



Rockland Electric Company

Margaret Comes
Associate Counsel
Law Department

June 27, 2025

Sherri L. Lewis, Secretary
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Re: In the Matter of the 2025/2026 Annual Compliance Filing For a Change in the Statewide Electric and Gas Permanent Universal Service Fund Program Factors within the Electric and Gas Societal Benefits Charge Rates Pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 48:2-21 and *N.J.S.A.* 48:-21.1
BPU Docket No: _____

Dear Secretary Lewis:

Rockland Electric Company (“RECO” or “Company”) hereby submits for filing with the Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) its 2025/2026 Universal Service Fund (“USF”) Compliance Filing pursuant to its Schedule for Electric Service B.P.U. No. 3 – Electricity (“Electric tariff”) and Board orders dated April 30, 2003, July 16, 2003, June 30, 2004 and June 22, 2005 in Docket Nos. EX00020091, EO09060506 and EO09090771. Such filing consists of Leaf No. 56 of RECO's Electric tariff in draft format. The draft tariff leaf indicates an increase in the statewide Permanent USF program factor and an increase in the Lifeline program factor of the Company’s Societal Benefits Charge (“SBC”).

On behalf of all of the Utilities,¹ Public Service Electric and Gas Company (“PSE&G”) has included in its annual USF compliance filing a series of worksheets that illustrate, by utility and statewide, USF recoveries and program costs to date. RECO hereby incorporates those worksheets by reference.

In addition, by Order dated June 21, 2010 (“June 2010 USF Order”), the Board approved separate stipulations (“Stipulations”) between each utility, Board Staff and Rate Counsel to defer and seek annual recovery of USF-related administrative costs in each annual USF Compliance Filing beginning with the 2010-2011 USF Compliance Filing. Attachment A of the compliance filing submitted by PSE&G includes RECO’s actual deferred administrative costs from July 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025 and estimated administrative costs for May through September 2025. Within the Joint Compliance Filing, the Utilities request full recovery of their deferred

¹ The Utilities are RECO, PSE&G, Atlantic City Electric Company, Jersey Central Power & Light Company, Elizabethtown Gas Company, New Jersey Natural Gas Company and South Jersey Gas Company.

administrative costs in 2025/2026 USF rates and Lifeline rates in the month following Board approval of such rates from funds disbursed to the Utilities by the USF Trust Account.

Based upon the results and the available estimates known to date for the 2024/2025 USF Program year and the available estimates for the 2025/2026 USF Program year, which are detailed in the referenced worksheets, it is proposed that the statewide electric USF Rate should increase, to 0.3728 cents per kWh including Sales and Use Tax (“SUT”), and that the statewide electric Lifeline rate should increase to 0.0780 cents per kWh including SUT as shown in the Joint Compliance Filing, for the 2025/2026 USF Program year beginning on October 1, 2025.

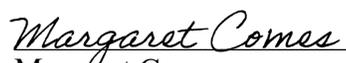
RECO’s proposed SBC set forth on Attachment A is 0.8619 cents per kWh, including SUT. This rate reflects (1) the 0.3590 cents per kWh rate component, including SUT, relating to the Company’s DSM programs and Clean Energy Programs which became effective on June 1, 2025 and the 0.0521 cents per kWh rate component, including SUT, relating to the Company’s Uncollectible Expense which also became effective June 1, 2025; (2) the proposed 0.3728 cents per kWh rate component, including SUT, relating to the USF; and (3) the proposed 0.0780 cents per kWh rate component, including SUT, relating to Lifeline.

In addition, its USF Modification Order², 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.” The Company anticipates that it will incur incremental costs associated with these USF related activities. The Company 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.

Because of the proposed increase in the USF and Lifeline components of the SBC, RECO has appended hereto a form of Notice of Filing and of Public Hearings as Attachment B. This form of notice sets forth the requested changes and will be placed in a newspaper having a circulation within the Company’s service territory.³

Accordingly, the Company respectively requests that the Board issue an Order: 1) approving the proposed statewide USF and Lifeline electric rates as shown in the proposed tariff sheets appended hereto as Exhibit A, 2) authorizing the full recovery of the Company’s administrative costs set forth in Attachment A of the compliance filing submitted by PSE&G, and 3) authorizing deferral of costs associated with the USF Modification Order.

