



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
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www.nj.gov/bpu/

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

A regular board meeting of the new Jersey Board of Public Utilities was held on June 27, 2024 and at the Board's Hearing Room at 44 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton and via online @ https://www.youtube.com/live/RQhh73Url_U?si=bxyYiMFomfxBXEJ7.

Public notice was given pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-18 by posting notice of the meeting at Board's Trenton Office, on the Board's website, filing notice of the meeting with the New Jersey Department of State and newspapers of broad circulation in the State of New Jersey.

The following members of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities were present:

President Guhl-Sadovy, President
Commissioner Christodoulou, Commissioner
Commissioner Abdou, Commissioner
Commissioner Bange, Commissioner

President Guhl-Sadovy presided at the meeting and Sherri L. Golden, Secretary of the Board, carried out the duties of the Secretary.

It was also announced that the next regular Board Meeting will be held on July 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. and would be a hybrid meeting at the Board's Hearing Room at 44 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton and livestreamed via YouTube.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

After appropriate motion, the following matters, which involved N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7) attorney-client privilege and/or contract negotiations exceptions, were discussed in Executive Session.

1. AUDITS

A. Docket No. AA24060398 – In the Matter of Bid Solicitation No. 23DPP00886 for a State Term Contract for Management and Financial Consulting - Contracted Management/Financial Auditing Firms, BPU, through the Department of Treasury – Executive Session.

BACKGROUND: On August 16, 2023, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) approved Board Staff’s (“Staff”) recommendation to authorize the New Jersey Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) to release Bid Solicitation #23DPP00886 (“Bid Solicitation”).

The Bid Solicitation was issued by the Procurement Bureau (“Bureau”), Division of Purchase and Property (“Division”) of Treasury on behalf of the Board. An evaluation committee was formed (“Committee”), which included five (5) voting members from Staff and one (1) voting member from the Bureau. Following a review of the bid proposals pursuant to the Bid Solicitation, the Committee completed its review. The base term is for four (4) years beginning July 1, 2024, which the potential for two (2) one-year extension periods. The Bid Solicitation was publicly advertised and displayed on the Division’s e-procurement website.

Upon the Board’s approval the award, Staff will conduct the selection process for future engagements pursuant to the Bid Solicitation, including submission of a scope of work under a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) to the approved management consulting firms.

4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A. Docket No. TO23030128 – In the Matter of the Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the Provision of Telecommunications Relay Service – Executive Session.

BACKGROUND: Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”) (“Staff”) seeks approval for the release of a Request for Quotation (“RFQ”) to solicit proposals from qualified vendors for the provision of Telecommunications Relay Services (“TRS”) in New Jersey. TRS functions as a point of translation between hearing and/or speech impaired individuals who use a teletype (“TTY”) device or a computer to communicate with non-impaired telephone users.

The current contract for TRS services was awarded to T-Mobile Accessibility f/k/a Sprint (“Sprint” or “T-Mobile”) as the winning bidder under an RFQ issued by the Board in 2018. The Board subsequently granted Sprint a five (5) year contract, which began on October 1, 2018 and was to expire on September 30, 2023. On September 29, 2023, the Board approved an extension of the TRS contract for a period of up to one (1) year with an expiration date of September 30, 2024.

7. CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

A. Docket No. EO24060408 - In the Matter of the 2024 Memorandum of Understanding Between the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Concerning Administration of the Universal Service Fund Program – Executive Session.

BACKGROUND: This matter concerns the proposed updated Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”) concerning DCA’s administration of the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) Program (“2024 MOU”).

With increased communication and reporting from DCA, the Board can ensure that the USF Program is being administered efficiently and work with DCA to improve program administration.

Board Staff (“Staff”) recommends the Board approve the 2024 MOU and authorize the President Guhl-Sadovy to sign the MOU on its behalf.

8. CLEAN ENERGY

A. Docket No. QO23060336 - In the Matter of the Contract between Rutgers University, Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences (DMCS) and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU), Division of Clean Energy – Executive Session.

BACKGROUND: This memorandum addresses the proposed grant agreement (“New Grant Agreement”) between the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“NJBP” or “Board”) and the Rutgers University, Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences (“Rutgers DMCS”) through the Rutgers University Center for Ocean Observing Leadership (“RUCOOL”) for the period from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 (“New Grant Agreement Term”).

