

NOTICE TO PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY ELECTRIC AND GAS CUSTOMERS

In the Matter of the 2024/2025 Annual Compliance Filing for a Change in the Statewide Electric and Gas Permanent Universal Service Fund Program Factors within the Electric and Gas Societal Benefits Charge Rates Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1

BPU Docket No. ER24070486

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) Program established by the Board of Public Utilities (“Board”), pursuant to the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49, et seq, serves to provide funds to assist qualifying low-income individuals in paying their energy bills. Pursuant to Board Orders, the costs of the USF Program are recovered through uniform statewide rates that are included in the Societal Benefit Charge (“SBC”) for each of the State’s electric and gas public utilities. The SBC also includes funding for the Lifeline program, which provides assistance with heating costs to qualifying elderly and disabled persons. The State of New Jersey’s Department of Community Affairs is the Administrator of the USF Program. The New Jersey Department of Human Services is the Administrator of the Lifeline programs and authorizes the disbursement of benefits to eligible customers in the respective programs.

On June 28, 2024, Public Service Electric and Gas Company (“PSE&G” or “Company”), made an Annual Compliance Filing with the Board and provided supporting documentation for changes in the USF and Lifeline components of the electric and gas SBC to become effective on October 1, 2024 (“Filing”).

Based upon the results and available estimates known to date for the 2023/2024 USF program year, and the available estimates for the 2024/2025 USF Program year, it is anticipated that the USF rates will be set to collect \$236.5 million, of which approximately \$143.8 million would be recovered through electric rates with the remaining \$92.7 million recovered through gas rates on a statewide basis. The Lifeline rates are anticipated to collect \$74.6 million, of which, \$49.2 million would be recovered through electric rates with the remaining \$25.4 million recovered through gas rates on a statewide basis.

The current combined rate, for the USF and Lifeline programs for electric customers is \$0.002069 per kilowatt-hour (“kWh”), including sales and use tax (“SUT”). As proposed, the USF/Lifeline program charge for electric customers would increase by \$0.000900 per kWh, including SUT, consisting of an increase of \$0.000887 per kWh including SUT in the USF component and an increase of \$0.000013 per kWh including SUT in the Lifeline component, to a total rate of \$0.002969 per kWh including SUT.

Based upon the Company’s Filing, a typical residential electric customer using 740 kilowatt-hours in a summer month and 577 kWh in an average month (6,920 kWh annually) would see an increase in their average monthly bill from \$127.67 to \$128.19 or \$0.52 or approximately 0.41%. The Statewide average residential electric customers using 650 kWhs in an average month (7,800 kWh annually) would see an increase in their average monthly bill from \$143.34 to \$143.92, or \$0.58 or approximately 0.40%. The percentage change applicable to specific customers will vary according to the applicable rate schedule and the level of the customer’s usage.

The current combined rate, for the USF and Lifeline programs for gas customers is \$0.017700 per therm including SUT. As proposed, the USF/Lifeline program charge for gas customers would increase by \$0.009900 per therm including SUT, consisting of an increase of \$0.010100 per therm including SUT in the USF component and a decrease of \$0.000200 per therm including SUT in the Lifeline component, to a total rate of \$0.027600 per therm including SUT.

Based upon the Company’s Filing a typical residential gas heating customer using 172 therms per month during the winter months, and 87 therms in an average month (1,040 therms annually) would see an increase in the average monthly bill from \$95.98 to \$96.84, or \$0.86 or approximately 0.90% (based upon Delivery Rates and BGSS-RSG charges in effect as of June 1, 2024 and assuming that the customer receives BGSS service from PSE&G). The statewide average residential gas customers using an average of 83 therms monthly (1,000 therms annually) would see a net increase in the average monthly bill from \$93.07 to \$93.90 or \$0.83 or approximately 0.89%.

The proposed statewide electric and gas charges for customers, if approved by the Board, are shown in Table #1. The requests will not result in any profit to PSE&G. The revenues received under the proposed USF and Lifeline program factors are designed to permit PSE&G to recover its costs associated with these programs. Actual program costs will be reconciled with the revenues received through the USF and Lifeline program charges in the next scheduled annual USF and Lifeline filing to be made no later than July 1, 2025.

Tables #2 and #3 illustrate the effect of the proposed changes in the electric and gas USF and Lifeline program charges on typical electric and gas residential monthly bills, if approved by the Board.

