

**THIRD PARTY SUPPLIER  
CUSTOMER ACCOUNT  
SERVICES  
MASTER SERVICE  
AGREEMENT**

Revised July 2004

**Public Service Electric and Gas Company  
80 Park Plaza  
Newark, New Jersey 07102**

**THIRD PARTY SUPPLIER  
CUSTOMER ACCOUNT SERVICES  
MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT**

**THIS AGREEMENT**, made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001, by and between Public Service Electric and Gas Company (the “Company”), a corporation and a public utility organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey and \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ organized and existing under the laws of \_\_\_\_\_, with New Jersey Taxpayer Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_ (the “Supplier”), both the Company and the Supplier hereinafter sometimes referred to collectively as the “Parties”, or individually as a “Party”,

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, the Company is currently a public utility engaged in the transmission, distribution and sale of electricity and gas with a franchise to serve Customers located within certain areas of the State of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, certain federal and New Jersey Statutes and administrative Rules and Regulations govern the electric and gas industry in New Jersey (generally, the “Applicable Legal Authorities”); and

**WHEREAS**, certain of the Applicable Legal Authorities provide for the restructuring of the electric and gas industry in New Jersey from that of a regulated public utility service to allow access to the public utility’s local distribution system by entities that have successfully completed the licensing process set forth in the Applicable Legal Authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supplier is thus licensed to serve Customers in the State of New Jersey, and has been issued Board License Number \_\_\_\_\_; and

**WHEREAS**, the Applicable Legal Authorities provide that with implementation of such access to the Company's local distribution system, the Company will continue to serve as the exclusive electric or gas distribution provider within its Service Territory; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the Applicable Legal Authorities, Customers may purchase electricity or gas from licensed suppliers; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the Applicable Legal Authorities, Supplier, if supplying electricity, has executed a Board-approved Third Party Supplier Agreement with the Company, which sets forth the basic requirements for interaction and coordination between the Company and the Supplier and permits Supplier to access the Company's local distribution system for purposes of supplying electricity to Customers; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 22, 2000, the Board issued an Order with respect to the provision of Customer Account Services, pursuant to which the Board will permit both utility and Supplier Consolidated Billing as defined below and will require utilities to provide Suppliers with increased access to meter consumption data for a fee; and

**WHEREAS**, such Order directed New Jersey utilities and Suppliers doing business within the State of New Jersey and wishing to perform Consolidated Billing to execute an agreement setting forth the terms and conditions applicable to the performance of Consolidated Billing; and

**WHEREAS**, Company and Supplier hereby execute the subject Third Party Supplier Customer Account Services Master Service Agreement so that Consolidated Billing may be provided; and

**WHEREAS**, any capitalized or abbreviated term not elsewhere defined in this Agreement shall have the definition set forth in Article 1.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises set forth below, the Parties hereto, intending to be legally bound, hereby covenant, promise and agree as follows:

### **ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS**

**Billing Month** - one-twelfth of a year, or the period of approximately 30 days between two regular consecutive readings or estimates of the Company's meter or meters installed on the Customer's premises.

**Board or BPU** - the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

**Business Day** - any day on which the Company's corporate offices are open for business.

**Consolidated Billing** – billing procedure whereby the Company provides one bill to a Customer containing all permitted Customer charges owing both to the Company and to the Supplier for electric service, for gas service, or for both, as well as all regulatory information and notice requirements, or the Supplier provides one bill to a Customer containing all such charges and information of the Company and the Supplier.

**Customer** – a person or entity taking services pursuant to the Company's retail tariff, who may receive electricity or gas from a Supplier in accordance with the Applicable Legal Authorities at a single metered location.

**Customer Account Services** – metering, billing, or such other administrative activity associated with maintaining a Customer's account.

**Dual Billing** – billing procedure whereby Company provides a bill to Customer containing Company's charges and Supplier provides a bill to Customer containing Supplier's charges.

**EDI** – Electronic Data Interchange mechanism for exchanging Customer data between Company and Supplier.

**Energy** – electricity or gas.

**FERC** - the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**Interval Metering** - metering that is capable of reading and storing electric and/or gas consumption data at discrete time intervals of one hour or less to enable the measurement of

consumption as may be required by the Company's Tariff for Electric Service or Tariff for Gas Service.

Meter Read Date - the date on which the Company is scheduled, in accordance with its own established procedures and practices and its own regularly-scheduled billing cycles, to read a meter for purposes of producing a Customer bill or the date of an actual customer read used for the purpose of producing a Customer bill.

Meter Reading - the process whereby the Company records the information presented on a customer's meter. Such reading may be obtained manually, through telemetry, or by estimation, in accordance with the Company's established procedures and practices.

New Jersey Billing Implementation/EDI Working Group - designation for a specific subgroup of the Customer Processes Working Group, formed to create the process flows, business rules and EDI transactions, or other acceptable Board-approved electronic data exchange protocols, necessary for facilitating the implementation of Consolidated Billing.