Respectfully submitted,


Margaret Comes

c: email service list

² 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”).

³ The Company and Board Staff will consult and determine the dates and times for the public hearings, which dates and times will be included in the form of notice placed in the newspaper.

RECO USF 2025-2026
Service List
BPU Docket No.

ACE

Atlantic City Electric Company
500 N. Wakefield Drive
P.O. Box 6066
Newark, DE 19714-6066

Kenneth L. Wan
kenneth.wan@exeloncorp.com

Neil Hlawatsch
Neil.hlawatsch@exeloncorp.com

Janelle High
Janelle.High@exeloncorp.com

Peter Samuel
peter.samuel@exeloncorp.com

BPU

Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Sherri L. Lewis, Board Secretary
board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Robert Brabston, Executive Director
Robert.Brabston@bpu.nj.gov

Alice Bator
alice.bator@bpu.nj.gov

Ava Marie Madeam, General Counsel
avamarie.madeam@bpu.nj.gov

Michael Hunter
michael.hunter@bpu.nj.gov

Maureen Clerc
Maureen.clerc@bpu.nj.gov

Paul Buhagiar
Paul.buhagiar@bpu.nj.gov

Stacy Peterson
Stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov

Richard Lambert
Richard.Lambert@bpu.nj.gov

Nicholas Gorglione
Nicholas.Gorglione@bpu.nj.gov

Debdeep Banerjee
debdeep.banerjee@bpu.nj.gov

DAG

Division of Law-Public Utilities
Section
R.J. Hughes Justice Complex
25 Market Street
P.O. Box 112
Trenton, NJ 08625

Pamela Owen, DAG
pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov

Matko Ilic
Matko.Ilic@law.njoag.gov

Jordan Mitchell
Jordan.Mitchell@law.njoag.gov

ETG

Elizabethtown Gas Company
520 Green Lane
Union, NJ 07083

Jessica Zimmerman
jzimmerman@sjindustries.com

Thomas Kaufmann
tkaufmann@sjindustries.com

Susan Potanovich
spotanovich@sjindustries.com

JCP&L

Jersey Central Power & Light Co.
300 Madison Ave.
Morristown, NJ 07960

James O'Toole
jotoole@firstenergycorp.com

Carol Pittavino
cpittavino@firstenergycorp.com

Yongmei Peng
ypeng@firstenergycorp.com

Mark Mader
mamader@firstenergy.com

Jennifer Spricigo
jspricigo@firstenergycorp.com

Michael Martelo
mmartelo@firstenergycorp.com

Tori Giesler
tgiesler@firstenergy.com

Viktor Lackmann
vlackmann@firstenergycorp.com

NJNG

New Jersey Natural Gas Company
1415 Wyckoff Road
P.O. Box 1464
Wall, NJ 07719

Tina Trebino
ttrebino@njng.com

Andrew K. Dembia
adembia@njng.com

Susan Sette
ssette@njng.com

Marianne Harrell
mharrell@njng.com

Christopher Micak
cmicak@njng.com

Mary Lou Pardey
mpardey@njng.com

James Corcoran
JCorcoran@njng.com

Judy DeSalvatore
JDeSalvatore@njng.com

Ryan Moran
RMoran@njng.com

Colleen Shaw
CShaw@njng.com

Mark Kahrer
MKahrer@njng.com

PSE&G

PSEG Services Corporation
80 Park Plaza T-10
P.O. Box 570
Newark, NJ 07102

Katherine Smith
katherine.smith@pseg.com

Stacey Barnes
stacey.barnes@pseg.com

Maria Barling
maria.barling@pseg.com

Caitlyn White
caitlyn.white@pseg.com

Bernard Smalls
bernard.smalls@pseg.com

Rate Counsel

Division of Rate Counsel
140 East Front Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director
blipman@rpa.nj.gov