The work proposed with Rutgers DMCS will provide funding for staffing, expertise, and resources necessary to conduct model intercomparison and analysis, research wind model impacts on grid operations and efficiency, and engage stakeholders through reports, peer-reviewed publications, and presentations at conferences.

Board Staff (“Staff”) recommends Board approval to enter into a one (1)-year New Grant Agreement with Rutgers DMCS in accordance with the established requirements of the State’s Grant Agreement entered into by State agencies. Accordingly, Staff requests authorization for President Guhl-Sadovy to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.

B. Docket No. QO24020125 - In the Matter of Mini-Bid Request for Quotation for Contractor Support on Federal Clean Energy Grant Applications – Executive Session.

BACKGROUND: This matter involves a Request for Quotation (“RFQ”) that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “NJBPU”) authorized for release to qualifying entities on the State of New Jersey Standard Terms and Conditions (“SSTC”) and the Waivered Contracts/Delegated Purchase Authority Supplement to the SSTC for the purpose of assistance with the preparation of applications for federal clean energy grants.

The RFQ set forth the terms and conditions for the acceptance of proposals for contractor assistance with grant applications in connection with the following Federal Acts: 1) the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, 117 P.L. 58, 135 Stat. 429 (“BIL” or “IIJA”); 2) the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors Act of 2022, Division A of 117 P.L. 167, 136 Stat. 1366 (“CHIPS”); 3) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, 117 P.L. 169, 136 Stat. 1818 (“IRA”) (IIJA, CHIPS, and IRA, collectively, “Federal Acts”).

Board Staff (“Staff”) recommends the Board approve the award of a contract to McKinsey & Company, Inc. (“McKinsey”) for federal clean energy grant assistance, which will be funded from the FY25 New Jersey Clean Energy Program (“NJCEP”) budget.

C. Docket No. QO24010069 – In the Matter of the Request for Quotation for Consulting Services for New Jersey Solar for All Program – Executive Session.

BACKGROUND: This matter involves the release of a Request for Quotation (“RFQ”) by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”) for services related to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (“EPA”) Solar for All competitive grant (“Grant”). Specifically, Board Staff (“Staff”) seeks approval to hire a contractor to assist with the program design and program administration of the New Jersey Solar for All (“NJSFA”) program (“Contractor”).

The EPA opened the Grant to states, territories, tribal governments, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations across the country with the intent of awarding one application per State. All Grant awardees have five (5) years to spend the Grant award.

Staff seeks approval to hire a contractor using federal grant money to assist with the program design and administration of the New Jersey Solar for All program.

D. Docket No. QO24050311 – In the Matter of a Memorandum of Agreement Between the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the Resilient Local Energy Coalition for the USEPA’s Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant Authorized Under Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act – Executive Session.

BACKGROUND: This matter involves the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”) entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) with the Hawai’i Green Infrastructure Authority (“Coalition Lead”) leading the Resilient Local Energy System Coalition (“Coalition”) which is comprised of state government entities representing fifteen (15) states, including the Board, that jointly applied for \$500 million under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (“USEPA”) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (“CPRG”).

The MOA sets forth the role and responsibilities of each of the fifteen (15) Coalition members, including the requirements each Coalition member must comply with in order to receive its allocation of the USEPA award. These funds are to be used to carry out state programs that advance the deployment of solar plus storage technology serving public buildings within the state. The MOA requires a signature by an authorized representative of the Board to formally join the Coalition. Signatures are due by June 30, 2024.

Board Staff ("Staff") recommends that the Board approve entering into an MOA with the Coalition and also recommends the Board authorize President Christine Guhl-Sadovy to sign the MOA on behalf of the Board.

E. Docket No. QO23070426 - In the Matter of the Request for Quotation for the 2024 Energy Master Plan – Executive Session.

BACKGROUND: This matter involves a contract scope of work change related to the 2024 Energy Master Plan ("EMP").

Specifically, Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") ("Staff") seeks approval to include a modeling service to calculate the required amount of longduration energy storage ("LDES") and incremental clean capacity (if needed) in the 2024 EMP. This modeling is needed to achieve true net-zero emissions in the electric sector in a net-zero emissions scenario. Additionally, Staff seek approval to align greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions modelling conducted as part of the 2024 EMP with recommended criteria air pollutant modelling needed as a qualifier for federal climate and clean energy funding.