Service Territory - the geographic areas of the State of New Jersey in which the Company has a franchise to serve electric and/or gas Customers.

Supplier - an entity that has been licensed by the Board to sell electricity and/or gas to retail Customers within the State of New Jersey in accordance with the Applicable Legal Authorities and that, if supplying electricity, has entered into a Third Party Supplier Agreement with the Company as a Party.

Third Party Supplier Agreement – Board-approved agreement executed by Company and Supplier, if supplying electricity, which establishes the terms and conditions by which Supplier will be granted access to the Company's local distribution system for purposes of supplying electricity to Customers.

## **ARTICLE 2: GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **2.1 Agreement to Govern**

The Parties named in this Agreement are bound by the terms set forth herein and otherwise incorporated herein by reference. This Agreement shall govern the business relationship between the Parties hereto with respect to the provision of Customer Account Services as defined herein.

### **2.2 Relationship to Third Party Supplier Agreement and to Third Party Supplier Sections of the Tariffs for Electric and Gas Service**

The instant Agreement is intended to supplement the Third Party Supplier Agreement executed by Company and Supplier, if Supplier is providing electricity to Customers, and the latter shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding the execution of this Agreement; provided, however, that Article 13 of the Third Party Supplier Agreement, and such other provisions of the Third Party Supplier Agreement as are determined to require modification, will be amended to ensure consistency with the instant Agreement. Moreover, if Supplier is providing gas to Customers, the instant Agreement is not intended to replace or to supersede the Third Party Supplier Requirements section of the Company's Tariff for Gas Service. In the event of a conflict, however, between the provisions of this Agreement and those contained in the Third Party Supplier Agreement or those contained in the Third Party Supplier Requirements section of the Tariff for Gas Service, the provisions of this Agreement shall govern.

### **2.3 Conditions Precedent to Company Execution of Agreement**

Before the Company executes this Agreement, the Supplier must fulfill the following requirements: (a) obtain a license from the Board and any other governmental approvals required for participation in the New Jersey retail energy market; (b) execute a Third Party Supplier

Agreement with the Company, if Supplier is providing electricity to Customers; (c) demonstrate creditworthiness in accordance with Article 6 below, if Supplier is performing Consolidated Billing; and (d) demonstrate to the Company's reasonable satisfaction that the Supplier is equipped with the communication capabilities necessary to comply with EDI standards for the exchange of information, which are or will be set, and may from time to time be modified, by the Board, either directly or through a Working Group, and the implementation of which is subject to Board approval. Such conditions precedent represent ongoing obligations of the Supplier, and failure to continue to satisfy these conditions throughout the term of this Agreement will result in an Event of Default, as set forth in Article 5 below.

#### **2.4 Communications and Data Exchange**

Electronic information exchange between the Supplier and the Company under this Agreement shall employ a Supplier identification number, assigned by the Company, which shall be consistent with the Supplier's Dunn & Bradstreet Business number.

The Parties must be equipped with the communications capabilities necessary to comply with the standards that are set by and may, from time to time, be modified by the Board, either directly or through a Working Group. For a Supplier to offer Consolidated Billing service under this Agreement, Supplier must have in place and demonstrate to the Company's reasonable satisfaction, in a volume commensurate with the number of customers reasonably expected to be served, the ability to accept billing information from Company, accurately produce and render the bill, process payments from Customers, respond to Customer inquiries, and comply with collection laws and regulations. All costs associated with establishing such communications capabilities required by this section shall be borne by Supplier.

Company makes no representations regarding the efficacy of the above-referenced data exchange testing/demonstration process, and shall not be liable to Supplier for any claims that inadequate, improper, or incomplete Company testing processes or testing requirements resulted in subsequent communications or data exchange difficulties.

## **2.5 Record Retention**

The Supplier and the Company shall comply with all record retention provisions of the Applicable Legal Authorities, as they are and may, from time to time, be modified.

## **2.6 Tariffs Incorporated**

The Company's electric and gas tariffs, as filed with the Board, including the Standard Terms and Conditions of the tariffs, are incorporated herein by reference.

# **ARTICLE 3: REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES**

## **3.1 Supplier's Representations and Warranties**

The Supplier hereby represents, warrants and covenants as follows:

- (a) the Supplier is a [corporation/partnership/\_\_\_\_\_] duly organized and validly existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey [or, if another jurisdiction, is duly registered and authorized to do business and is in good standing in the State of New Jersey];
- (b) the Supplier has all requisite power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to carry on the business to be conducted by it under this Agreement and to enter into and perform its obligations hereunder, including Board licensure as a supplier and, if supplying electricity, execution of a Third Party Supplier Agreement, which shall be maintained throughout the life of this



Agreement, and the lack of which shall immediately result in the termination of this Agreement;

