



May 5, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honorable Sherri L. Lewis, Board Secretary
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS
FOR APPROVAL OF A MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE IN THE BOROUGH OF
WEST LONG BRANCH, MONMOUTH COUNTY

BPU Docket No. GE26050205

Dear Secretary Lewis:

Enclosed for filing, please find the electronic files containing the Petition and supporting Exhibits of New Jersey Natural Gas Company for Approval of a Municipal Franchise in Borough of West Long Branch, Monmouth County, New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-14 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.5.

In accordance with the Order issued by the Board in connection with I/M/O the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic for a Temporary Waiver of Requirements for Certain Non-Essential Obligations, BPU Docket No. EO20030254, Order dated March 19, 2020, this document is being electronically filed. No paper copies will follow.

Copies of the Petition, including the supporting Exhibits, are also being served electronically upon the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel and the Division of Law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew K. Dembia'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin blue rectangular border.

Andrew K. Dembia
Regulatory Affairs Counsel

AKD:ss

Enclosures
C: Service List

**NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY PETITION FOR AUTHORIZATION
AND APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE
BOROUGH OF WEST LONG BRANCH, MONMOUTH COUNTY**

BPU DOCKET NO. GE26050205

SERVICE LIST

**Borough of West Long Branch
965 Broadway
West Long Branch, NJ 07764**

Carolina J. Kelly, RMC
Borough Clerk
csantos@westlongbranch.org

Caruso & Baxter P.A.
Gregory Baxter, Esq., Borough Attorney
gbaxterlaw@verizon.net

**New Jersey Natural Gas Company
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P.O. Box 1464
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**Department of Law & Public Safety
-Division of Law
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25 Market Street P.O. Box 112
Trenton, N.J. 08625**

Jordan Mitchell, DAG
Jordan.Mitchell@law.njoag.gov

Steven Chaplar, DAG
steven.chaplar@law.njoag.gov

Exhibit C Proposed Notice of Municipal Consent Hearing

4. The Company's current franchise with the Borough expired on August 20, 2023.
5. On March 18, 2026, the Borough, by Ordinance 0-26-11, renewed NJNG's franchise for a period of 15 years. A copy of the Ordinance is attached as Exhibit "A" to this petition. By letter to the Borough dated March 25, 2026, NJNG accepted and agreed to the terms and conditions of such Ordinance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-16, which acceptance letter is attached as part of Exhibit "B" to this petition. A proposed notice of a municipal consent hearing is attached to this petition as Exhibit "C." A copy of this petition also has been served on the Clerk of the Borough.
6. N.J.S.A. 48:2-14 requires Board approval of a franchise granted by a municipality to a public utility subject to the Board's jurisdiction. The franchise, which is the subject matter of this petition, complies with all statutory and administrative requirements necessary for its approval. The Board's approval of the franchise is necessary and proper for the public convenience and properly conserves the public interest.

WHEREFORE, NJNG respectfully requests that the Board grant the following:

- (1) Approve the franchise granted to NJNG by the Borough through Ordinance 0-26-11; and
- (2) Provide any other relief deemed just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS



By:

Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.
Regulatory Affairs Counsel

Dated: May 5, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. O-26-11

**AN ORDINANCE RENEWING NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS
COMPANY'S FRANCHISE IN THE BOROUGH OF WEST LONG BRANCH**

WHEREAS, NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY has hereto been granted a franchise and consent to lay, maintain and operate gas franchise facilities in the Borough of West Long Branch; and

WHEREAS, NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY is desirous of obtaining a franchise and consent of the municipality to continue serving the municipality;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Borough Council of West Long Branch that the Borough hereby consents and authorizes NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY to lay, maintain and operate, for a period of fifteen (15) years, its conductors, mains and pipes, together with all appurtenances thereto, in, under and over all the public streets, alleys, squares and public places in the Borough of West Long Branch for the purpose of conducting, transmitting, and distributing gas or any mixture of gases of various types, including natural gas, upon the following terms and conditions:

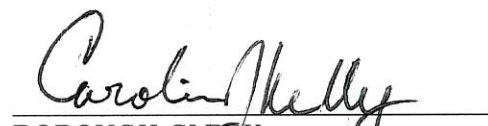
1. That NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY shall agree that in all cases in which said openings or excavations are made for the purpose of aforesaid, the pavement and surface of the streets or roadways shall be restore to the same condition as existed prior to the opening thereof;
2. That NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY shall conduct the work of laying or repairing gas mains and pipelines in a careful and prudent manner;
3. The NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY shall comply with all applicable Borough ordinances, State statutes and administrative rules and regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY shall file with the West Long Branch Borough Clerk within sixty (60) days from the date hereof, its acceptance of the terms and provisions of the franchise consent herein granted and its agreement to be bound by the terms and provisions thereof; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall not become effective unless and until it is approved by the Board of Regulatory Commissioners of the State of New Jersey.

Introduced: March 4, 2026
Passed: March 18, 2026
Adopted: March 18, 2026


MAYOR


BOROUGH CLERK



Via Electronic Delivery

March 25, 2026

Honorable Carolina J. Kelly, RMC
Borough Clerk
Borough of West Long Branch
965 Broadway
West Long Branch, NJ 07764

**Re: AN ORDINANCE GRANTING NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS
NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE RIGHTS TO PROVIDE
NATURAL GAS WITHIN WEST LONG BRANCH, MONMOUTH
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE 0-26-11**

Dear Ms. Kelly:

New Jersey Natural Gas Company (“NJNG”) hereby accepts the terms and provisions of the franchise granted by the Borough Council on March 18, 2026 and hereby agrees to be bound by the terms and provisions thereof. See Ordinance No. 0-26-11 attached hereto.

Please be advised that NJNG will submit the Ordinance to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew K. Dembia'.

Andrew K. Dembia
Regulatory Affairs Counsel

AKD:ss

C: Gregory Baxter, Esq./Caruso & Baxter P.A.

ORDINANCE NO. O-26-11

**AN ORDINANCE RENEWING NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS
COMPANY'S FRANCHISE IN THE BOROUGH OF WEST LONG BRANCH**

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WHEREAS, NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY is desirous of obtaining a franchise and consent of the municipality to continue serving the municipality;

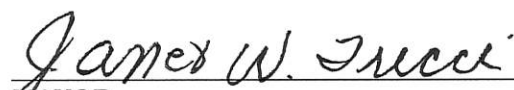
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Borough Council of West Long Branch that the Borough hereby consents and authorizes NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY to lay, maintain and operate, for a period of fifteen (15) years, its conductors, mains and pipes, together with all appurtenances thereto, in, under and over all the public streets, alleys, squares and public places in the Borough of West Long Branch for the purpose of conducting, transmitting, and distributing gas or any mixture of gases of various types, including natural gas, upon the following terms and conditions:

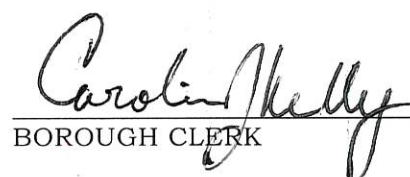
1. That NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY shall agree that in all cases in which said openings or excavations are made for the purpose of aforesaid, the pavement and surface of the streets or roadways shall be restore to the same condition as existed prior to the opening thereof;
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3. The NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY shall comply with all applicable Borough ordinances, State statutes and administrative rules and regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY shall file with the West Long Branch Borough Clerk within sixty (60) days from the date hereof, its acceptance of the terms and provisions of the franchise consent herein granted and its agreement to be bound by the terms and provisions thereof; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall not become effective unless and until it is approved by the Board of Regulatory Commissioners of the State of New Jersey.

Introduced: March 4, 2026
Passed: March 18, 2026
Adopted: March 18, 2026


MAYOR


BOROUGH CLERK

May xx, 2026

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honorable Carolina J. Kelly, RMC
Borough Clerk
Borough of West Long Branch
965 Broadway
West Long Branch, NJ 07764

Honorable Christine Giordano Hanlon
Monmouth County Clerk
Market Yard
33 Mechanic Street
Freehold, NJ 07728

Honorable Tamara Brown
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners
Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners
Hall of Records
1 East Main Street
Freehold, NJ 07728

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS
FOR APPROVAL OF A MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE IN THE BOROUGH OF
WEST LONG BRANCH, MONMOUTH COUNTY
BPU Docket No. GE26050205**

Dear Parties Addressed:

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:2-14, New Jersey Natural Gas Company (“NJNG”) has applied to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) for approval of the Borough of West Long Branch’s (“Borough”) Ordinance 0-26-11, which granted NJNG permission to provide natural gas service in the Borough as provided in said Ordinance. Please be advised that the Board has set [DATE TBD] at [TIME TBD], as the date and time for the Municipal Consent Hearing. This Municipal Consent Hearing will be held via Zoom. The Zoom log-in information is as follows:

Join by holding down control button and clicking on below link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458136397>

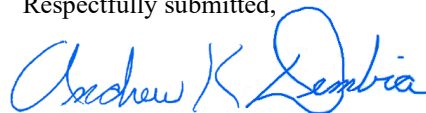
Meeting ID: 245 813 6397

Dial-In Phone Number: 1-646-876-9923

Access Code: 819208

A Zoom meeting invitation will be sent to you in advance of the scheduled date for this Municipal Consent Hearing. You are welcome to participate in the Zoom meeting to put your views on the record if you so desire. Also, notice of the hearing is posted on the Company’s web site, njng.com, so interested members of the public may view the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.
Regulatory Affairs Counsel

AKD:ss
C: Service List