

NOTICE TO SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY CUSTOMERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED BASE
TARIFF RATES AND CHARGES FOR GAS SERVICE, CHANGES TO DEPRECIATION RATES AND OTHER TARIFF
REVISIONS
OAL Docket No. PUC 04318-22S
BPU Docket No. GR22040253

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on April 14, 2022, South Jersey Gas Company (“South Jersey” 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”). South Jersey’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 approximately \$73.1 million or 11 percent. The impact of this request on the average residential heating customer using 100 therms per month is a \$17.15 increase in the customer’s monthly bill, or approximately 10.1 percent. The proposed increase is predominantly the result of capital expenditures made or to be made by the Company, which the company states are related to system improvements and reliability since the Company’s last base rate case.

Included in the Base Rate Petition is a request pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-18 to increase depreciation rates based upon an updated 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.

Set forth below are the current versus proposed rates, all of which are inclusive of New Jersey Sales and Use Taxes, that will permit customers to determine the effect of the proposed increased rates. Any assistance required by customers in understanding these rates will be furnished by the Company upon request.

The effect of the proposed rate increase on 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 South Jersey delivery rates and the applicable Basic Gas Supply Service charges, and assume that customers receive commodity service from South Jersey.

		Total Bill			
Customer Type	Therm Level (Usage)	Current Monthly Bill	Monthly Bill with Proposed Rate Increase	Bill Impact	% Impact
Residential Heat	100	\$169.26	\$186.41	\$17.15	10.1%
Residential Non-Heat	15	\$34.07	\$40.18	\$6.11	17.9%
General Service	500	\$758.36	\$833.52	\$75.16	9.9%
General Service – Large Volume	15,646	\$21,697.94	\$23,096.56	\$1,398.62	6.4%

The Company proposes other changes to its tariff including the implementation of an Uncollectible Adjustment Clause (“UAC”) to account for fluctuations in uncollectible costs.

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 the consolidated matters is being served upon the clerk, executive or administrator of each municipality and county within the Company’s service territory. The Base Rate Petition and this Notice have also been sent to the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel, who will represent the interests of New Jersey ratepayers in this proceeding. Copies of the Base Rate Petition can be reviewed on the Company’s website, www.southjerseygas.com under Regulatory Information. The Base Rate 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 Base Rate Petition and case 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 the Board has transmitted the Company’s Base Rate Petition to the Office of Administrative Law (“OAL”) for the purpose of conducting public and evidentiary hearings thereon with the Hon. Jacob Gertsman, Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”), presiding. The OAL has scheduled virtual public comment hearings before an ALJ on the following date and times:

Date: September 14, 2022
Times: 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Dial-in Number: 1 646 828 7666 or 1 669 254 5252
Meeting ID:161 396 5996
Passcode: 406754

Members of the public may participate in the public hearings by following the dial-in instructions set out below:

Call-in numbers (callers can use either phone number): 1 646 828 7666
1 669 254 5252

Upon calling in, the caller will be prompted to enter the **meeting ID of 161 396 5996** and press the pound or hashtag button (#).

Press the pound or hashtag button (#) a second time (in response to the second electronic prompt).

The caller will then be prompted to enter the passcode for the public meeting of **406754** and press the pound or hashtag button (#).

The caller will then be entered into the waiting room where the OAL Information Technology (“OAL IT”) staff will admit the caller into the public hearing. The caller should initially mute their phone to prevent background noise. Failure to mute your own line may cause OAL IT staff to mute the caller and the caller would have to disconnect and call back in to participate in the public discussion portion.

An ALJ from the OAL will preside over the virtual public hearings. Members of the public are invited to participate and express their views on the proposed rate increases during the public hearings. Such comments will be made a part of the final record in the proceeding. Whether or not you participate in the virtual public hearings, written comments may be submitted to the Hon. Jacob Gertsman, Office of Administrative Law, P.O. Box 049, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0049. Please include OAL Docket No. PUC 04318-22S in your comment letter.

In order to encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comments, 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.

South Jersey Gas Company
Brent Schomber –
President and Chief Operating Officer