

BPU DOCKET NO. ER17050499

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
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IN THE MATTER OF THE PROVISION OF BASIC GENERATION SERVICE AND COMPLIANCE TARIFF FILING REFLECTING CHANGES TO SCHEDULE 12 CHARGES IN PJM OPEN ACCESS TRANSMISSION TARIFF – May 12, 2017 Filing	)	DECISION AND ORDER APPROVING THE PASS- THROUGH OF FERC AUTHORIZED CHANGES IN FIRM TRANSMISSION SERVCIE RELATED CHARGES
	)	

## Parties of Record:

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Phil Passanante, Esq. on behalf of Atlantic City Electric Company
Gregory Eisenstark, Esq., (Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP) on behalf of Jersey Central
Power & Light Company
John L. Carley, Esq., on behalf of Rockland Electric Company
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

#### BY THE BOARD:

On May 12, 2017, Atlantic City Electric Company ("ACE"), Jersey Central Power & Light Company ("JCP&L"), Public Service Electric and Gas Company, ("PSE&G") and Rockland Electric Company ("Rockland") (collectively, the "EDCs") filed a joint petition ("May 2017 Petition") with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting recovery of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") approved changes in transmission service related charges.

### BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Transmission Enhancement Charges ("TECs") detailed in Schedule 12 of the PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff ("OATT") were implemented to compensate transmission owners for the annual transmission revenue requirements for "Required Transmission Enhancements" that are requested by PJM for reliability or economic purposes. TECs are recovered by PJM through an additional transmission charge in the transmission zones assigned cost responsibility for Required Transmission Enhancement projects.

By Orders¹ dated July 29, 2016 and August 24, 2016, the Board authorized the EDCs to modify their Basic Generation Service ("BGS") Residential/Small Commercial Pricing ("BGS-RSCP")² and Commercial and Industrial Energy Pricing ("BGS-CIEP") rates to reflect the changes in their transmission charges resulting from the FERC-approved changes to the TECs resulting from changes in the PJM OATT made in response to (i) the annual formula rate update filings made by PPL Electric Utilities Corporation ("PPL") in FERC Docket No. ER09-1148, by American Electric Power Service Corporation ("AEP") in FERC Docket Nos. ER08-1329 and ER10-355, and by Tran-Allegheny Interstate Line Company ("TrAILCo") in FERC Docket No. ER07-562, and (ii) the formula rate update filings made by the public utility affiliates of Pepco Holdings Inc. ("PHI") in FERC Docket No. ER08-1423 and the respective utility affiliate compliance filings for formula rate updates made by Atlantic City Electric Company ("ACE") in FERC Docket No. ER09-1156, Delmarva Power and Light ("Delmarva") in FERC Docket No. ER09-1158, and Potomac Electric Power Company ("PEPCO") in FERC Docket No. ER09-1159.

By Order<sup>3</sup> dated January 25, 2017, the Board authorized the EDCs to modify their BGS-RSCP and BGS-CIEP rates to reflect the changes in their transmission charges resulting from the FERC-approved changes to the TECs resulting from changes to the PJM OATT made in response to: (i) the annual formula rate update filing made by Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline, L.L.C. ("PATH") in FERC Docket No. ER-08-386-000, (ii) the annual formula rate update filing made by PSE&G in FERC Docket No. ER08-1233, and (iii) the annual formula rate update filing made by Virginia Electric Power Company ("VEPCo") in FERC Docket No. ER08-92-000.