Staff recommends that the Board approve a contract scope of work change with BPU's EMP contractor, Energy and Environment Economic Inc. ("E3").

M. Docket No. QO24060418 - In the Matter of Memorandum of Understanding of Northeast States on Offshore Wind Transmission Collaboration – Executive Session.

BACKGROUND: On June 16, 2023, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), along with eight (8) other states, sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") establishing and requesting assistance with forming the "Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission". The group has met to conduct education, align policy goals, and hear from the industry on what the major challenges, barriers, and opportunities for offshore wind transmission are. The Northeast States Collaborative has drafted a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") for the purposes of committing states to the coordination and collaboration in implementing offshore wind goals to not inhibit each other from succeeding, which includes cooperation among states on the planning and development of interregional infrastructure and strategies to engage with stakeholders. This MOU will provide information sharing and staff resources for continued engagement with other states in successfully integrating offshore wind in the northeast.

Board Staff ("Staff") recommends the Board authorize the President to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

I. AUDITS

A. Energy Agent, Private Aggregator and/or Energy Consultant Initial Registrations

EE24040246L	Arbor Energy Brokerage Services LLC	I – EA/PA
GE24040247L		

Energy Agent, Private Aggregator and/or Energy Consultant Renewal Registrations

EE20110709L	RTE Enterprises LLC	R – EA
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Electric Power and/or Natural Gas Supplier Renewal Licenses

EE14101219L	Energy Services Providers, LLC d/b/a New Jersey Gas & Electric; NJG&E	R – ESL
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EE18020161L	Viridian Energy PA, LLC	R – ESL/GSL
GE18020162L		

BACKGROUND: The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) must register all energy agents, private aggregators, and energy consultants, and the Board must license all third party electric power suppliers and natural gas suppliers (“TPSs”). Annually thereafter, TPSs, as well as energy agents, private aggregators, and energy consultants, are required to timely file annual information update forms and renewal fees for their licenses and registrations in order to continue to do business in New Jersey. N.J.S.A. 48:3-78 to -79; N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.6 to -5.7; N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.8 to -5.9, and N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.11.

Staff recommended that the following applicant be issued initial registrations as an energy agent and private aggregator:

- Arbor Energy Brokerage Services LLC

In addition, Staff recommended that the following applicant be issued renewal registration as an energy agent:

- RTE Enterprises LLC

Lastly, Staff recommended that the following applicants be issued renewal licenses as an electric power and/or natural gas supplier:

- Energy Services Providers, LLC d/b/a New Jersey Gas & Electric; NJG&E
- Viridian Energy PA, LLC

II. ENERGY

A. Docket No. GR24010071; OAL Docket No. PUC 02298-24 - In the Matter of the Petition of New Jersey Natural Gas Company for Approval of an Increase in Gas Base Rates, for Changes in its Tariff for Gas Service, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1, and for Changes to Depreciation Rates for Gas Property Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, and Other Requested Relief.

BACKGROUND: On January 31, 2024, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.1, and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, New Jersey Natural Gas Company ("NJNG" or "Company"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), filed a petition for approval of an increase in its current base rates for service of approximately \$222.60 million, excluding Sales and Use Tax ("SUT") to be effective for service provided on and after March 1, 2024 ("Petition").

According to the Petition, the Company's current base rates and charges for natural gas service are not sufficient at their current level and, if left unchanged, the current base rates will impair NJNG's ability to meet operating and maintenance expenses, taxes, and fixed charges, and its ability to earn a reasonable rate of return on the fair value of the Company's property.

By Order dated February 21, 2024, the Board suspended the proposed rates until July 1, 2024. This matter was subsequently transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for hearings as a contested case.

On May 15, 2024, NJNG updated the Petition to include nine (9) months of actual information and three (3) of estimated information ("9+3 Update"). Based upon the 9+3 Update, the proposed revenue requirement was modified to an increase of \$219.58 million.

Board Staff recommended that the Board issue an order further suspending the proposed rate increase until November 1, 2024.

III. CABLE TELEVISIONS

A. Docket No. CE20120757 In the Matter of the Application of CSC TKR, LLC for Renewal of a Certificate of Approval to Continue to Operate and Maintain a Cable System in the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey.