Any rate adjustments with resulting changes in bill impacts found by the Board to be just and reasonable as the result of the Company’s Filing may be modified and/or allocated by the Board in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and for other good and legally sufficient reasons to any class or classes of customers of the Company. Therefore, the described charges may increase or decrease based upon the Board’s decision.

A copy of this Notice of Filing and Public Hearings on the Filing is being served upon the clerk, executive or administrator of each municipality and county within the Company’s service territory. The Filing is available for review online at the Public Service website at <http://www.pseg.com/pseandgfilings> and has also been sent to the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (“Rate Counsel”), who will represent the interests of all Public Service customers in this proceeding. The Filing is also available to review online on the Board’s website, <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us>, where you can search by the above-captioned docket numbers. The Filing and Board file may also be reviewed at the Board located at 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor, Trenton, NJ, with an appointment. To make an appointment, please call (609) 913-6298.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that virtual public hearings are scheduled on the following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Filing:

DATE: September 4, 2024
TIMES: 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Join: Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

There are two options for joining. Either go to this website: www.pseg.com/PSEGpublichearings, or go to <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting> and enter the following information:

Meeting ID: 992 979 119 781
 Passcode: 3X59PZ

-or-

Join by Phone
Dial In: (973) 536-2286
Phone conference ID: 537 811 425#
 When prompted, enter the phone conference ID to access the meeting.

Representatives from the Company, Board Staff and Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. Members of the public are invited to participate by utilizing the link or dial-in number set forth above and may express their views on the Filing. All comments will be made a part of the final record of the proceeding and will be considered by the Board. In order to encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearings to the Board Secretary at board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket listed above using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool (<https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/>). Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board’s e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board. Please include “Confidential Information” in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board’s webpage: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

Emailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:
 Sherri L. Golden, Secretary of the Board
 New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
 44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor
 PO Box 350
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
 Phone: 609-913-6241
 Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Table # 1
Universal Service and Lifeline Fund Components of Societal Benefits Charge

	Present	Present (Incl. SUT)	Proposed	Proposed (Incl. SUT)
USF-Electric per kWh	\$0.001243	\$0.001325	\$0.002075	\$0.002212
USF-Gas per therm	0.010800	0.011500	0.020300	0.021600
Lifeline-Electric per kWh	0.000698	0.000744	0.000710	0.000757
Lifeline-Gas per therm	0.005800	0.006200	0.005600	0.006000

Table # 2
Typical Residential Electric Bill Impacts

If Your Average Monthly kWh Use Is:	And Your Monthly Summer kWh Use Is:	Then Your Present Monthly Bill (1) Would Be:	And Your Proposed Monthly Bill (2) Would Be:	Your Average Monthly Bill Change Would Be:	And Your Percent Change Would Be:
144	185	\$35.50	\$35.62	\$0.12	0.34 %
289	370	66.06	66.33	0.27	0.41
577	740	127.67	128.19	0.52	0.41
650	803	143.34	143.92	0.58	0.40
1,042	1,337	228.79	229.73	0.94	0.41

(1) Based upon current Delivery Rates and Basic Generation Service Residential Small Commercial Pricing (BGS-RSCP) charges in effect June 1, 2024 and assumes that the customer receives BGS-RSCP service from PSE&G.

(2) Same as (1) except includes the changes in USF and Lifeline components of the SBC.

Table # 3
Typical Residential Gas Bill Impacts

If Your Average Monthly Therm Use Is:	And Your Monthly Winter Therm Use Is:	Then Your Present Monthly Bill (1) Would Be:	And Your Proposed Monthly Bill (2) Would Be:	Your Average Monthly Bill Change Would Be:	And Your Percent Change Would Be:
14	25	\$22.67	\$22.82	\$0.15	0.66 %
28	50	36.72	37.01	0.29	0.79
51	100	59.85	60.36	0.51	0.85
83	159	93.07	93.90	0.83	0.89
87	172	95.98	96.84	0.86	0.90
100	201	109.45	110.44	0.99	0.90

(1) Based upon current Delivery Rates and Basic Gas Supply Service (BGSS-RSG) charges in effect June 1, 2024 and assumes that the customer receives BGSS-RSG service from PSE&G.

(2) Same as (1) except includes the changes in USF and Lifeline components of the SBC.