery balance and dividing the resulting sum by the annual forecasted volumes for the service classifications set forth above. The resulting rate shall be adjusted for all applicable taxes and other similar charges.

Date of Issue: ~~November 26, 2024~~xxx1

Effective: Service Rendered
on and after ~~December 1,~~
~~2024~~xxx2

Issued by: Christie McMullen, President
520 Green Lane
Union, New Jersey 07083

Filed Pursuant to Order of the Board of Public Utilities
Dated ~~November 21, 2024~~xxx3 in Docket No. ~~GR24020158~~xxx4

RIDER "D"

SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE ("SBC")

Applicable to all tariff Service Classifications except those Customers under special contracts that explicitly do not permit the Company to apply increased charges as filed and approved by the BPU and those customers exempted pursuant to the Long-Term Capacity Agreement Pilot Program ("LCAPP"), P.L. 2011, c.9, codified as N.J.S.A. 48:3-60.1. See the LCAPP Exemption Procedures at the end of this Rider.

The SBC is designed to recover the components listed below and any other new programs which the Board determines should be recovered through the Societal Benefits Charge.

<u>SBC Rate Components:</u>		<u>Per Therm</u>
I.	Clean Energy Program ("CEP")	\$0.02700 <u>0.0312</u>
II.	Remediation Adjustment Charge ("RAC")	\$0.0225
III.	<u>Universal Service Fund and Lifeline:</u>	
	1. Universal Service Fund ("USF")	\$0.0216
	2. Lifeline	<u>\$0.0060</u>
TOTAL		\$0.0774 <u>0.0813</u>

The charges applicable under this Rider include provision for the New Jersey Sales and Use Tax, and when billed to customers exempt from this tax shall be reduced by the amount of such tax included therein.

I. Clean Energy Program Component ("CEP")

The Comprehensive Resource Analysis ("CRA") name was changed to the Clean Energy Program - CEP per Board Order dated January 22, 2003 in Docket No. EX99050347 *et.al*. The CEP is a mechanism that will (1) establish a rate to recover the costs of the Core and Standard Offer Programs in the Company's CEP Plan which was approved by the BPU in Docket No. GE92020104, and (2) compensate the Company for the revenue erosion resulting from conservation savings created by the Standard Offer Program. The annual recovery period for the CEP is from October 1 through September 30. The CEP recovers program costs and revenue erosion incurred during the previous CEP year ended June 30.

1. CEP program costs include the costs of core programs, standard offer payments and any administrative costs not recovered directly from standard offer providers.

Date of Issue: ~~November 26, 2024~~ xxx1

Effective: Service Rendered
on and after ~~December 1,~~
~~2024~~ xxx2

Issued by: Christie McMullen, President
520 Green Lane
Union, New Jersey 07083

Filed Pursuant to Order of the Board of Public Utilities
Dated ~~November 21, 2024~~ xxx3 in Docket No. ~~GR24020158~~ xxx4

CLEAN

RIDER "C"

ON-SYSTEM MARGIN SHARING CREDIT ("OSMC")

Applicable to all Firm Service Classifications that pay the BGSS of Rider A and RDS customers that receive gas supply from a TPS in accordance with the Board's Order in Docket No. GO99030122.

The OSMC is subject to change to reflect the Company's actual recovery of such margins and shall be adjusted annually in its BGSS filing.

(\$0.0026) per therm

The charges applicable under this Rider include provision for the New Jersey Sales and Use Tax, and when billed to customers exempt from this tax shall be reduced by the amount of such tax included therein.

Determination of the OSMC

On or about July 31 of each year, the Company shall file with the Board an OSMC rate filing based on the credits generated from on-system margin sharing during the previous OSMC year July 1 through June 30.

The OSMC shall be calculated by taking the current year's credits, plus the prior year's OSMC over or under recovery balance and dividing the resulting sum by the annual forecasted volumes for the service classifications set forth above. The resulting rate shall be adjusted for all applicable taxes and other similar charges.

Date of Issue: xxx1

Effective: Service Rendered
on and after xxx2

Issued by: Christie McMullen, President
520 Green Lane
Union, New Jersey 07083

Filed Pursuant to Order of the Board of Public Utilities
Dated xxx3 in Docket No. xxx4

RIDER "D"

SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE ("SBC")

Applicable to all tariff Service Classifications except those Customers under special contracts that explicitly do not permit the Company to apply increased charges as filed and approved by the BPU and those customers exempted pursuant to the Long-Term Capacity Agreement Pilot Program ("LCAPP"), P.L. 2011, c.9, codified as N.J.S.A. 48:3-60.1. See the LCAPP Exemption Procedures at the end of this Rider.

The SBC is designed to recover the components listed below and any other new programs which the Board determines should be recovered through the Societal Benefits Charge.

<u>SBC Rate Components:</u>		<u>Per Therm</u>
I.	Clean Energy Program ("CEP")	\$0.0312
II.	Remediation Adjustment Charge ("RAC")	\$0.0225
III.	<u>Universal Service Fund and Lifeline:</u>	
	1. Universal Service Fund ("USF")	\$0.0216
	2. Lifeline	<u>\$0.0060</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$0.0813</u>

The charges applicable under this Rider include provision for the New Jersey Sales and Use Tax, and when billed to customers exempt from this tax shall be reduced by the amount of such tax included therein.

I. Clean Energy Program Component ("CEP")

The Comprehensive Resource Analysis ("CRA") name was changed to the Clean Energy Program - CEP per Board Order dated January 22, 2003 in Docket No. EX99050347 *et.al.* The CEP is a mechanism that will (1) establish a rate to recover the costs of the Core and Standard Offer Programs in the Company's CEP Plan which was approved by the BPU in Docket No. GE92020104, and (2) compensate the Company for the revenue erosion resulting from conservation savings created by the Standard Offer Program. The annual recovery period for the CEP is from October 1 through September 30. The CEP recovers program costs and revenue erosion incurred during the previous CEP year ended June 30.

1. CEP program costs include the costs of core programs, standard offer payments and any administrative costs not recovered directly from standard offer providers.

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