BACKGROUND: On July 10, 2019, Service Electric Cable TV of New Jersey, Inc. ("SECTV") filed an application with the Town of Newton ("Town") for renewal of municipal consent. The Town adopted an ordinance granting renewal municipal consent to SECTV on March 9, 2020. On March 13, 2020, SECTV formally accepted the terms and conditions of the ordinance. SECTV filed with the Board for a renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Town in Docket No. CE20090614 on May 11, 2020. The Board approved the transfer of the Certificate from the SECTV to CSC TKR, LLC ("Cablevision"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Altice USA, Inc., on July 2, 2020 in Docket No. CM20030211. Cablevision formally accepted the terms and conditions of the ordinance on November 5, 2020. On December 21, 2020, Cablevision filed with the Board

for a renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Town. On March 15, 2023, Cablevision notified the Board with a formal request to withdraw the petition filed by SECTV in Docket No. CE20090614.

After review, Staff recommended approval of the proposed Renewal Certificate of Approval.

This Certificate shall expire on April 19, 2030.

B. Docket No. CE22080545 – In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of South Jersey, LLC, for a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Continue to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable Television System in and for the City of Vineland, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey.

BACKGROUND: On August 31, 2022, Comcast of South Jersey, LLC (“Comcast”) filed a petition for an Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval for the City of Vineland (“City”), for a term to expire on September 10, 2032. The petition is based on the City’s ordinance granting renewal municipal consent, which was adopted on December 1, 2008, and subsequently amended on October 25, 2017. The City’s ordinance granted a term of fifteen (15) years with an automatic renewal term of ten (10) years. The initial term expired on September 10, 2022.

Board Staff recommended approval of the proposed Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval. This Certificate shall expire on September 10, 2032.

C. Docket No. CE23010047 – In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of Monmouth County, LLC for a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Continue to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable Television System in and for the Borough of Shrewsbury, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey.

BACKGROUND: On February 3, 2020, Comcast of Monmouth County, LLC (“Comcast”) filed an application with the Borough of Shrewsbury (“Borough”) for renewal of municipal consent. The Borough adopted an ordinance granting renewal municipal consent to Comcast on August 15, 2022. On September 8, 2022, Comcast formally accepted the terms and conditions of the ordinance. Comcast filed with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) for a renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Borough on January 24, 2023.

After review, Board Staff (“Staff”) recommended approval of the proposed Renewal Certificate of Approval. This Certificate shall expire on November 3, 2030.

D. Docket No. CE22120736 – In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of South Jersey, LLC for a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Continue to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable Television System in and for the Township of Maurice River, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey.

BACKGROUND: On December 14, 2022, Comcast of South Jersey, LLC (“Comcast”) filed a petition for an Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval for the Township of Maurice River (“Township”), for a term to expire on October 1, 2032. The petition is based on the Township’s ordinance granting renewal municipal consent, which was adopted on July 17, 2008. The

Township's ordinance granted a term of fifteen (15) years with an automatic renewal term of ten (10) years. The initial term expired on October 1, 2022.

Staff recommended approval of the proposed Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval.

This Certificate shall expire on October 1, 2032.

IV. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

There were no items in this category.

V. WATER

- A. Docket No. WC22120730; OAL Docket No. PUC 00701-23 - Brenda Castrodad, Robert Harris, Robin Janell, Linda Pack, Lois Silverman, and All Similarly Situated, Petitioners v. Veolia Water New Jersey, Woodmont Properties, Toll NJ I, LLC, and Toll Brothers, Inc., Respondents.**

BACKGROUND: On March 5, 2024, Administrative Law Judge Gail Cookson issued an Initial Decision in this matter, rendering a 45-day statutory period for the Board to issue a Final Decision and thereby setting an April 19, 2024 deadline for the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") to take action on this matter.

Board Staff ("Staff") requested a 45-day extension of time to adequately review the record in this matter, which the Board granted via Order dated April 17, 2024, thereby rendering a deadline for the Board to issue a Final Decision in this matter of June 3, 2024. On May 22, 2024, the Board issued an Order further extending the deadline to issue a Final Decision an additional 45 days to July 18, 2024.

Having received the consent of all parties, Staff requested that the Board grant an additional 45-day extension of time to adequately review the record in this matter, thereby rendering the date for the Board to issue a Final Decision in this matter on September 3, 2024.