- (c) the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the performance of the Supplier's obligations hereunder have been duly authorized by all necessary action on the part of the Supplier and do not and will not conflict with or result in a breach of the Supplier's charter documents or bylaws or any indenture, mortgage, other agreement or instrument or any statute or rule, regulation, order, judgment, or decree of any judicial or administrative body to which the Supplier is a Party or by which the Supplier or any of its properties is bound or subject;
- (d) this Agreement is the valid and binding obligation of the Supplier, enforceable in accordance with its terms;
- (e) there are no actions at law, suits in equity, proceedings or claims pending or, to the Supplier's knowledge, threatened against the Supplier before any federal, state, foreign or local court, tribunal or government agency or authority that might materially delay, prevent or hinder the Supplier's performance of its obligations hereunder;
- (f) the Supplier will comply with any and all information and data transfer protocols that may be adopted by the Company that are set by, and from time to time modified by, the Board. The Supplier will comply with any and all information and data transfer protocols that may be adopted by the Company from time to time in circumstances where Board-approved protocols do not exist. The Supplier shall have the right to challenge any such protocols in the appropriate forum.

If the Supplier learns that any of the representations, warranties, or covenants in this Agreement have been violated, the Supplier shall immediately notify the Company via facsimile, with a hard copy of the notice delivered by overnight mail.

### **3.2 Company's Representations and Warranties**

The Company hereby represents, warrants and covenants as follows:

- (a) the Company is a utility corporation duly organized and validly existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey;
- (b) the Company has all requisite power and authority to carry on the business to be conducted by it under this Agreement and to enter into and perform its obligations hereunder;
- (c) the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the performance of the Company's obligations hereunder have been duly authorized by all necessary action on the part of the Company and do not and will not conflict with or result in a breach of the Company's charter documents or bylaws or any indenture, mortgage, other agreement or instrument or any statute or rule, regulation, order, judgment, or decree of any judicial or administrative body to which the Company is a Party or by which the Company or any of its properties is bound or subject; and
- (d) this Agreement is the valid and binding obligation of the Company, enforceable in accordance with its terms.

### **3.3 Survival of Obligations**

All representations and warranties contained in this Article shall survive the execution and pendency of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 4: COMMENCEMENT AND TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT**

### **4.1 Commencement**

(a) Electric Service

If Supplier is providing Consolidated Billing service under this Agreement, the term of this Agreement shall commence upon execution of the Agreement by Company and Supplier or 120 days after adoption by the New Jersey Billing Implementation/EDI Working Group or the Board of such EDI standards or other electronic data exchange protocols necessary to effectuate Consolidated Billing, whichever is later. If Company is providing Consolidated Billing service hereunder, the term of this Agreement shall commence upon execution of the Agreement by Company and Supplier.

[(b) Gas Service

The term of this Agreement shall commence upon execution of the Agreement by the Third Party Supplier and the Company.

### **4.2 Termination**

This Agreement will terminate at the close of business on July 31, 2003, or upon the effective date of a Board Order establishing a different termination date; provided, however, that the Agreement may terminate prior to such date under the following circumstances:

(a) **Withdrawal of the Supplier from Provision of Competitive Energy**

**Supply.** In the event the Supplier ceases to participate in or otherwise withdraws from the provision of electricity or gas to Customers in the Company's Service Territory, and complies with all notice requirements set forth in the Third Party

Supplier Agreement, if Supplier is providing electricity, and the Applicable Legal Authorities, this Agreement between the Supplier and the Company shall terminate thirty (30) days following the date on which the Supplier ceases to have any active Customers.

(b) **The Parties' Termination Rights Upon Default.** In the event of a Default by a Party as defined herein, the Non-Defaulting Party may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to the Defaulting Party, without prejudice to any other remedies at law or in equity available to the Non-Defaulting Party by reason of the Default.

#### **4.3 Survival of Obligations**

Termination of this Agreement for any reason shall not relieve the Company or the Supplier of any obligation accrued or accruing prior to such termination.

#### **4.4 Material and Adverse Change in Law or Regulation**

If at any time during the term of this Agreement, the Board, the FERC, another federal or New Jersey State agency, or a court of competent jurisdiction issues an order, or a federal or State law or regulation is enacted, by which a Party hereto believes that its rights and interests under the Agreement are materially and adversely affected, the Party so affected shall, within thirty (30) days of issuance or enactment of such order, law or regulation, provide the other Party with written notice setting forth in reasonable detail how such order, law or regulation has materially and adversely affected its rights and interests under the Agreement, and may terminate this Agreement, subject to any applicable regulatory requirements and after providing thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Board and the other Party, without any liability or responsibility whatsoever except for obligations arising prior to the date of termination.

