

Agenda Date: 1/7/21 Agenda Item: IIA

STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 <u>www.nj.gov/bpu/</u>

ENERGY

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO ITS TARIFF TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN RATES AND CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 AND N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1, AND FOR OTHER APPROPRIATE RELIEF (12/2020) ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR SERVICE

BPU DOCKET NO. ER20120746

Parties of Record:

Philip J. Passanante, Esq., on behalf of Atlantic City Electric Company, Petitioner Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On December 9, 2020, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, Atlantic City Electric Company ("ACE" or "Company"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), filed a petition for approval of an increase in its current base rates for electric service of approximately \$71.8 million, including Sales and Use Tax ("SUT"), to be effective for electric service provided on or after January 8, 2021.

The Company is also requesting a return on equity of 10.30%. According to the petition, the primary reason for the requested increase is that the Company's current base rates do not: (i) provide sufficient operating revenues to reflect increased investment in the Company's rate base, meet operating expenses, taxes, and fixed charges, and maintain its financial viability; and (ii) provide an opportunity to earn a reasonable rate of return on the fair value of the Company's property.

In the petition, ACE seeks authority from the Board to do the following:

- 1. Increase rates and charges for electric service that would result from the proposed amendments to the Company's tariff;
- 2. Implement an Economic Relief Rider to be in effect for four (4) months to provide offsetting credits to mitigate the increase resulting from this base rate case;
- 3. Create a regulatory asset to record costs related to its solar hosting initiative, at a total cost of up to \$10 million over two (2) years, to be recovered in a future base rate case;
- 4. Recover an under-recovery for the Company's PowerAhead program through the creation of a regulatory asset to be amortized over a period of three (3) years;
- 5. Create a regulatory asset/liability to begin tracking Average Rate Assumption Method ("ARAM") differences in customer' rates and the actual realized ARAM amounts;
- Incorporate the results of its cost of service study and consider the unitized rate of return for each customer rate class in the allocation of overall revenue requirements among rate classes;
- 7. Modify certain charges, including monthly customer charges; and
- 8. Update its tariff for certain tariff modifications, including the addition of a new tariff for light emitting diode street lighting.

As the proposed revisions, if approved, will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in the Company's tariff, it is <u>HEREBY ORDERED</u> that:

(1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21(d), and consistent with N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, the proposed revisions are suspended until May 8, 2021, unless prior to that date the Board makes a determination disposing of the petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;

(2) ACE shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition by the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL"), file with this Board and with the OAL, proof of compliance with the notice provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:2-32.2 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12(b) and (c), which notice shall include a statement that any relief found by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board to any class or classes of customers on any rate or schedule as the Board may determine; and

(3) ACE shall serve copies of this Order upon the OAL, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (140 East Front Street, 4th Floor. Post Office Box 003, Trenton, N.J. 08625), the clerk of each affected municipality, the clerk of the Boards of Chosen Freeholders of the affected county, and where appropriate, the executive officer of the affected county within its service area. Service of the petition, notice of hearings and this Order may be made simultaneously. Proof of Service of this Order shall be filed with the Board.

This Order shall be effective on January 7, 2021.

DATED: January 7, 2021

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO PRESIDENT

your-Anna Holden

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN COMMISSIONER

UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA COMMISSIONER

DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

ROBERT M. GORDON COMMISSIONER

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ATTEST:

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH SECRETARY

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BPU DOCKET NO. ER20120746

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