

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
 IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY TO IMPLEMENT AN
 INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM ("IIP") AND ASSOCIATED RECOVERY MECHANISM
 PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 AND N.J.A.C. 14:3-2A
 BPU Docket No. GR23120882**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, on December 11, 2023, Elizabethtown Gas Company (“Company” or “Elizabethtown”) filed a petition (“Petition”) with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”) requesting approval to implement an Infrastructure Investment Program (“IIP 2”) and to permit Elizabethtown to recover the costs of the proposed IIP 2 under the existing Rider F to the Company’s Tariff. The Company currently has an Infrastructure Investment Program (“IIP”) that was approved by Board Order dated June 12, 2019 in BPU Docket No. GR18101197, which is ending on June 30, 2024.

Elizabethtown requested Board approval to commence a five (5)-year program effective July 1, 2024 in order to continue to modernize and enhance the reliability and safety of its gas distribution system by replacing vintage, at-risk cast iron, steel and plastic mains and associated services. Elizabethtown also proposed to continue to upgrade its legacy low pressure system to an elevated pressure system and to install excess flow valves where appropriate on services on the upgraded system.

The total expenditures associated with the IIP 2 are projected to approximate \$625 million, excluding Allowance for Funds Used During Construction and Independent Monitor costs. Elizabethtown projected that these expenditures will enable the Company to (i) install approximately 250 miles of new main and associated services; (ii) continue to upgrade the Company’s legacy low pressure system to elevated pressure; and (iii) install approximately 35,000 excess flow valves.

In conjunction with the implementation of the IIP 2, Elizabethtown proposed to follow the current filing and reporting requirements of its IIP and to recover the costs of IIP 2 investments placed in service during the five (5)-year program period commencing on July 1, 2024 through annual rate adjustments.

Elizabethtown is not seeking to increase rates to recover IIP 2 costs at this time. Nonetheless, Elizabethtown forecasted that the initial IIP 2 rate increase anticipated to take effect October 1, 2025 would be designed to recover \$13.6 million of IIP 2 costs for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The Rider F rate would be assessed to all of Elizabethtown’s firm customers as noted in the Company’s Tariff. This rate change would increase the bill of a residential heating customer using 100 therms by \$3.81 or 3.2% as compared to a 100 therm bill before such change, adjusted to include an estimate of the last year of the IIP ending June 30, 2024. This rate change would increase the annual bill of a residential heating customer using 1,000 therms by \$38.10 or 3.1.% as compared to the total annual bill before such change, adjusted to include an estimate of the last year of the IIP ending June 30, 2024.

Based on current projections and assuming implementation of the IIP 2 as proposed by the Company, the estimated incremental IIP 2 rates per therm and the impacts on the annual bill of a residential heating customer using 1,000 therms are as follows:

<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>IIP 2 Incremental Residential Rate Per Therm</u>	<u>Annual Incremental Increase</u>	<u>Incremental % Change</u>
10/1/25	\$0.0381	\$38.10	3.1%
10/1/26	\$0.0382	\$38.20	3.0%
10/1/27	\$0.0382	\$38.20	2.9%
10/1/28	\$0.0382	\$38.20	2.9%
10/1/29	\$0.0382	\$38.20	2.8%

These incremental residential rates per therm are only estimates. The actual rates per therm are subject to Board approval and could be higher or lower depending on the Board’s final determination of the annual filings requesting such rate increases submitted by the Company.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-1, the Board may set these rates at levels it finds just and reasonable and establish the effective date of such rates. Therefore, the Board may establish these rates at levels and/or an effective date other than those proposed by Elizabethtown.

Any assistance required by customers in ascertaining the impact of the proposed incremental rates per therm will be provided by the Company upon request.

Copies of Elizabethtown’s Petition can be reviewed on the Company’s website at www.elizabethtowngas.com under “regulatory information”. The Petition is also available to review online through the Board’s website at <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us> where you can search by the above-captioned docket number. In addition, the Petition and Board file may be reviewed at the Board located at 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor, Trenton, NJ by appointment. To make an appointment, please call (609) 913-6298.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that as authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-9.3, virtual public hearings will be conducted on the following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Petition:

DATE: May 2, 2024

HEARING TIMES: 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Microsoft Teams Meeting

ID: 266 109 527 150

PASSCODE: w8LXdn

(Access the Microsoft Teams App or Microsoft Teams on the web. On the left side of the screen, click the “Teams” icon. Select “Join or ‘create a team”. Press “Join” and enter the Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted.)

or

Dial In: (866) 984-3163

Conference ID: 722 204 237 followed by the # sign

A copy of this Notice is being served upon the clerk, executive or administrator of each municipality and county within the Company’s service territory.

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 Meeting ID or the Dial-In Number set forth above and may express their views on this Petition. All comments will be made part of the final record to 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.

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 at <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us>. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act. Only documents that are intended to be public 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 submission, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board’s e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board, Sherri L. Golden. Please include “Confidential Information” in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board’s webpage at <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

Emailed and/or written comments may be submitted to:

Secretary of the Board
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
Phone: 609-923-6241
Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

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