## **ARTICLE 5: DEFAULT**

### **5.1 Events of Default**

An Event of Default under this Agreement shall occur if either Party ("Defaulting Party") (a) is the subject of a bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceeding; (b) makes an assignment for the benefit of its creditors; (c) applies for, seeks consent to, or acquiesces in the appointment of a receiver, custodian, trustee, liquidator or similar official to manage all or a substantial portion of its assets; (d) violates any material federal, state or local code, regulation, order and /or statute applicable to the obligations to be performed under this Agreement, including by way of example the failure to maintain a BPU license or failure to maintain any other governmental approvals required for participation in the New Jersey retail energy market; (e) is in Default under the Third Party Supplier Agreement, as defined in Article 6 of that Agreement; (f) engages in an event of default as defined in the Third Party Supplier Requirements section of the Tariff for Gas Service, if Supplier is providing gas to customers; or (g) fails to remit payment to the other party ("Non-Defaulting Party") when payment is due, or to satisfy any other material obligation under this Agreement, such as fulfilling the creditworthiness requirements as set forth in Article 6 below, within the time frames set forth in the Agreement, and fails to remedy the delinquencies set forth in this section (g) within seven (7) days of receipt of written notice thereof from the Non-Defaulting Party.

### **5.2 Rights Upon Default**

In an Event of Default, the Non-Defaulting Party shall be entitled to (a) pursue any and all available legal and equitable remedies, in accordance with Article 15 below. Moreover, if the Defaulting Party is providing Consolidated Billing, the non-Defaulting Party will be entitled

to immediately, upon the occurrence of the Event of Default, switch the Defaulting Party's customers back to Dual Billing by ceasing to supply Customer charge information to the Defaulting Party; provided, however, that this shall not nullify any other rights existing either under this Agreement or the Third Party Supplier Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 6: SUPPLIER CREDITWORTHINESS**

### **6.1 Standards Governing Initial Determinations of Creditworthiness**

In addition to the creditworthiness requirements specified in the Third Party Supplier Agreement, if and only if Supplier is performing Consolidated Billing under this Agreement, the Company will determine whether Supplier is creditworthy. The Company shall make this determination in accordance with the guidelines set forth herein, subject to the Supplier's right to submit to the Board for resolution any dispute concerning Company's requirements if Supplier believes such requirements are inappropriately based or assessed. Company shall not be obligated to execute this Agreement until said dispute is resolved by a final, non-appealable Order of the Board.

With respect to creditworthiness, Supplier must demonstrate that it has, and maintains, a minimum "BBB" or equivalent long term unsecured credit rating from Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Rating Services. Supplier must also provide Company with its most recently independently-audited financial statements or, if Supplier is a publicly held firm, its most recent Form 10-K and Form 10-Q. On an ongoing basis, Supplier must continue to provide Company with updated versions of all of the above, as they become available. Specifically, updated financial statements or Form 10-Ks must be provided within ninety (90)

days of fiscal year-ends, and updated Form 10-Qs must be provided within forty-five (45) days of the close of each quarter that does not coincide with the end of Supplier's fiscal year.

Company may make alternative credit arrangements with a Supplier that is unable to demonstrate creditworthiness based on its credit rating. Alternative credit arrangements may include any of the following:

- a. a guarantee of payment, satisfactory in form and substance to the Company, from a Guarantor that has, and maintains, a minimum "BBB" or equivalent long term unsecured credit rating from Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Rating Services in an amount equal to sixty (60) days' maximum estimated collection of all charges payable to Company from customers, as reasonably estimated by the Company;
- b. an irrevocable Letter of Credit, satisfactory in form and substance to the Company, issued by a bank or other financial institution that is acceptable to the Company, that has, and maintains, a minimum "A" or equivalent long term unsecured credit rating from Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Rating Services in an amount equal to sixty (60) days' maximum estimated collection of all Customer charges payable to Company, as reasonably estimated by the Company;
- c. a Surety Bond or Performance Bond, including the Company as a beneficiary, satisfactory in form and substance to the Company and enforceable in the event of bankruptcy and in the Company's access to recourse thereunder in all contexts under Section 5.1 of this Agreement (including bankruptcy), issued by a financial institution that is acceptable to the Company, that has, and maintains, a minimum "A" or equivalent long term unsecured credit rating from Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Rating Services, in an amount equal to sixty (60) days' maximum estimated collection of all Customer charges payable to Company, as reasonably estimated by the Company;
- d. a cash deposit in an amount equal to sixty (60) days' maximum estimated collection of all Customer charges payable to Company, as reasonably estimated by the Company.

## **6.2 Materiality of Creditworthiness**

If Supplier is performing Consolidated Billing hereunder, the Supplier's creditworthiness, the satisfactory nature of any alternative arrangements that may be made hereunder, and the Supplier's duty to keep the Company informed of developments that may be material to its creditworthiness or to the adequacy of any alternative arrangements in place are all material

terms of this Agreement. Creditworthiness or satisfactory alternative arrangements must be maintained on an ongoing basis throughout the term of this Agreement. The Company may re-evaluate Supplier's creditworthiness on a quarterly basis. If Company determines that Supplier must increase its credit support amount, Supplier will have thirty (30) days to do so. If such amount is not increased within this thirty-day period, Supplier will be deemed to be in Default, as defined in Article 5 above.

