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June 27, 2025

**Electronic Filing**

Sherri Lewis, Board Secretary  
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities  
44 South Clinton Avenue  
Trenton, NJ 08625

**Re: In the Matter of the 2025/2026 Annual Compliance Filing for the Universal Service Fund and Lifeline Program Components Within the Societal Benefits Charge Rate Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1**

**BPU Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Secretary Lewis:

Enclosed for filing is the Elizabethtown Gas Company ("Elizabethtown" or "Company") 2025/2026 filing for the Company's Universal Service Fund ("USF") and Lifeline components of its Societal Benefits Charge ("SBC") rate, which has also been filed electronically utilizing the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' ("Board" or "BPU") e-Filing Program. In accordance with the Board's March 19, 2020 and June 10, 2020 Orders issued in BPU Docket No. EO20030254, hard copies are not being submitted at this time, but can be provided at a later time, if needed.

This filing is made in compliance with the Board's Orders in Docket No. EX00020091 dated April 30, 2003, July 16, 2003, June 30, 2004 and June 22, 2005. The change in rates, inclusive of taxes, are as follows: (i) the USF gas rate is proposed to decrease from \$0.0216 to \$0.0212 per therm, and (ii) the Lifeline gas rate is proposed to decrease from \$0.0060 to \$0.0057 per therm, resulting in a combined total net decrease of \$0.0007 per therm. The current rates, which were effective October 1, 2024, were approved by the Board in its Order dated September 25, 2024 in Docket No. ER24070486.

Based upon the actual results and available estimates for the 2024/2025 program year and the available estimates for the 2025/2026 program year, the proposed USF gas rate is designed to recover approximately \$90.0 million statewide. The proposed Lifeline gas rate is designed to recover approximately \$23.9 million statewide. The proposed rates are based on available gas jurisdictional usage estimates for the 2025/2026 program year. Attachment A of the PSE&G Compliance Filing, in this proceeding, presents the combined data of each of the State's utilities used to develop the proposed USF and Lifeline gas rates. Note that Elizabethtown's therms used to compute statewide rates exclude therms for wholesale sales used to generate electricity per the Senate Bill 2381, P.L. 2011 c.9 ("LCAPP Legislation") signed into law on January 28, 2011.

The Company has appended proposed tariff sheets to reflect the proposed USF and Lifeline gas rates noted above as Attachment A. The proposed rates are designed to recover Elizabethtown's portion of the 2025/2026 statewide total USF and Lifeline program costs. A Notice of Public Hearings is not required as both rates are proposed to be a decrease.

The proposed statewide rate changes, inclusive of taxes, are as follows:

	Present	Proposed	Increase/(Decrease)
USF	\$0.0216	\$0.0212	(\$0.0004)
Lifeline	\$0.0060	\$0.0057	(\$0.0003)

The impact of the proposed rate changes, inclusive of taxes, on the monthly residential heating bills for customers taking gas service under the Elizabethtown Residential Delivery Service tariff are as follows:

Consumption in Therms	Present Bill June 1, 2025	Proposed Bill October 1, 2025	Change in Bill	Percent Change
10	\$26.20	\$26.20	\$0.00	0.0%
50	\$85.02	\$84.99	(\$0.03)	0.0%
100	\$158.54	\$158.47	(\$0.07)	0.0%
250	\$379.10	\$378.93	(\$0.17)	0.0%

In addition, in its USF Modification Order<sup>1</sup>, the Board directed the utilities to increase USF enrollments in their service territories by 5%, 3% and 2% in program years one (1), two (2) and three (3), respectively. The utilities were further directed to assist customers with USF applications at payment centers, conduct in-person events and provide other customer-accessible means of facilitating application assistance. The USF Modification Order allows that "[w]ith respect to Utility USF administrative cost recovery, the Utilities may petition the Board for authority to defer costs". Elizabethtown anticipates that it will incur incremental costs associated with these USF related activities. Elizabethtown requests that it be allowed to defer the costs associated with the USF Modification Order for recovery in a base rate case or future USF proceeding.

Accordingly, the Company respectfully requests that the Board issue an Order: 1) approving the proposed statewide USF and Lifeline gas rates as shown in the proposed tariff sheets appended hereto as Attachment A effective for gas service rendered on and after October 1, 2025, and 2) authorize deferral of costs associated with the USF Modification Order.