VI. RELIABILITY AND SECURITY

- A. Docket Nos. CS24040248K, CS24040249K, CS24040250K, CS24040251K, CS24040252K, CS24040253K, CS24040254K, CS24040255K, CS24040256K, CS24040257K, CS24040258K, CS24040259K, CS24040260K, CS24040261K, CS24040262K, CS24040263K, CS24040264K, CS24040265K, CS24040266K, CS24040267K, CS24040268K, CS24040269K, CS24040270K, CS24040271K, CS24040272K, CS24040273K, CS24040274K, CS24040275K, CS24040276K, CS24040277K, CS24040278K, and CS24040279K et al. – In the Matter of Alleged Violations of the Underground Facility Protection Act N.J.S.A. 48:2-73 et seq.**

BACKGROUND: This matter involved settlements of alleged violations of the Underground Facility Protection Act ("Act") by multiple underground facility operators and excavator. This

matter did not contain settlements involving catastrophic situations, death, or major property damage. The categories of infraction include not having a proper mark out request at the time of excavation, failure to hand dig and locate, failure to use reasonable care and failure to properly mark. There were 32 settlements which total \$83,500.

Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") ("Staff") recommended that the Board approve the settlements provided in Appendix A of the Board's Order.

VII. CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

There were no items in this category.

VIII. CLEAN ENERGY

There were no items in this category.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

There were no items in this category.

After appropriate motion, consent agenda items IA, IIA, IIIA, IIIB, IIIC, IIID, VA, VIA

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

Decision: The Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

AGENDA

1. AUDITS

A. Docket No. AA24060398 – In the Matter of Bid Solicitation No. 23DPP00886 for a State Term Contract for Management and Financial Consulting - Contracted Management/Financial Auditing Firms, BPU, through the Department of Treasury – Executive Session.

Alice Bator, Division of Audits, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter involves the State term contract for management and financial consulting. Pursuant to discussions in the executive session, Staff recommends that the Board acknowledge and accept the recommendations set forth in the evaluation committee report.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

B. Docket No. EO22070436 – In the Matter of the Department of Community Affairs' State Fiscal Year 2023 Universal Service Fund Administrative Cost Budget.

Alice Bator, Division of Audits, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On August 17 2022, the Board approved a budget authorization of \$9,875,034 for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to administer the Universal Service Fund ("USF") program for Fiscal Year 2023.

On April 19, 2024, the Department of Community Affairs submitted a detailed Administrative Report for Fiscal Year 2023, which listed actual administrative expenditures of \$8,558,040, approximately \$1.3 million less than the approved budget.

Based on documentation from the State's audited Comprehensive Financial System received from the Department of Community Affairs and Treasury, Treasury represented that the total DCA, Department of Community Affairs, expenditures to be reimbursed is \$8,268,893.

The Department of Community Affairs and Treasury represent that cancelled encumbrances from prior fiscal year periods occurred, and thus the \$8,558,040 amount was adjusted by \$289,147.

Staff reviewed the Department of Community Affairs' and Treasury's account of the basis for the fiscal year 23 administrative expenses and the adjustments and concluded that it is reasonable and necessary to reimburse Treasury in the amount of \$8,268,893.

Accordingly, Staff recommends that the Board find that the Department of Community Affairs has adequately justified its fiscal year 23 USF administrative expenditures and authorize reimbursement to Treasury for the Department of Community Affairs' fiscal year 23 USF administrative cost budget and actual adjustments in the amount of \$8,268,893.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

2. ENERGY

A. Docket Nos. BPU GR23060334 and OAL PUC 10723-2023S – In the Matter of the Petition of South Jersey Gas Company to Revise the Level of its Basic Gas Supply Service (“BGSS”) Charge and Conservation Incentive Program (“CIP”) Charge for the Year Ending September 30, 2024.

Stacy Peterson, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On June 1, 2023, South Jersey Gas Company filed a petition seeking approval to decrease the level of its periodic BGSS charge, decrease the level of its Balancing Service Clauses, and revise the level of its Conservation Incentive Program rates for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

By order dated September 18, 2023, the Board authorized South Jersey to implement its proposed rates effective for service on and after October 1st on a provisional basis.

The parties have now executed a stipulation for final rates, which was approved by an Initial Decision recommending the Board finalize the rates approved by the September 2023 order. As a result of the stipulation, customers would see no further changes to their monthly bills.

