Agenda Date: 5/8/08 Agenda Item: 7A



## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.nj.gov/bpu/

**CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE** 

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF	ORDER APPROVING
JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT	OFFICE RELOCATION
COMPANY SEEKING APPROVAL TO	
RELOCATE ITS ALLENHURST BUSINESS	
OFFICE, ALLENHURST, NEW JERSEY TO	
A NEW SITE IN ALLENHURST, NEW	
JERSEY	BPU DOCKET NO. EE08030133

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

## BY THE BOARD:

On March 4, 2008, Jersey Central Power & Light Company ("JCP&L" or "Petitioner") filed a Verified Petition with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:3-5.1(c) to relocate its Allenhurst business office from 525 Main Street to 300 Main Street in Allenhurst, New Jersey. At this business office, customers may walk in and personally make bill payments or obtain assistance from a JCP&L representative.

According to JCP&L, the existing site has been experiencing "ventilation and other problems" that have rendered conducting business at the location uncomfortable for both customers and JCP&L employees. In addition, the Petitioner noted that the existing office is in a 100,000 square foot building that houses only 31 JCP&L employees of which only four are customer service representatives who spend all of their time in the office. Because the office occupies very little space in the existing site, JCP&L's maintenance and repair expenses are disproportionate to its level of usage. In light of the disproportionate maintenance and repair expenses associated with the existing site, the decision to relocate is reasonable.

Petitioner has indicated that the proposed business office will be 2,000 square feet of leased space located in a commercial building which is approximately 200 yards from the present site and will provide a more comfortable environment for JCP&L customers and employees as well as a better use of resources. Once the new facilities are completed, the existing business office will be closed on a convenient day and the new business office will open the next business day. All JCP&L employees currently stationed at the existing business office will be moved to the new facility. Petitioner has also indicated that there is ample parking, including two handicapped parking spaces and three designated customer parking spaces, in front of the new location. The front entrance door into the vestibule, night deposit box and the payment counter area, will all be accessible to handicapped customers. JCP&L will maintain the same hours of operation, staffing levels and level of service in the new facility as is presently being provided in the existing Allenhurst business office. Thus, JCP&L has demonstrated that the decision to relocate will not unduly prejudice the public interest.

JCP&L has completed the notification procedures required by N.J.A.C. 14:3-5.1(c)(2). JCP&L posted a Notice of Relocation at the existing Allenhurst and provided a copy of the petition to the Clerks of each affected municipality on March 4, 2008. Furthermore, JCP&L published a Public Notice in four area newspapers. Also, in accord with the Board's regulations, the Public Notice advised customers of their right to file objections to the relocation with the Secretary's Office of the Board by March 31, 2008. No comments from customers or municipalities have been received.

The Board <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> that JCP&L has complied with the requirements of <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:3-5.1(c) regarding relocation of a business office. It also appears that this move will result in ratepayer savings. Therefore, the Board <u>APPROVES</u> the relocation of JCP&L's Allenhurst business office from its location at 525 Main Street, Allenhurst, New Jersey, to 300 Main Street, Allenhurst, New Jersey, subject to the following conditions:

- 1 Petitioner shall maintain the same hours of operation, staffing levels and level of service as are presently provided at its existing Allenhurst business office;
- 2. This Order shall not be construed as directly or indirectly fixing for any purposes whatsoever the value of any tangible or intangible assets now owned or hereafter to be owned by Petitioner; and
- 3. This Order shall not affect nor in any way limit the exercise of the authority of this Board or of this State, in any future petition or in any proceedings with respect to rates, franchises, service, financing, accounting, capitalization, depreciation or any other matter affecting Petitioner.

The Board FURTHER ORDERS JCP&L to notify the Board's Division of Customer Assistance of the date of the closing of the existing business office and the date of the opening of the new business office not less than 48 hours before such events occur.

DATED: 5/9/08

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

PRESIDENT

FREDERICK F. BUTLER COMMISSIONER

CHRISTINE V. BATOR COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

**SECRETARY** 

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

Utilities

## I/M/O Petition of Jersey Central Power & Light Company Seeking Approval to Relocate its Allenhurst Business Office, Allenhurst, New Jersey Site in Allenhurst, New Jersey

BPU Docket No. EE08030133

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