

NOTICE TO ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY CUSTOMERS

Notice of a Filing And Notice of Public Hearings

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, on June 28, 2024, Rockland Electric Company (“RECO” or “Company”) made an annual compliance filing with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”) and provided supporting documentation for changes in the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) and Lifeline components of RECO’s Societal Benefits Charge (“SBC”) (“Filing”). The requested program changes result in an increase to the USF and Lifeline components of the SBC. The requested changes in the USF and Lifeline components are made pursuant to Board Orders, and include the recovery of funding for the USF Program through uniform statewide rates. The USF Program was established by the Board, pursuant to the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49, *et seq.*, (“EDECA”), to provide funds to assist qualifying low-income individuals in paying their energy bills. The State of New Jersey’s Department of Community Affairs is the Administrator of the USF Program and the New Jersey Department of Human Services is the Administrator of the Lifeline program and authorizes the disbursement of benefits to eligible customers in the respective programs.

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 statewide USF rates will be set to recover \$236.52 million, of which \$143.80 million would be recovered through electric rates with the remaining \$92.72 million recovered through gas rates on a statewide basis. The Lifeline rates are anticipated to collect \$74.55 million, of which \$49.20 million would be recovered through electric rates with the remaining \$25.35 million recovered through gas rates on a statewide basis. The above requests will not result in any profit to RECO. The revenues received under the proposed USF and Lifeline Program factors are designed to permit RECO 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 annual filing, to be made on or before July 1, 2025.

The Company’s June 28, 2024 Filing requests changes to its current USF/Lifeline Program charges, as described below, to become effective on October 1, 2024. The proposed charges for electric customers are as follows:

Universal Service/Lifeline Fund Components of Societal Benefits Charge				
	Present	Present (Incl. Sales and Use Tax)	Proposed	Proposed (Incl. Sales and Use Tax)
USF-Electric per kWh	\$0.001243	\$0.001325	\$0.002075	\$0.002212
Lifeline-Electric per kWh	\$0.000698	\$0.000744	\$0.000710	\$0.000757
Total	\$0.001941	0.002069	\$0.002785	\$0.002969

If the June 28, 2024 Filing is approved by the Board, the statewide average residential customer using 808 kWh per summer month, and 7,800 kWh on an annual basis, would see an increase of \$7.04 in the annual bill from \$1,811.20 to \$1,818.24, or approximately 0.39%. The percentage change applicable to specific customers will vary according to the applicable service classification and the level of the customer's usage.

The effect of the proposed changes in the electric combined USF/Lifeline Program charge on typical residential electric bills, if approved by the Board, is illustrated below:

Residential Electric Service				
Typical Average Monthly Bill (Includes Sales and Use Tax)				
			Increase	
	Present Charges (1)	Proposed Charges (2)	Amount	Percent
650 kWh average monthly use	\$150.93	\$151.52	\$0.59	0.39
925 kWh average monthly use	219.72	220.55	0.83	0.38
1,500 kWh average monthly use	363.31	364.66	1.35	0.37

- (1) Based upon Basic Generation Service Residential Small Commercial Pricing (BGS-RSCP) and Delivery Rates in effect June 1, 2024 and assumes that the customer receives BGS-RSCP service from RECO.
- (2) Same as (1) except includes change in the USF/Lifeline charges.

The Board has the statutory authority pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 to establish the USF and Lifeline charges at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish the USF and Lifeline charges at levels other than those proposed by RECO. As a result, the described charges may increase or decrease based upon the Board's decision.

The 2024 USF and Lifeline filing is posted on the Company's website at https://lite.oru.com/_external/orurates/tariffsandregulatorydocuments/newjersey/pendingelectricregulatoryfilings.html

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that virtual public hearings have been scheduled on the following date and time(s) so that members of the public may present their views on the June 28, 2024 Filing.

Date: August 22, 2024
Times: 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Join from the meeting link

<https://conedison.webex.com/conedison/j.php?MTID=m273097a7be324d7e49edf3751a731963>

-or-

Go To www.webex.com and choose “Join a Meeting” at the top of the web page.

When prompted, use Meeting number 2630 882 6447 to access the meeting
Meeting password: CA8VD6fc?2

-or-

Join by phone:
Dial 1-844-621-3956 (United States Toll Free)

When prompted, use meeting number 2630 882 6447 to access the meeting. If prompted to provide an attendee ID, you may choose the option in the prompts to allow you to skip this step.

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

The Board is also accepting written and electronic comments. Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket listed above using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Comments are considered public documents for the 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:

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New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
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