Staff recommends that the Board issue an order adopting the Initial Decision and Stipulation and directing South Jersey to file revised tariffs by July 15th.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

B. Docket No. EO24010054 – In the Matter of the Petition of Jersey Central Power and Light Company for Approval of a Zero Emission Certificate Recovery Charge.

Stacy Peterson, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On January 17, 2024, JCP&L filed a petition seeking to reconcile the excess ZEC collections from Energy Year 2022 and reset its ZEC Reconciliation Charge rate to zero.

The Company also requested that if future adjustments are required, rate changes be handled via compliance filing, as the credit will fluctuate between energy years.

On April 19th Rate Counsel filed comments on the petition. On May 22nd JCP&L filed a revised petition correcting the energy year to 2023 and withdrawing its request that future filings be handled via a compliance filing.

The bill impact of the Company's requests will result in a monthly increase of \$0.07 for a typical residential customer.

Staff recommends that the Board approve a ZEC Reconciliation Charge rate of zero for service rendered on and after July 15th.

Staff notes that several of the EDCs have made requests to modify the handling of these annual filings.

Staff recommends that Board direct JCP&L to work with the other EDCs, Staff, and Rate Counsel prior to the next filing to attempt to find a resolution.

Finally, Staff recommends that the Board direct JCP&L file revised tariffs prior to July 15th.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

C. Docket No. GR23070448 – In the Matter of the Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company for Approval of Incremental COVID-19 Costs for Recovery Through a New Special-Purpose Clause, and for Authorization to Recover Uncollectible Costs for Gas Through the Societal Benefits Charge.

Stacy Peterson, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On July 17th 2023 PSE&G filed a petition seeking review of, and approval to recover, costs incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic through a special-purpose clause and its Societal Benefits Charge.

Following a review of the petition, conducting discovery, and discussions, the parties have executed a stipulation, whereby the parties have agreed that PSE&G should be allowed to recover approximately \$197.5 million over a five-year period beginning June of 2025 through a separate clause.

Additionally, PSE&G would be allowed to recover the \$77.9 million in electric SBC deferrals over a five-year period beginning when the Company's next SBC matter is concluded.

There is no immediate rate impact as a result of the stipulation and the rates will not go into effect until June of 2025.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the Stipulation for rates effective June 1st of 2025 and direct PSE&G to file revised tariffs consistent with the Stipulation by April 1, 2025.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

D. Docket Nos. ER23070423 and GR23070424 – In the Matter of the Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company for Approval of Changes in its Electric Green Programs Recovery Charge and its Gas Green Programs Recovery Charge (“2023 PSE&G Green Programs Cost Recovery Filing”).

Stacy Peterson, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On July 1st of 2023, PSE&G filed a petition seeking approval to modify its electric and gas Green Programs Recovery Charge rates and associated tariffs. PSE&G subsequently updated the petition throughout the course of the proceeding.

Following a review of the petition, the updates and conducting discovery, the parties executed a stipulation recommending revising the GPRC rates based upon the February 2024 update.

As a result of the Stipulation, a typical residential electric customer would see a monthly increase of \$0.78. A typical residential gas heating customer would experience a monthly increase of \$0.51.

Staff recommends that the Board issue an Order approving the Stipulation and directing PSE&G to file revised tariffs by July 1st.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

E. Docket No. ER23030124 – In the Matter of the Provision of Basic Generation Service (“BGS”) for the Period Beginning June 1, 2024 – Bates White’s Final Report on the 2024 BGS Residential Small Commercial Pricing (“RSCP”) and Commercial Industrial Price (“CIEP”) Auctions.

Stacy Peterson, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: In accordance with the contract between Bates White and the Board, Bates White submitted a final public and redacted report regarding its review and oversight of the BGS auction process for the supply period beginning June 1st of 2024. Staff has reviewed the report and found it to be complete.

Staff recommends that the final report be accepted for filing by the Board, and that the redacted version be made available to the public via the Board's website.

Staff also recommends that the Board direct the Division of Treasury to provide final payment to Bates White for its work on the Auction as all contract obligations have been fulfilled.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

F. Docket No. ER22040245 – In the Matter of Rockland Electric Company’s Annual Societal Benefits Charge Filing Reconciling Costs for 12 Months Ending July 31, 2022 and Estimating Costs for 12 Months Ending July 31, 2023; and

Docket No. ER23030200 – In the Matter of Rockland Electric Company’s Annual Societal Benefits Charge Filing Reconciling Costs for 12 Months Ending July 31, 2023 and Estimating Costs for 12 Months Ending July 31, 2024.

