

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY
TO REVIEW ITS PERIODIC BASIC GAS SUPPLY SERVICE RATE
AND CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM RATES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024
BPU Docket No. GR23060335**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 1, 2023, Elizabethtown Gas Company (“Elizabethtown” or “Company”), filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“BPU” or “Board”) in Docket No. GR23060335 to review its Periodic Basic Gas Supply Service (“BGSS-P”) rate and Conservation Incentive Program (“CIP”) rates (“Petition”), as modified on July 21, 2023 to reflect 12 months of actual CIP data. The BGSS-P component of the Petition was filed pursuant to the “Order Approving BGSS Price Structure” issued by the Board on January 6, 2003 in Docket No. GX01050304 (“2003 BGSS Order”). BGSS-P rates are designed to recover Elizabethtown’s cost of gas applicable to customers who purchase gas from Elizabethtown. The Company earns no profit from the BGSS-P rate. The CIP charge provides for a rate adjustment related to changes in average use per customer when compared to pre-established baseline values. The CIP is an incentive-based program that requires Elizabethtown to reduce gas supply related costs, and limits recovery of non-weather-related revenue loss to the level of gas supply costs savings achieved.

The Petition proposes to increase the current BGSS-P rate from \$0.2692 per therm to \$0.5042 per therm, inclusive of applicable taxes, and change the current CIP rates to the following CIP rates per therm, inclusive of applicable taxes:

Residential <u>Delivery</u> <u>Service</u> (Non- Heating)	Residential <u>Delivery</u> <u>Service</u> (Heating)	Small General <u>Service</u>	General Delivery <u>Service</u>
\$0.0156	\$0.0858	\$0.0199	(\$0.0078)

Based on rates in effect July 1, 2023, the proposed BGSS-P and CIP rate changes will increase the monthly bill of a residential heating customer using 100 therms in a month by \$30.67 from \$103.77 to \$134.44, or 29.6%, consisting of a proposed BGSS-P increase of \$23.50 or 22.6% and proposed CIP increase of \$7.17 or 6.9%.

If approved, the effect of the Company's Petition on typical residential heating gas bills is illustrated below:

Consumption in Therms	Present Monthly Bill <u>July 1, 2023</u>	Proposed Monthly Bill <u>October 1, 2023</u>	Proposed <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
10	\$19.83	\$22.89	\$3.06	15.4%
50	\$57.14	\$72.47	\$15.33	26.8%
100	\$103.77	\$134.44	\$30.67	29.6%
250	\$243.68	\$320.35	\$76.67	31.5%

Pursuant to the 2003 BGSS Order, the proposed rate may be subject to self-implementing rate increases upon thirty days written notice to the BPU and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (“Rate Counsel”). Any such self-implementing rate increases will be limited to a maximum of five percent (5%) of the total residential bill using 100 therms, effective December 1, 2023, and to a maximum of five percent (5%) of the total residential bill using 100 therms, effective February 1, 2024. Should it become necessary to apply both the December 1st and February 1st self-implementing increases, the respective cumulative impacts of these increases on typical residential heating gas bills are illustrated below:

Consumption in Therms	Proposed Monthly Bill October 1, 2023	Potential Monthly Bill Dec. or Feb. 1st Inc.	Potential Change	Percent Change
10	\$22.89	\$23.56	\$0.67	2.9%
50	\$72.47	\$75.83	\$3.36	4.6%
100	\$134.44	\$141.16	\$6.72	5.0%
250	\$320.35	\$337.15	\$16.80	5.2%

Consumption in Therms	Proposed Monthly Bill October 1, 2023	Potential Monthly Bill Dec. and Feb. 1st Inc.	Potential Change	Percent Change
10	\$22.89	\$24.27	\$1.38	6.0%
50	\$72.47	\$79.36	\$6.89	9.5%
100	\$134.44	\$148.22	\$13.78	10.2%
250	\$320.35	\$354.80	\$34.45	10.8%

These self-implementing increases will be provisional and subject to review in connection with the next annual BGSS filing. Elizabethtown is permitted to decrease its BGSS-P rate at any time upon five (5) days' notice and the filing of supporting documentation with the Board and Rate Counsel.

The Board has the statutory authority to establish Elizabethtown's rates at levels it finds just and reasonable as well as to establish the effective date of such rates. Therefore, the BPU may establish the rates at levels and/or an effective date other than those proposed by Elizabethtown.

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

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, virtual public hearings have been scheduled on the following date and times below so that members of the public may present their views on the Petition:

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS
DATE: August 31, 2023

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

LOCATION: Microsoft Teams Meeting
ID: 215 244 029 357
PASSCODE: Ghuz38

(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: 426 236 955 followed by the # sign

Representatives of the Company, Board Staff and Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. Members of the public are invited to participate in the Microsoft Teams Meeting or by utilizing the Dial-In and Conference ID set forth above and may express their views on this Petition. All comments will be made part of the final record of the proceeding and will 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.

Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket listed above using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Document Search tool, <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/>. Comments are considered “public documents” for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act. Only submit public documents 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 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, <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

Elizabethtown Gas Company
Christie McMullen – President and Chief Operating Officer