



May 29, 2024

**Via Electronic Mail**

To: The Office of the County Clerk, Municipal Clerk and County Administrator

Re: In the Matter of the Petition of New Jersey Natural Gas Company For Approval of an Increase in Gas Base Rates and for Changes in its Tariff for Gas Service, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1; and for Changes to Depreciation Rates for Gas Property Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-18 and Other Requested Relief  
BPU Docket No. GR24010071

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-2-21 and 48:2-21.1, New Jersey Natural Gas Company (the “Company” or “NJNG”) hereby advises you that on January 31, 2024 the Company filed a request with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities requesting an increase in the Company’s base rate charges for natural gas service (“Base Rate Petition”). NJNG’s Base Rate Petition states that the requested rate increase is necessary to support the Company’s ability to continue to operate and maintain its natural gas distribution system in a safe, adequate, and proper manner. In the Base Rate Petition, the Company requested a natural gas revenue increase of \$222.60 million, including a change in the Company’s overall rate of return to 7.57 percent, which also includes a proposed return on common equity of 10.42 percent. The impact of this request on the average residential heating customer using 100 therms per month is a \$34.85 increase in the customer’s monthly bill, or approximately 23.4 percent.

Included in the Base Rate Petition is a request pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-18 to change certain depreciation rates based upon a Depreciation Study. The Company proposed that the requested changes in its depreciation rates be approved for implementation simultaneously with the effective date of the proposed new natural gas rates.

A complete copy of the Company’s filing is available for review on NJNG’s website at [www.njng.com](http://www.njng.com). Please be further advised that the Company hereby serves upon you the attached Notice of Public Hearings in the above referenced matter. The virtual public hearings are scheduled for June 27, 2024 at 4:30 P.M. and 5:30 P.M. with the following Log-In instructions.

Location: Zoom Virtual Webinar

Join by holding down control button and clicking on below link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397?pwd=VUJpK1V0aDYxZDIlZUIwaElOWDFRZz09>

Meeting ID: 245 813 6397

Dial-In Phone Number: 1-646-876-9923

Access Code: 819208

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew K. Dembia'.

Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.  
Regulatory Affairs Counsel

AKD: ss  
Attachments

# NOTICE TO NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY CUSTOMERS

## I/M/O THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN GAS BASE RATES, FOR CHANGES IN ITS TARIFF FOR GAS SERVICE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 AND N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1, FOR CHANGES TO DEPRECIATION RATES FOR GAS PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, AND OTHER REQUESTED RELIEF

**OAL Docket No. PUC 02298-2024; BPU Docket No. 24010071**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that on January 31, 2024, New Jersey Natural Gas Company ("NJNG" or "Company") filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") requesting an increase in the Company's base rate charges for natural gas service ("Base Rate Petition"). NJNG's Base Rate Petition states that the requested rate increase is necessary to support the Company's ability to continue to operate and maintain its natural gas distribution system in a safe, adequate, and proper manner. In the Base Rate Petition, the Company requested a natural gas revenue increase of \$222.60 million, including a change in the Company's overall rate of return to 7.57 percent, which also includes a proposed return on common equity of 10.42 percent. The impact of this request on the average residential heating customer using 100 therms per month is a \$34.85 increase in the customer's monthly bill, or approximately 23.4 percent. Monthly bill impacts for residential and other customers are shown in the table below.

Included in the Base Rate Petition is a request pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-18 to change certain depreciation rates based upon a Depreciation Study. The Company proposed that the requested changes in its depreciation rates be approved for implementation simultaneously with the effective date of the proposed new natural gas rates.

The effect of the total proposed rate changes on the typical residential, general service small and general service large monthly bill for natural gas service is estimated as shown in the table below. The estimated bills shown below are based upon current NJNG delivery rates and the applicable Basic Gas Supply Service charges, and assume that customers receive commodity service from NJNG.

Customer Type	Therm Level (Usage)	Total Bill		Net Dollar Increase	Percent Increase
		Monthly Bill as of 1-Jan-24	Monthly Bill with Proposed Base Rate Increase		
<b>Residential Heat</b>	100	\$148.90	\$183.75	\$34.85	23.4%
<b>Residential Non-Heat</b>	25	\$44.15	\$55.86	\$11.71	26.5%
<b>General Service Small</b>	100	\$168.99	\$214.31	\$45.32	26.8%
<b>General Service Large</b>	1200	\$1,741.16	\$2,024.34	\$283.18	16.3%

The Company proposes other changes to its tariff including, but not limited to, an increase in its Balancing Charge, and changes to reflect current operating requirements and Board regulations.

Any rate increase found by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board and applied to any class or classes of customers or any rate schedule or rate schedules as the Board may determine. Accordingly, the final rates approved by the Board in this proceeding for any rate class or classes may be higher or lower than those set forth herein.

A copy of this Notice of Filing and Public Hearings on this matter is being served upon the clerk, executive or administrator of each municipality and county within the Company's service territory. The Petition and this Notice have also been sent to the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel"), who will represent the interests of New Jersey ratepayers in this proceeding. Copies of NJNG's January 31, 2024 filing can be reviewed on the Company's website, [www.njng.com/regulatory](http://www.njng.com/regulatory) in the "Filings & Updates" subsection of the "Regulatory Info" section listed.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that virtual public hearings will be conducted on the following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Company's filing.

### VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

Date: June 27, 2024

Hearing Times: 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm

### LOCATION

Zoom Virtual Webinar

Join: <https://oal-nj-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1600262423?pwd=Z1ZEVTI6c3lYSgxtRFNHQzJlZEdnUT09>

Meeting ID: 160 026 2423

Passcode: 238193

Dial-In Number: +1-646-828-7666

An Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Law will preside over the public hearings. Members of the public are invited to attend and express their views on the proposed rate increase. Such comments will be made a part of the final record in the proceeding. Whether or not you attend the public hearings, written comments may be submitted to Hon. Jacob S. Gertsman, ALJ, Office of Administrative Law, P.O. Box 049, Trenton, NJ 08625-0049. Please include OAL Docket No. PUC 02298-24 S and BPU Docket No. GR 24010071 in your comment letter. Written and emailed comments will be provided the same weight as statements made at the hearings.

Representatives of the Company, the Board's Staff and 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 of the 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 assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearing to the Board Secretary at [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto: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 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 at <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

Emailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:

Sherri L. Golden, Secretary of the Board

44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor

PO Box 350

Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Phone: 609-913-6241

Email: [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov)

**New Jersey Natural Gas Company**

**Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.**