Stacy Peterson, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On April 1st of 2022 Rockland Electric filed a petition requesting approval to reconcile costs and revenues for several components of its Societal Benefits Charge and to update the associated SBC rates for the 12 months ending July 31st of 2022.

On March 31st of 2023, Rockland filed a separate petition requesting approval to reconcile the costs and revenues for its SBC and update the rates for the 12 months ending July 31st of 2023.

Following a review of the petitions, conducting discovery, and discussions, the parties have executed a stipulation resolving both matters.

Based upon the Stipulation, a typical residential customer will experience a monthly increase of \$0.17.

Staff recommends that the Board issue an order approving the Stipulation and directing Rockland to file revised tariffs prior to July 1st.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

G. Docket No. ER23020059 – In the Matter of Rockland Electric Company's Annual RGGI Surcharge Filing Reconciling Costs for Calendar Year 2022 and Estimating Costs for Calendar Year 2023.

Stacy Peterson, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On February 1st of 2023 Rockland Electric filed a petition requesting review of, and approval to, reconcile costs and revenues associated with the Company's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Surcharge and to update the RGGI Surcharge component rates, which the company subsequently updated throughout the course of the proceeding.

Following a review, the parties executed a stipulation resolving the matter. Based upon the Stipulation, a typical residential customer will see an increase in their average monthly bill of \$0.72.

Staff recommends that the Board issue an Order approving the Stipulation and directing Rockland to file revised tariffs prior to June 30th.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

H. Docket No. ET24020108 – In the Matter of the Petition of Atlantic City Electric Company for the Approval of Certain Tariff Amendments Necessary to Implement P.L. 2023, c. 156.

Dean Taklif, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On September 12, 2023, Acting Governor Tahesha Way signed Public Law 2023, Chapter 156, which requires the State's public utilities to authorize the installation and operation of meter collar adapters, subject to certain conditions and other related criteria.

The legislation further directed the State's electric public utilities to modify their electric service requirements as necessary to implement these provisions.

In February 2024, Atlantic City Electric, Public Service Electric & Gas, Rockland Electric, and Jersey Central Power & Light filed petitions seeking approval of proposed tariff revisions necessary to implement the provisions of the new law.

On March 20, 2024, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel filed comments objecting to portions of each company's proposed tariff revisions.

In April of 2024 the companies submitted reply comments addressing Rate Counsel's comments and proposing additional revisions to address certain issues.

Staff reviewed the filings and comments and believes that a number of changes should be incorporated. Specifically, Staff believes that language should be added to ensure that costs associated with meter collar installations were the responsibility of the customer making the request, not all ratepayers.

Other changes included clarifying the process for meter removal and determining who is authorized to remove the meter. Staff will now provide recommendations for each petition for the Board's consideration.

Staff recommends that the Board issue an order directing Atlantic City Electric to incorporate an additional revision stating that customers will be directly responsible for any and all costs associated with meter collars and approving the other proposed revisions in Atlantic City Electric's tariff.

Staff further recommends that the Board direct Atlantic City Electric to file revised tariffs no later than 10 days after the effective date of the order.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

I. Docket No. ET24020112 – In the Matter of Rockland Electric Company (“RECO”) Tariff Revision 2nd Revised Leaf No. 9 to its Schedule for Electric Service B.P.U. No. 3 – Electricity (the “Electric Tariff”) Effective March 16, 2024 Allowing the Installation and Operation of Meter Collar Adapters.

Dean Taklif, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: Staff recommends that the Board issue an order directing Rockland Electric to incorporate two additional revisions:

One, a statement that customers will be directly responsible for any and all costs associated with meter collars, and;

Two, language stating that the work will be performed by a duly qualified and licensed electrician or electrical contractor.

Staff recommends the Board approve the other proposed revisions to Rockland's tariff.

Finally, staff recommends that the Board direct Rockland to file revised tariffs no later than 10 days after the effective date of the order.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

J. Docket No. ET24020113 – In the Matter of Public Service Electric and Gas Company’s Request for Tariff Changes to its Tariff for Electric Service B.P.U.N.J. No. 16 Which Do Not Propose an Increase in Charges to Customers Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11.