### **6.3 Lapse of Creditworthiness**

Should the Supplier's creditworthiness lapse, or should the Supplier's established alternative arrangements terminate or become unsatisfactory, the Company shall provide written notice thereof to the Supplier and, not sooner than ten (10) days thereafter, may continue to perform its obligations hereunder or elect to terminate this Agreement, subject to the Supplier's right to dispute the Company's determination before the Board, as set forth below. The Company may condition its continued performance hereunder on the establishment of new alternative arrangements, satisfactory to the Company. The Supplier shall have the right to submit to the Board for resolution any dispute regarding the Company's requirements if the Supplier believes such a requirement is inappropriately based or assessed. Submission of such dispute to the Board shall extend the aforementioned ten (10) day period for notice of termination, for a period of up to thirty (30) additional days, such that the Company shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon written notice to the Supplier if the Board does not issue a final order resolving the dispute within thirty (30) days of the date that the Supplier first submits the dispute to the Board.

### **6.4 No Endorsement of Supplier**



By determining that the Supplier is creditworthy pursuant to the process set forth above, the Company makes no express or implied warranties or guarantees of any kind with respect to the financial or operational qualifications of the Supplier.

## **ARTICLE 7: TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF UTILITY CONSOLIDATED BILLING**

### **7.1 Basic Requirements**

By executing this Agreement, the Company may provide Consolidated Billing to a Customer if the Customer selects such option and the Customer is creditworthy, as determined by the Company exercising its reasonable discretion. Company's consolidated bills will be printed on then-current utility paper stock and will contain space for Supplier data in accordance with Company Attachment A to the December 22, 2000 Board Order issued in Docket No. EX99090676 ("Attachment A"), which is hereby incorporated by reference herein and expressly made a part hereof. The following information will be included at a minimum: Supplier's name, telephone number, current charges, total charges and payments/adjustments. If the Supplier provides both electric and gas commodity service, the Company will provide up to one rolling page on the bill for electric service and one rolling page for gas service. At the Company's discretion, Company will include on the consolidated bill either Supplier's logo or Supplier's name in prominent, bold-faced letters printed in a manner satisfactory to both parties. All other requirements pertaining to utility consolidated billing processes and procedures are contained in Attachment A.

### **7.2 Bill Inserts**

All specifics regarding bill inserts, such as the process for establishing inserts and attendant Supplier notice and content responsibilities and restrictions, insert physical specifications, insert packaging specifications, and insert delivery requirements, are set forth in

Company Attachment B to the above-referenced Board Order (“Attachment B”), which is hereby incorporated by reference herein and expressly made a part hereof. Moreover, Supplier will pay Company a negotiated rate for provision of bill insert service.

### **7.3 Technical Specifications**

All technical specifications regarding the print format to be used by Company in its consolidated bill and the mechanics of Supplier data transmission and synchronization to Company are set forth in Attachment A.

In the event of any conflict between any of the Company Attachments to the above-referenced Board Order and the provisions of this Agreement, the Attachments shall control.

## **ARTICLE 8: TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUPPLIER CONSOLIDATED BILLING**

### **8.1 Basic Requirements**

By executing this Agreement, Supplier is authorized to provide bill-ready Consolidated Billing to Customers, if such option is selected by the Customers, under the same terms and conditions applicable to Company; provided that Supplier must remit full payment of Customer tariffed charges to Company in accordance with Article 10 below, and must otherwise comply with all requirements contained in Company Attachment D to the above-referenced Board Order (“Attachment D”), which is hereby incorporated by reference herein and expressly made a part hereof.

Supplier may offer Consolidated Billing for all Company charges even if Supplier only supplies one commodity (gas or electricity), so long as the customer purchases either Basic Gas Supply Service or Basic Generation Service through the Company, as defined in the Applicable Legal Authorities.

### **8.2 Additional Requirements/Company Inserts**

If Supplier provides Consolidated Billing service, Supplier will be responsible for fulfilling all applicable New Jersey Administrative Code (“NJAC”) and Board-mandated notices and directives concerning utility customer bill information and format, and other regulatorily-mandated notices and information relating to Company’s tariffed delivery services. The Company will be responsible for providing Supplier with an appropriate number of copies of all such regulatorily-mandated notices and directives to be included as an insert in the bill envelope. If Supplier provides bills to its Customers in electronic form, Company will be required to furnish such inserts to Supplier in a mutually acceptable electronic form. Supplier will not be

required to provide any information regarding the Company's competitive services as part of the bill. In formulating the consolidated bill, Supplier will use the billing components provided by Company for all relevant Customer classes.

**ARTICLE 9: CUSTOMER ENTITLEMENT TO CONSOLIDATED BILLING/  
CONVERSION TO DUAL BILLING**

A Customer is entitled to receive a consolidated bill if the Billing Party, whether it be the Company or Supplier, determines in its reasonable discretion that Customer is creditworthy. The Billing Party will be required to inform Customer that failure to pay bills in a timely manner will result in conversion from Consolidated Billing to Dual Billing for a period of one (1) year.

