



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF PUBLIC)
SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY FOR)
APPROVAL OF THE NEXT PHASE OF THE GAS)
SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AND)
ASSOCIATED COST RECOVERY MECHANISM)
("GSMP II"))

ORDER SUBSTITUTING
COMMISSIONER

DOCKET NO. GR17070776

Parties of Record:

Danielle Lopez, Esq., Public Service Electric and Gas Company
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
Steven Goldenberg, Esq., Fox Rothschild, LLP, for the New Jersey Large Energy Users Coalition
Christopher D. Miller, Esq., Maraziti Falcon, LLP, for the Environmental Defense Fund

BY THE BOARD:

On July 27, 2017, Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Company") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for approval of a continuation of the Gas System Modernization Program and associated cost recovery mechanism ("GSMP II" or "Program"). PSE&G anticipates that GSMP II will be conducted over a five (5) year period from 2019 through 2023. The Company states that the GSMP II: (1) is comprised of gas utility projects designed to replace cast iron mains and unprotected steel¹ mains and services; (2) addresses the abandonment of district regulators associated with this cast iron and unprotected steel plant; (3) will rehabilitate large diameter elevated pressure cast iron; (4) includes upgrades to utilization pressure portions of the system to elevated pressure; (5) replaces limited amounts of protected steel and plastic mains; and (6) provides for the relocation of inside meter sets.

By Order dated September 22, 2017 ("September 22, 2017 Order"), the Board determined that the GSMP II petition described above should be retained by the Board for hearing and, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-32, designated President Fiordaliso as the presiding officer authorized to rule on all motions that arise during the pendency of these proceedings and modify any schedules that may be set as necessary to secure a just and expeditious determination of the issues.

¹ For purposes of this petition, "unprotected steel" is steel that is not cathodically protected and includes both bare steel and coated steel.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The Board has determined that it is appropriate to reassign this matter. Accordingly, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-32, the Board **HEREBY DESIGNATES** Commissioner Upendra J. Chivukula as the presiding officer who is authorized to rule on all motions that arise during the pendency of these proceedings and modify any schedules as necessary to secure a just and expeditious determination of the issues. Additionally, the Board **HEREBY AMENDS** the procedural schedule as follows:

A settlement conference will occur among the parties on or about March 9, 2018 at the Board's Offices in Trenton, New Jersey. Evidentiary hearings are scheduled in this matter on April 4, 5, and 6, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Administrative Law, Hearing Room 14, in Newark, New Jersey. The evidentiary hearings will be presided over by Commissioner Chivukula.

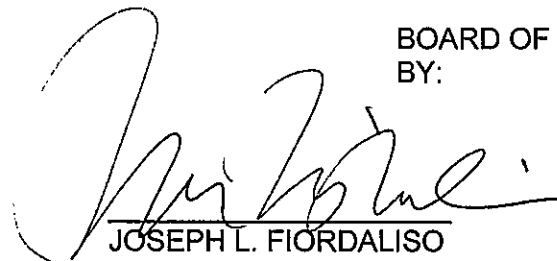
In the interests of economy, all parties are **HEREBY DIRECTED** to continue to serve all documents electronically, while still providing hard copies to the Board for those documents which must be filed with the Board, and also providing two (2) hard copies to each party, unless otherwise requested by the parties. Finally, the Board **HEREBY DIRECTS** Staff to post this Order on the Board's website.

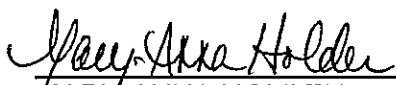
The Board **HEREBY RATIFIES** the decisions of President Fiordaliso rendered during the time he was the presiding officer of these proceedings for the reasons stated in his Orders.

This Order shall be effective on March 10, 2018.

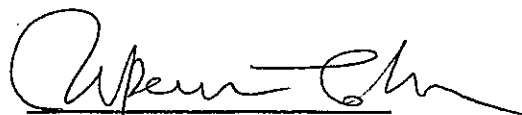
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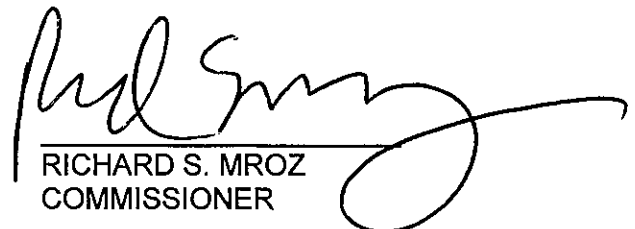
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT

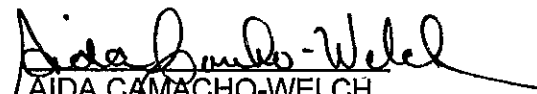

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER


DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER


UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER


RICHARD S. MROZ
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL
OF THE NEXT PHASE OF THE GAS SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROGRAM
AND ASSOCIATED COST RECOVERY MECHANISM ("GSMP II")
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