David Wand, Esq., Managing
Attorney
dwand@rpa.nj.gov

Maura Caroselli, Esq., Managing
Attorney
mcaroselli@rpa.nj.gov

Lisa Littman, Esq.
llittman@rpa.nj.gov

Mamie W. Purnell, Esq.
mpurnell@rpa.nj.gov

Brian Weeks, Esq.
bweeks@rpa.nj.gov

Michael Lombardi
mlombardi@rpa.nj.gov

Carter Joy
jcarter@rpa.nj.gov

Karen Forbes
kforbes@rpa.nj.gov

RECO

Rockland Electric Company
4 Irving Place
New York, NY 10003

Margaret Comes
comesm@coned.com

John L. Carley
carleyj@coned.com

Yan Flishenbaum
FlishenbaumY@coned.com

Bruce Baron
baronb@coned.com

Jacqueline Frosco
FroscoJ@oru.com

Anne Marie Keane
KeaneA@oru.com

Jessica McGuinness
McGuinnessJ@oru.com

Jennifer Woehrle
WoehrleJ@ORU.com

Karina Vella
VellaK@oru.com

SJG

South Jersey Gas Company
One South Jersey Place
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Gary Akmentins
gakmentins@sjindustries.com

Karen Crispin
kcrispin@sjindustries.com

Jim Fredericks
jfredericks@sjindustries.com

SJIU

SJI Utilities Inc.
520 Green Lane
Union, NJ 07083

Sheree Kelly
skelly@sjindustries.com

Jennifer Weitz
jweitz@sjindustries.com

Andrew McNally
amcnally@sjindustries.com

SJIU

SJI Utilities Inc.
One South Jersey Place
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Carolyn Jacobs
cjacobs@sjindustries.com

Cindy Capozzoli
ccapozzoli@sjindustries.com

Dominick DiRocco
ddirocco@sjindustries.com

Attachment A
Proposed Tariff

DRAFT

Revised Leaf No. 56
Superseding Revised Leaf No. 56

GENERAL INFORMATION

No. 33 SOCIETAL BENEFITS CHARGE ("SBC")

The SBC shall be applied to the kWh usage on the bills of all customers served under this Schedule. The SBC shall include costs, including current costs and any refund or recovery of prior period over- or under-collection balances, related to:

- (1) demand-side management ("DSM"), including the costs associated with DSM programs and DSM bidding programs;
- (2) Clean Energy Program, ("CEP");
- (3) Universal Service Fund and Lifeline; and
- (4) Uncollectible Expense

The SBC to be effective on and after the date indicated below shall be set at 0.8619 cents per kWh, including sales and use tax ("SUT"). The SBC includes the following rate components:

	SBC Rate Components (¢ per kWh)	
	Excluding SUT	Including SUT
DSM & CEP	0.3367	0.3590
Universal Service Fund	0.3496	0.3728
Lifeline	0.0732	0.0780
Uncollectible Expense	0.0489	0.0521
Total SBC	0.8084	0.8619

The difference between actual costs incurred by the Company for the SBC components described above and SBC recoveries will be deferred, with interest, for future recovery in accordance with the Company's Plan for Resolution of Proceedings approved by the Board in its Summary Order dated July 28, 1999 and Final Order dated July 22, 2002 in Docket Nos. EO97070464, EO97070465 and EO97070466.

(Continued)

ISSUED:

EFFECTIVE:

ISSUED BY: Michele O'Connell, President
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430

Attachment B

Proposed Public Notice of Filing And Public Hearings

NOTICE TO ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY CUSTOMERS

Notice of a Filing And Notice of Public Hearings

**In the Matter of the 2025/2026 Annual Compliance Filing for a Change in the Statewide
Electric and Gas Permanent Universal Service Fund Program Factors within the Electric
and Gas Societal Benefits Charge Rates Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1
BPU Docket No. ERXXXXXX**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, on June 27, 2025, Rockland Electric Company (“RECO” or “Company”) made an Annual Compliance Filing with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”) and provided supporting documentation for changes in the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) and Lifeline components of RECO’s Societal Benefits Charge (“SBC”). The requested program changes result in an increase to the USF and Lifeline components of the SBC. The requested change in the USF and Lifeline components is made pursuant to Board Orders, and includes the recovery of funding for the USF Program through uniform statewide rates. The USF Program was established by the Board, pursuant to the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49, *et seq.*, (“EDECA”), to provide funds to assist qualifying low-income individuals in paying their energy bills. The State of New Jersey’s Department of Community Affairs is the Administrator of the USF Program and the New Jersey Department of Human Services is the Administrator of the Lifeline programs and authorizes the disbursement of benefits to eligible customers in the respective programs.