At the Billing Party's discretion, Customer may be converted from Consolidated Billing to Dual Billing, in accordance with the procedures and requirements set forth in Company Attachment D.

**ARTICLE 10: REMITTANCE PROCEDURES/OWNERSHIP OF RECEIVABLES**

**10.1 Supplier Remittance of Customer Charges to the Company**

Supplier remittance obligations shall be in compliance with the requirements of Attachment D. In particular, if Supplier provides Consolidated Billing service, Supplier shall remit to Company the full amount of all undisputed Company tariffed charges it has billed to Customers within fifteen (15) days of receiving said charges from the Company for billing. Supplier shall make payments of funds payable to the Company by electronic transfer to a bank designated by the Company. If payment is made to the Company after this 15-day period, a late fee will be added to the unpaid balance until the entire amount is paid. This late fee will be 1.5% per calendar month on the unpaid balance.

**10.2 Company Remittance of Customer Charges to Supplier**

If Company provides Consolidated Billing service, Company shall remit to Supplier all undisputed energy commodity Supplier charges by the 5<sup>th</sup> day from the due date noted on the consolidated bill; provided, however, that with respect to gas commodity charges owed to Supplier, Company will remit to Supplier all undisputed charges owed minus a factoring percentage. Company shall make payment of funds payable to Supplier by electronic transfer to a bank designated by Supplier.

### **10.3 Receivables**

If Consolidated Billing is provided, the Billing Party, whether it is the Company or Supplier, shall assume the Non-Billing Party's undisputed charges as receivables. The Billing Party assuming the Non-Billing party's charges as receivables shall not have any obligation to assume any prior balances. Should Company assume Supplier's receivables, the receivable will be treated in accordance with Company's collection practices and procedures applicable to delivery charges, including potential Customer disconnection for non-payment. Moreover, in the event that Customer converts from Consolidated Billing to Dual Billing, Supplier and Company will each be responsible for its own receivables effective as of the start of Dual Billing.

In consideration of remittance of customer charges by the Billing Party to the Non-Billing Party, in accordance with Section 10.1 or 10.2 above, the Non-Billing Party hereby sells, assigns, and transfers, to the Billing Party, its successors and assigns, all right, title, and interest in any and all monies due, on the accounts for which such remittances have been made. The Billing Party shall have the full power and authority, for its own use and benefit, without cost to the Non-Billing Party, to ask, demand, collect, and receive payment of such monies, or any part thereof, and in the name of the Non-Billing Party, or otherwise, to prosecute any suits therefor. The Non-Billing Party agrees that if any payment is made to the Non-Billing Party, which is

intended to be credited on any of such accounts, that it will immediately endorse and deliver to the Billing Party such checks, drafts, or money intended as such payment, and that until such delivery, the Non-Billing Party shall treat such checks, drafts, and money as the property of and in trust for the Billing Party.

The Billing Party agrees that all monies collected by it on account of the Non-Billing Party's charges shall, until such time as the Billing Party has made the corresponding remittance to the Non-Billing Party required by Section 10.2, be treated by the Billing Party as property of and held for the benefit of the Non-Billing Party, notwithstanding that such monies may have been commingled with other funds held by the Billing Party.

#### **10.4 Disputed Charges**

If a Party receives a customer inquiry regarding its charges, that Party shall be responsible for resolving the inquiry with the Customer. If the Billing Party receives a customer inquiry regarding the Non-Billing Party's charges, the Billing Party shall refer the Customer to the Non-Billing Party for resolution.

#### **ARTICLE 11: CREDITS**

When Supplier provides Consolidated Billing Supplier service, and thus bills Customer for Company's charges, Customer will receive a credit on its bill in accordance with Attachment C to the above-referenced Board Order, which is attached hereto and expressly made a part hereof.

#### **ARTICLE 12: TAXES**

With respect to the payment of State sales tax, the Party selling *gas and/or* electricity to Customers is responsible for paying any and all taxes owed on such sale. This is the case

irrespective of which Party is performing the billing function and which Party is assuming the receivables.

### **ARTICLE 13: METERING SERVICES**

Until such time as the Board orders the implementation of competitive metering services, only Company-owned, Company-installed and Company-read meters will be the Customer usage record for billing purposes. Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, with respect to interval meters and upon receipt of written consent from Customer, Company will allow Supplier to either (i) have a pulse initiator connected to Customer's interval meter so that Supplier may obtain real-time access to metering data using its own equipment; or (ii) periodically call into meters with remote capabilities, on a read-only basis, to obtain such data, if possible. Should Supplier exercise either of these options, Supplier will not be permitted to physically alter, remove or change a meter or its programming. With respect to pulse initiators, these shall be owned and installed by Company. Moreover, with respect to the connection of a pulse initiator, Supplier will be responsible for procurement and installation of its own equipment, and, with respect to the second above-listed option, Supplier will bear the cost associated with any required meter upgrades. For both service options, Company will charge Supplier a fee to be approved by the Board.

Company will establish a specific meter access time for Supplier if Supplier exercises the second above-listed option, and Company may further limit or restrict Supplier's access during this pre-determined time period in the event of service interruption or curtailment; provided, however, that Company will notify Supplier of this further restriction of access.

Both Company and Supplier acknowledge that any data obtained by Supplier from Customer meters is not billing-grade data.

## **ARTICLE 14: CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION**

### **14.1 Customer-Specific Information**

The Supplier shall keep all Customer-specific information supplied by the Company confidential unless the Supplier has the Customer's authorization to do otherwise.

### **14.2 Company Information**

All Company information available to the Supplier in connection with the provision of Consolidated Billing services, including but not limited to information regarding the Company, computer systems, or communications systems shall not be disclosed to third parties without appropriate authorization and/or consent.

## **ARTICLE 15: DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### **15.1 Informal Resolution of Disputes**

The Company and the Supplier shall use good faith and commercially reasonable efforts to informally resolve all disputes arising out of the implementation of this Agreement. Any dispute between the Company and the Supplier under this Agreement may be referred to a designated senior representative of each of the Parties for resolution on an informal basis as promptly as practicable.

### **15.2 Recourse to Agencies or Courts of Competent Jurisdiction**

Nothing in this Agreement shall restrict the rights of either Party to file a complaint with the Board under relevant provisions of the Applicable Legal Authorities, with a New Jersey State court of competent jurisdiction, or with a federal court of competent jurisdiction situated in the



State of New Jersey or to arrive at a mutual agreement to use any other acceptable means of dispute resolution; provided, however, that all disputes regarding determinations of creditworthiness under Sections 6.1 and 6.3 above, or regarding compliance with EDI standards, shall be resolved by the Board, and all concerns about billing and metering inaccuracies or irregularities shall be addressed by the Board.

#### **ARTICLE 16: FORCE MAJEURE**

The Company and the Supplier shall use due diligence to perform their respective obligations under this Agreement. However, in the event that either Party is delayed in or prevented from performing or carrying out its obligations under this Agreement by reason of an event of Force Majeure which by the exercise of due diligence and foresight the Party could not reasonably have been expected to avoid and which by the exercise of due diligence the Party is unable to overcome, such Party shall not be liable to the other Party for or on account of any loss, damage, injury or expense resulting from or arising out of such delay or prevention; provided, however, that the Party encountering such delay or prevention shall give the other Party prompt notice thereof and shall use due diligence to remove the cause or causes thereof. Events of Force Majeure include a catastrophic weather condition, flood, fire, lightning, epidemic, quarantine, war, sabotage, act of a public enemy, earthquake, insurrection, riot, civil disturbance, strike, or restraint by court order or public authority, action or non-action by or inability to obtain authorization or approval from any governmental or other authority. The settlement of strikes and labor disturbances shall be wholly within the sole discretion of the Party experiencing that difficulty. Economic hardship of either Party shall not constitute a Force Majeure under this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 17: REGULATORY AUTHORIZATIONS AND JURISDICTION**

### **17.1 Compliance With Applicable Legal Authorities**

The Company and the Supplier are subject to, and shall comply with, all existing or future applicable federal, State and local laws, all existing or future duly-promulgated orders or other duly-authorized actions of the Board or of any other governmental authorities having applicable jurisdiction, and the requirements of the Third Party Supplier Agreement, if applicable to Supplier. The Parties shall provide services to each other under this Agreement consistent with any applicable federal, State or local statute, regulation, rule or order.

### **17.2 Change in Applicable Legal Authorities**

This Agreement is subject to change in the future to reflect any relevant changes required by the Board or other New Jersey State agency having jurisdiction, or by virtue of any federal or State law or regulation, and such changes shall be deemed to be binding upon the Parties, except where the right to terminate is exercised in accordance with Article 4 above.

## **ARTICLE 18: LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

### **18.1 General Limitation of Liability**

Neither Party shall have any liability to the other Party for consequential, indirect, special or punitive damages, including lost profits or lost revenues, arising out of such Party's inaccuracies, content errors, omissions or delays with respect to the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. As a result, liability hereunder for such activities is limited to direct damages.

### **18.2 No Liability to Customers**

This Agreement does not create any duty or liability to Customers for the errors or omissions of the Company or the Supplier.

## **ARTICLE 19: INDEMNIFICATION**

### **19.1 Indemnification**

Should a Party (the “Indemnified Party”) become the defendant in, or obligor for, any claims and/or liabilities for losses, expenses, damage to property, injury to or death of any person including a Party’s employees or any third parties, that were caused by an act or omission of the other Party, for which that other Party has assumed liability under the terms of this Agreement (the “Indemnifying Party”), the Indemnifying Party shall defend (at the Indemnified party’s option), indemnify and hold harmless the Indemnified Party from and against any and all such claims and/or liabilities, except to the extent that a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the losses, expenses or damage were caused wholly or in part by any negligent or willful act or omission of the Indemnified Party. The Indemnified Party may, at its own expense, retain counsel and participate in the defense of any such suit or action.

### **19.2 Survives Agreement**

The obligation of either Party to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the other Party under this Article shall survive termination of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 20: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

### **20.1 Notices**

Unless otherwise stated herein, all notices, demands or requests required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be personally delivered or sent by overnight

express mail, courier service or facsimile transmission (with the original transmitted by any of the other aforementioned delivery methods) addressed as follows:

If to the Supplier to:

If to the Company to:           Manager – Financial and Risk Management  
Transmission Settlements and Services  
Public Service Electric and Gas Company  
80 Park Plaza, T-18A  
Newark, New Jersey 07102-4194

Copy to:                            Manager – Supplier Relations  
Public Service Electric and Gas Company  
24 Brown Avenue  
Springfield, New Jersey 07081

or to such other person at such other address as a Party shall designate by like notice to the other Party. Notice received after the close of the Business Day shall be deemed received on the next Business Day.

**20.2 No Prejudice of Rights**

The failure of either Party to insist on any one or more instances upon strict performance of any provisions of this Agreement, or to take advantage of any of its rights hereunder, shall not be construed as a waiver of any such provisions or the relinquishment of any such right or any other right hereunder, which shall remain in full force and effect. No term or condition of this Agreement shall be deemed to have been waived and no breach excused unless such waiver or consent to excuse is in writing and signed by the Party claimed to have waived or consented to excuse.

### **20.3 Assignment**

Neither Party shall assign any of its rights or obligations under this Agreement without obtaining (a) any necessary regulatory approval(s); and (b) the prior written consent of the non-assigning Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. No assignment of this Agreement shall relieve the assigning Party of any of its obligations under this Agreement until such obligations have been assumed by the assignee. Any assignment in violation of this Section shall be void. However, the Company may assign any or all of its rights and obligations under this Agreement, without the Supplier's consent, to any entity succeeding to all or substantially all of the assets of the Company, if such assignee agrees, in writing, to be bound by all of the terms and conditions hereof and if any necessary regulatory approvals are obtained. Moreover, the Supplier may assign any or all of its rights and obligations under this Agreement, without the Company's consent, to any entity succeeding to all or substantially all of the assets of the Supplier, if such assignee agrees, in writing, to be bound by all of the terms and conditions hereof and if any necessary regulatory approvals are obtained.

### **20.4 Governing Law**

Questions including those concerning the formation, validity, interpretation, execution, amendment, termination and construction of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Jersey, without regard to principles of conflicts of law. Any lawsuit arising in connection with this Agreement shall be brought in the state or federal courts of New Jersey.

### **20.5 Headings**

The headings and subheadings contained in this Agreement are used solely for convenience and do not constitute a part of the Agreement between the Parties hereunto, nor should they be used to aid in any manner in the construction of this Agreement.

## **20.6 Third Party Beneficiaries**

This Agreement is intended solely for the benefit of the Parties hereto. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty, or standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any person not a Party to this Agreement.

## **20.7 General Miscellaneous Provisions**

- (a) This Agreement shall not be interpreted or construed to create an association, joint venture, or partnership between the Parties, or to impose any partnership obligation or liability upon either Party. Neither Party shall have any right, power, or authority to enter into any agreement or undertaking for, or on behalf of, or to act as or be an agent or representative of, or to otherwise bind, the other Party.
- (b) Cancellation, expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement shall not relieve the Parties of obligations that by their nature survive such cancellation, expiration or termination, including warranties, remedies, promises of indemnity and confidentiality.
- (c) Should any provision of this Agreement be held invalid or unenforceable, such provision shall be invalid or unenforceable only to the extent of such invalidity or unenforceability without invalidating or rendering unenforceable any other provision hereof unless it materially changes the agreement of the Parties.
- (d) Each of the Parties acknowledges that it has read this Agreement, understands it, and agrees to be bound by its terms. This Agreement is intended by the Parties as a final expression of their agreement. The Parties further agree that this Agreement is the complete and exclusive statement of agreement and supersedes

all proposals (oral or written), understandings, representations, conditions, warranties, covenants and all other communications between the Parties relating thereto.

**20.8 Use of the Word "Including"**

The word "including", when following any general statement or term, is not to be construed as limiting the general statement or term to the specific items or matters set forth or to similar items or matters, but rather as permitting the general statement or term to refer to all other items or matters that could reasonably fall within its broadest possible scope.

**20.9 Amendment**

This Agreement, including the appendices hereto, cannot be amended without the approval of the Board, and requests for such approval can be initiated only upon written notice to all Parties.

**20.10 Incorporation of Board Orders**

This Agreement expressly incorporates by reference herein (i) the December 22, 2000 Board Order issued in Docket No. EX99090676; (ii) the Board's June 24, 2004 Order issued in the same docket; and (iii) any and all other past and future Board Orders issued in such docket.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives as of the date first set forth above.

[SUPPLIER]

ATTEST:

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND  
GAS COMPANY

ATTEST:

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



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