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<sup>1</sup> In re the Matter of Rate Design and Policy Study Regarding Driving Equity in the Clean Energy Transition, Docket No. GO24110853, Order dated June 18, 2025 ("USF Modification Order").

If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dominick DiRocco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dominick DiRocco

cc: Service List

**PSE&G USF 2025-2026**  
**Service List**  
**BPU Docket No.**

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## RIDER "D"

SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE ("SBC")

Applicable to all tariff Service Classifications except those Customers under special contracts that explicitly do not permit the Company to apply increased charges as filed and approved by the BPU and those customers exempted pursuant to the Long-Term Capacity Agreement Pilot Program ("LCAPP"), P.L. 2011, c.9, codified as N.J.S.A. 48:3-60.1. See the LCAPP Exemption Procedures at the end of this Rider.

The SBC is designed to recover the components listed below and any other new programs which the Board determines should be recovered through the Societal Benefits Charge.

<u>SBC Rate Components:</u>		<u>Per Therm</u>
I.	Clean Energy Program ("CEP")	\$0.0312
II.	Remediation Adjustment Charge ("RAC")	\$0.0303
III.	<u>Universal Service Fund and Lifeline:</u>	
	1. Universal Service Fund ("USF")	\$0.0212
	2. Lifeline	<u>\$0.0057</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$0.0884</u>

The charges applicable under this Rider include provision for the New Jersey Sales and Use Tax, and when billed to customers exempt from this tax shall be reduced by the amount of such tax included therein.

## I. Clean Energy Program Component ("CEP")

The Comprehensive Resource Analysis ("CRA") name was changed to the Clean Energy Program - CEP per Board Order dated January 22, 2003 in Docket No. EX99050347 *et.al*. The CEP is a mechanism that will (1) establish a rate to recover the costs of the Core and Standard Offer Programs in the Company's CEP Plan which was approved by the BPU in Docket No. GE92020104, and (2) compensate the Company for the revenue erosion resulting from conservation savings created by the Standard Offer Program. The annual recovery period for the CEP is from October 1 through September 30. The CEP recovers program costs and revenue erosion incurred during the previous CEP year ended June 30.

1. CEP program costs include the costs of core programs, standard offer payments and any administrative costs not recovered directly from standard offer providers.

Date of Issue: xxx1

Effective: Service Rendered  
on and after xxx2

Issued by: Christie McMullen, President  
520 Green Lane  
Union, New Jersey 07083

Filed Pursuant to Orders of the Board of Public Utilities  
Dated xxx3 in Docket Nos. xxx4

**REDLINE**

## RIDER "D"

SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE ("SBC")

Applicable to all tariff Service Classifications except those Customers under special contracts that explicitly do not permit the Company to apply increased charges as filed and approved by the BPU and those customers exempted pursuant to the Long-Term Capacity Agreement Pilot Program ("LCAPP"), P.L. 2011, c.9, codified as N.J.S.A. 48:3-60.1. See the LCAPP Exemption Procedures at the end of this Rider.

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<u>SBC Rate Components:</u>		<u>Per Therm</u>
I.	Clean Energy Program ("CEP")	\$0.0312
II.	Remediation Adjustment Charge ("RAC")	\$0.0303
III.	<u>Universal Service Fund and Lifeline:</u>	
	1. Universal Service Fund ("USF")	\$0. <del>0216</del> <u>0212</u>
	2. Lifeline	\$0. <del>0060</del> <u>0057</u>
TOTAL		\$0. <del>0894</del> <u>0884</u>

The charges applicable under this Rider include provision for the New Jersey Sales and Use Tax, and when billed to customers exempt from this tax shall be reduced by the amount of such tax included therein.

## I. Clean Energy Program Component ("CEP")

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1. CEP program costs include the costs of core programs, standard offer payments and any administrative costs not recovered directly from standard offer providers.

Date of Issue: ~~April 29, 2025~~xxx1Effective: Service Rendered  
on and after ~~May 1, 2025~~xxx2

Issued by: Christie McMullen, President  
520 Green Lane  
Union, New Jersey 07083

Filed Pursuant to Orders of the Board of Public Utilities

Dated ~~April 23, 2025~~xxx3 in Docket Nos. ~~GR24070553 and GR24070551~~xxx4