On March 10, 2017, in Docket No. ER17-405-000 ("AEP Order"), FERC issued an Order, effective January 1, 2017 which authorized AEP's Formula Rate transition from "historic" to "forward looking". The AEP Order approved AEP's proposed tariff revisions subject to hearing and settlement procedures. On April 25, 2017, in Docket Nos. ER17-950-000 and ER17-940-001 ("ConEd Wheel Order"), FERC issued an Order that modified the PJM OATT as a result of the termination of a long-term firm point-to-point transmission service agreement between PJM and Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (the "ConEd Wheel"). The PJM tariff revisions remove ConEd as a party responsible for cost allocation under Schedule 12 of the PJM OATT. This, in turn, required that PJM reallocate the ConEd portion to the remaining entities as these costs relate to the ConEd Wheel. The cost reallocation being implemented pursuant to the ConEd Wheel Order is subject to ongoing legal challenges and protests before FERC by various interested entities.<sup>4</sup>

In the Matter of the Provision of Basic Generation Service and the Compliance Tariff Filing Reflecting Changes to Schedule 12 Charges in PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff- JCP&L, PSE&G and Rockland June 17, 2016 Filing AND In the Matter of the Petition of Atlantic City Electric Company for Approval to Implement FERC-Approved Changes to ACE's Retail Transmission (Formula) Rate Pursuant to Paragraphs 15.9 of BGS-RSCP and BGS-CIEP Supplier Master Agreements and Tariff Filing Reflecting Changes to Schedule 12 Charges in PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff (2016), BPU Docket Nos. ER16060527 and ER16070620, Orders dated July 29, 2016 and August 24, 2016, respectively. (collectively, "2016 Orders")

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This was formerly known as the BGS - Fixed Price or BGS-FP.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In the Matter of the Provision of Basic Generation Service and Compliance Tariff Filing Reflecting Changes to Schedule 12 Charges in PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff –December 9, 2016 Filing, BPU Docket No. ER16121153 (January 25, 2017). ("January 2017 Order")

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> With the exception of a protest filed by the Board, the entities challenging (i.e., Linden VFT, Hudson Transmission Partners, and New York Power Authority (collectively, "Merchant-related Protestors") the

# May 2017 Petition

The May 2017 Petition was filed to update the initial filings approved by the Board in the 2016 Orders and the January 2017 Order to reflect FERC's ConEd Wheel Order and AEP Order.

In the May 2017 Petition, the EDCs reiterated the requests for approval set forth in the filings approved by the Board's 2016 Order and January 25, 2017 Order and request approval to implement the proposed tariff sheets effective July 14, 2017. The EDCs also requested a waiver of the 30-day filing requirement that would otherwise apply to this type of submission, because BGS suppliers began paying the revised transmission charges for service effective May 1, 2017 pursuant to the ConEd Wheel Order and the AEP FERC Order.

Under the Supplier Master Agreement ("SMA"), specifically Section 15.9, the EDCs are permitted to recover increases in Firm Transmission Service charges from BGS customers subject to Board approval. Thereafter, EDCs are required to remit payment of the increased charges to suppliers upon, among other things, the issuance of a "FERC Final Order" approving the Firm Transmission Service increase. In the May 2017 Petition, the EDCs specifically request that the Board find that the "Final FERC Order" definition in SMA Section 15.9 does not apply to the TEC charge reallocation determination in the ConEd Wheel Order because the imposition of the TEC charge adjustment is not a change in the Firm Transmission rate but a PJM initiated cost reallocation. Accordingly, the EDCs submit that the EDCs should be permitted to pay the suppliers pursuant to the ConEd Wheel Order with any differences between the payments to BGS suppliers and charges to customers would flow through each EDC's BGS Reconciliation Charge.

In the May 2017 Petition, the EDCs state that an initial FERC decision in the ConEd Wheel proceeding will be significantly delayed until FERC has a quorum of commissioners and prompt payment to suppliers of PJM initiated cost reallocations is important to the continued success of the BGS auction process which benefits customers. The EDCs further submit that BGS suppliers have a reasonable expectation that they will be paid for increased charges imposed by PJM and that payment to suppliers related to the ConEd Wheel Order will help ensure that BGS suppliers, when establishing their bid prices, can rely upon the provision of the SMA that permit BGS suppliers to be made whole for increased PJM charges.

Each EDC is allocated a different portion of PSE&G's transmission costs from PJM based on the cost for Required Transmission Enhancements in each EDC's transmission zone. Based on this allocation of the TEC costs for the EDCs and their respective allocation among each EDC's customer service classes, the monthly bill for a residential customer using 650 kWh per month will change by approximately the following amounts (including Sales and Use Tax): an increase of \$0.04 or 0.03% for ACE; an increase of \$0.05 or 0.05% for JCP&L; an increase of \$0.33 or 0.29% for PSE&G, and an increase of \$0.56 or 0.54% for Rockland.

cost reallocation allege that less costs should be allocated to them and more costs should be allocated to the zones of the New Jersey EDCs.

### DISCUSSION AND FINDING

In the Board's Order dated December 2, 2003, in Docket No. EO03050394, the Board found that the pass through of any changes in charges associated with FERC-approved Open Access Transmission Tariff, is appropriate. Furthermore, by subsequent Orders, the Board approved Section 15.9 of the SMAs as filed by the EDCs which requires that the EDCs file for Board approval of any increases or decreases in their transmission charges that have been approved by the FERC. The SMAs also authorize the EDCs to increase or decrease the rates paid to suppliers for FERC-approved rates and changes to Firm Transmission Services once approved by the Board. The Board Orders further require that the EDCs review and verify the requested FERC authorized changes. Section 15.9 of the SMA requires the EDCs to remit payment of the increased charges to suppliers upon, among other things, the issuance of a "Final FERC Order" approving the Firm Transmission Service increase.

After review of the verifications and supporting documentation, the Board HEREBY FINDS that the May 2017 Petition satisfies the EDCs' obligations under Paragraph 15.9 (a)(i) and (ii) of the relevant SMAs, and HEREBY APPROVES the changes to the BGS-RSCP and BGS-CIEP rates requested by each EDC for its transmission charges resulting from the FERC-approved changes to the TECs effective as of September 1, 2017. However, with respect to the reallocations derived from the ConEd Wheel Order and the change to a "forward looking" rate approved in the AEP Order, the Board notes that Orders are not Final FERC Orders and are still being contested at FERC. The Board's December 22, 2006 Order<sup>5</sup> at page 12 states. "Upon receipt of Board approval for the increase in the rates charged to BGS Customers, the EDCs would begin collecting the increase from BGS Customers, tracking that portion of the rates charged to BGS Customers attributable to the rate increase, and retaining such tracked amounts for the ultimate benefit of the BGS Suppliers. Upon approval by the FERC of a proposed rate increase, in a Final FERC Order not subject to refund, the EDCs would increase, by the amount approved by the Board, the BGS-FP auction price paid to BGS-FP Suppliers. and the BGS-CIEP Transmission Charge paid to BGS-CIEP Suppliers, and would pay each BGS Supplier, in proportion to its BGS Supplier Responsibility Share, the amounts tracked and retained for the benefit of BGS Suppliers until the date final FERC approval was received." Accordingly, the Board DENIES the EDCs' request to pay suppliers at this time and AUTHORIZES the EDCs to collect from BGS customers, the costs associated with the reallocation per the ConEd Wheel Order as well as the proposed tariff revisions resulting from the AEP FERC Order, and track such collections until receipt of Final FERC Orders in the matters.

The Board further **HEREBY WAIVES** the 30-day filing requirement as requested by the EDCs.

Further, the Board <u>HEREBY DIRECTS</u> the EDCs to file tariffs and rates consistent with the Board's findings within five (5) business days of service of this Order.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> In re the Provision of Basic Generation Service for the Period Beginning June 1, 2007, BPU Docket No. EO06020119, Order dated December 22, 2006.

The EDCs' rates remain subject to audit by the Board. This Decision and Order does not preclude the Board from taking any actions deemed to be appropriate as a result of any Board audit.

The effective date of this Order is August 5, 2017.

DATED: 7 /26/17

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IRENE KIM ASBURY SECRETARY UP**∉**NDRA J. CHIVUKULA COMMISSIONER

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities

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In the Matter of the Provision of Basic Generation Service and Compliance Tariff Filing Reflecting Changes to Schedule 12 Charges in PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff – May 12, 2017 Filing - BPU Docket No. ER17050499

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