Based upon the results and available estimates known to date for the 2024/2025 USF program year, and the available estimates for the 2025/2026 USF program year, it is anticipated that the statewide USF rates will be set to recover \$332.09 million, of which \$242.05 million would be recovered through electric rates with the remaining \$90.04 million recovered through gas rates on a statewide basis. The Lifeline rates are anticipated to collect \$74.55 million, of which \$50.69 million would be recovered through electric rates with the remaining \$23.86 million recovered through gas rates on a statewide basis. The above requests will not result in any profit to RECO. The revenues received under the proposed USF and Lifeline Program factors are designed to permit RECO to recover its costs associated with these programs. Actual program costs will be reconciled with the revenues received through the USF and Lifeline Program charges in the next scheduled annual USF and Lifeline filing to be made on or before July 1, 2026.

The Company’s June 27, 2025 filing requests changes to its current USF/Lifeline Program charges, as described below, to become effective on October 1, 2025.

The proposed charges for electric customers are as follows:

Universal Service/Lifeline Fund Components of Societal Benefits Charge				
	Present	Present (Incl. Sales and Use Tax)	Proposed	Proposed (Incl. Sales and Use Tax)
USF-Electric per kWh	\$0.002075	\$0.002212	\$0.003496	\$0.003728

Lifeline-Electric per kWh	\$0.000710	\$0.000757	\$0.000732	\$0.000780
---------------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

If the June 27, 2025 Filing is approved by the Board, the statewide average residential customer using 808 kWh per summer month, and 7,800 kWh on an annual basis, would see an increase of \$12.00 in the annual bill from \$2,030.68 to \$2,042.68, or approximately 0.59%. The percentage change applicable to specific customers will vary according to the applicable service classification and the level of the customer’s usage.

The effect of the proposed changes in the electric USF/Lifeline Program charge on typical residential electric bills, if approved by the Board, is illustrated below:

Residential Electric Service				
Typical Average Monthly Bill (Includes Sales and Use Tax)				
			Increase	
	Present Charges (1)	Proposed Charges (2)	Amount	Percent
650 kWh average monthly use	\$169.22	\$170.22	\$1.00	0.59
925 kWh average monthly use	245.86	247.28	1.42	0.58
1,500 kWh average monthly use	405.77	408.08	2.31	0.57

- (1) Based upon Basic Generation Service Residential Small Commercial Pricing (BGS-RSCP) and Delivery Rates in effect June 1, 2025 and assumes that the customer receives BGS-RSCP service from RECO.
- (2) Same as (1) except includes change in the USF/Lifeline charges.

The Board has the statutory authority pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 to establish the USF and Lifeline charges at levels it finds just and reasonable. Therefore, the Board may establish the USF and Lifeline charges at levels other than those proposed by RECO. As a result, the described charges may increase or decrease based upon the Board’s decision.

The 2025 USF and Lifeline filing is posted on the Company’s website at <https://www.oru.com/en/rates-tariffs/rates/new-jersey/electric/pending-filings-public-hearing-notice>

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that virtual public hearings have been scheduled on the following date and time(s) so that members of the public may present their views on the June 27, 2025 Filing.

Date: MM DD YYYY

Times: TBD

Join from the meeting link

TBD

-or-

Go To www.webex.com and choose “Join a Meeting” at the top of the web page.

**When prompted, use Meeting number TBD to access the meeting
Meeting password: TBD**

-or-

**Join by phone:
Dial 1-844-621-3956 (United States Toll Free)**

When prompted, use meeting number TBD to access the meeting. If prompted to provide an attendee ID, you may choose the option in the prompts to allow you to skip this step.

Representatives of the Company, Board Staff, and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. Members of the public are invited to participate by utilizing the link or the dial-in information above to express their views on the Filing. All comments will be made a part of the final record in this proceeding to be considered by the Board. To encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters or listening devices, 48 hours prior to the above hearings to the Board Secretary at board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

The Board is also accepting written and electronic comments. Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket listed above using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Comments are considered public documents for the purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted 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 also be filed electronically via the Board’s e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board. 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:

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

ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY