NEW JERSEY RESOURCES CORPORATION ANNOUNCES IMPROVED FISCAL 2003 FIRST-QUARTER EARNINGS

WALL, N.J. – New Jersey Resources Corporation (NYSE: NJR), parent company of New Jersey Natural Gas Company (NJNG), today announced improved fiscal 2003 first-quarter earnings of $.86 per share, a 16 percent increase compared with last year.

"We are off to a solid start in fiscal 2003. Our record of consistent earnings growth is supported by a growing customer base at NJNG and continued strong growth in our successful unregulated wholesale energy services business," said Laurence M. Downes, chairman and CEO of NJR. "Once again our employees have achieved excellent results for all of our stakeholders."

Financial and operating highlights during the quarter included:

- Higher Net Income and Earnings per Share – NJR earned $23.3 million for the three months ended December 31, 2002, an 18 percent increase compared with last year's results of $19.7 million. Earnings per share increased 16 percent to $.86, compared with $.74 last year. NJNG earned $19.5 million, or $.72 per share, during the quarter driven by its continued profitable customer growth and colder weather. NJR Energy Services Corporation (NJRES), NJR's unregulated wholesale energy services subsidiary, reported an 86 percent increase in earnings to $3.9 million, or $.14 per share, compared with $2.1 million, or $.08 per share last year, reflecting increased capacity management and storage throughput.

- Strong Customer Growth – During the first three months of the fiscal year, NJNG added approximately .6 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of new throughput, which is expected to generate about $2 million in gross margin. The Company expects to add approximately 2.2 Bcf of firm sales representing $6.6 million of gross margin from customer growth in fiscal 2003. NJNG expects to maintain its approximate 3 percent annual customer growth rate in fiscal 2003, well above the national average for natural gas distribution companies. About 35 percent of those new customers are expected to convert from other fuels.

- Cold Weather – Weather for the quarter was 10 percent colder than normal and 36 percent colder than last year. NJNG has a weather-normalization clause, which is designed to minimize year-to-year fluctuations on both NJNG's margin and customers' bills that can result from changing weather patterns. Normal weather is based on the 20-year average. As a result of the colder-than-normal weather, NJNG deferred $1.6 million of margin for the three months ended December 31, 2002, to be returned to customers in the future.

- Wholesale Energy Operations – Earnings for NJRES during the quarter benefited from the increased volatility created by colder-than-normal weather. NJRES has developed a substantial transportation and storage capacity portfolio that is well-positioned to leverage this pricing volatility, while maintaining a hedged financial position. For the three months ended December 31, 2002, wholesale volumes were 101.8 Bcf, compared with 60.7 Bcf for the same period last year.
- Off-System Sales and Capacity Management Programs – NJNG shares margins earned from off-system sales, capacity release and portfolio-enhancement programs between customers and shareowners, based on a formula that is in effect until October 31, 2003. For the three months ended December 31, 2002, off-system and capacity management program sales were 14 Bcf, generating $1.2 million in margin and $5.3 million in credits to customers. NJNG customers have saved nearly $192 million on their natural gas bills, approximately 5 percent annually, since these programs began in 1992. These programs have contributed to NJNG having the lowest total natural gas prices in New Jersey.

- J.D. Power and Associates Award Received by NJNG – On October 23, 2002, NJNG received the distinction of being ranked "Highest in Customer Satisfaction with Gas Utility Service in the Eastern U.S." in the J.D. Power and Associates 2002 Gas Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study.SM The study looked at factors such as field service and billing and payment factors.

- Dividend Increased – On October 31, 2002, NJR's board of directors authorized a 3.3 percent increase in the Company's quarterly dividend rate to $.31 per share. The new rate became effective with the January 2003 dividend payment and marked the eighth increase in the last seven years. The Company has paid quarterly dividends since 1952.

- Real Estate – In December 2002, Commercial Realty & Resources Corp. (CR&R), the Company's real estate development subsidiary, signed a lease to construct a 200,000-square-foot building for Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. The transaction is subject to the receipt of certain permits and approvals. Construction on the project is expected to begin in the third fiscal quarter of 2003, with a completion date in the third fiscal quarter of 2004.

New Jersey Resources Corporation (NYSE: NJR), a Fortune 1000 company and a member of the Forbes Platinum 400, provides retail and wholesale energy services to customers in New Jersey and in states from the Gulf Coast to New England, and Canada. Its principal subsidiary, New Jersey Natural Gas Company (NJNG), is one of the fastest-growing local distribution companies in the United States, and ranks highest in customer satisfaction for the Eastern U.S. Region in the J.D. Power and Associates 2002 Gas Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study.SM NJNG provides energy services to more than 430,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in New Jersey's Monmouth and Ocean counties and parts of Morris and Middlesex counties and maintains a nearly 6,000-mile underground pipeline system. NJNG has added nearly 12,000 new customers for the past eight consecutive years, representing 2 billion cubic feet of new firm throughput annually. Other major operating subsidiaries of NJR include NJR Energy Services and NJR Home Services. For more information about the NJR family of companies, visit www.njliving.com.

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. NJR wishes to caution readers that the assumptions forming the basis for forward-looking statements include many factors that are beyond NJR's ability to control or estimate precisely, such as estimates of future market conditions and the behavior of other market participants. Other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations include, but are not limited to, weather conditions, economic conditions in NJNG's service territory, impact of regulation, fluctuations in energy-related commodity prices, conversion activity, other marketing efforts and other uncertainties. More detailed information about these factors is set forth in NJR's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including NJR's annual report on Form 10-K filed on December 20, 2002. NJR's Form 10-K is available at www.sec.gov.

J.D. Power and Associates 2002 Gas Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study.SM Study based on a total of 9,126 consumer responses. In the Eastern U.S., the top 15 Gas Utility companies were ranked in the study. www.jdpower.com.

NEW JERSEY RESOURCES CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS

Thousands, except per share data *(Unaudited)*	Three Months Ended December 31, **2002**	2001	Twelve Months Ended September 30, **2002**	2001
Operating Revenues	**$668,779**	$395,831	**$2,103,702**	$1,776,752
Net Income	**$23,323**	$19,681	**$60,486**	$54,288
Earnings Per Common Share				
Basic	**$.86**	$.74	**$2.25**	$2.04
Diluted	**$.85**	$.73	**$2.22**	$2.02
Average Shares Outstanding				
Basic	**26,983**	26,736	**26,921**	26,672
Diluted	**27,325**	27,080	**27,233**	26,921

All 2001 per share data has been restated to reflect a 3-for-2 stock split.

Consolidated Statement of Income

Consolidated Financial Highlights