Dean Taklif, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: Staff recommends that the Board issue an order approving the revisions to PSE&G's tariff and that the company file revised tariffs with the Board no later than 10 days after the effective date of the order.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

K. Docket No. ET24020114 – In the Matter of the Petition of Jersey Central Power & Light Company for the Approval of Certain Tariff Amendments Necessary to Implement P.L. 2023, c. 156.

Dean Taklif, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: Staff recommends that the Board issue an order directing JCP&L to incorporate an additional revision stating that customers will be directly responsible for any and all costs associated with meter collars and approving the other revisions to JCP&L's tariff.

Staff further recommends that the Board direct JCP&L to file revised tariffs no later than ten days after the effective date of the order.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

3. CABLE TELEVISION

There were no items in this category.

4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A. Docket No. TO23030128 – In the Matter of the Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the Provision of Telecommunications Relay Service – Executive Session.

Lawanda Gilbert, Division of Telecommunications, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter is regarding the provision of Telecommunications Relay Services, known as "TRS," which provides the ability for deaf and hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired persons to place telephone calls to persons who are not impaired.

Board Staff seeks approval for the release of a Request for Quotations, or "RFQ," to solicit proposals from qualified vendors for the provision of TRS in New Jersey.

TRS functions as a point of translation between hearing and/or speech impaired individuals who use a teletype, or "TTY," device or a computer to communicate with non-impaired telephone users.

This RFQ will request bids to provide traditional TRS service, relay conference captioning, or RCC, and speech-to-speech services, or STS.

Following the receipt of those bids, we will then come back to the Board to request approval of the recommended vendor to ensure the approval of a new contract for TRS services in New Jersey is implemented prior to the expiration of the current TRS contract on September 30, 2024.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

5. WATER

A. Docket No. WE24030186 – In the Matter of the Petition of Veolia Water New Jersey Inc. for Approval of an Affiliate Contract for Waste Disposal Services in New Jersey.

Dean Taklif, Division of Water, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On March 19, 2024, Veolia Water New Jersey filed a petition seeking approval of an affiliate agreement with Veolia ES Technical Service -- Technical Solutions, LLC, to perform waste disposal services for Veolia's Wyandotte Water Treatment Plant and other smaller locations in New Jersey.

These services are for the disposal of spent treatment media containing polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS, generated in the water treatment process.

Veolia noted in its petition that it must engage an appropriate waste hauler to facilitate and maintain compliance with evolving State and Federal disposal regulations pertaining to PFAS.

Veolia sent requests for bid to a number of contractors, including ESS. All bidders were afforded identical access to pre-bid materials and all other relevant information. ESS was the lowest bidder for the testing and characterization, removal, handling, transport, and incineration of spent treatment media containing PFAS.

On April 16, 2024, Rate Counsel filed comments stating it did not object to the approval of the affiliate agreement, subject to certain conditions.

Staff recommends that the Board issue an order approving the Affiliate Agreement.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

B. Docket Nos. BPU WR23110853 and OAL PUC 01015-24 – In the Matter of the Petition of Gordon’s Corner Water Company for an Increase in Rates and Charges for Water Service.

Stacy Peterson, Division of Water, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On November 17th of 2023, Gordon's Corner Water Company filed a petition seeking approval of an increase in its base rates of approximately \$2.141 million.

Through the course of the proceeding, the Company updated the information to include 12 months of actual information, resulting in an updated proposed revenue requirement of approximately \$1.194 million.

Following settlement discussions, the parties executed a stipulation resolving the matter, which was subsequently approved by ALJ Gertsman. As part of the stipulation, the agreed-upon revenue requirement increase is approximately \$940,000.

As a result of the Stipulation, the monthly bill for a typical customer with a 5/8" meter will increase by \$4.67.

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the Initial Decision and Stipulation for rates effective July 1st.

Staff further recommends that the Board direct Gordon's Corner to file revised tariffs prior to July 1st.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

6. RELIABILITY AND SECURITY

There were no items in this category.

7. CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

A. Docket No. EO24060408 - In the Matter of the 2024 Memorandum of Understanding Between the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Concerning Administration of the Universal Service Fund Program – Executive Session.

Nick Gorglione, Division of Customer Assistance, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This item pertains to a Memorandum of Understanding between the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs regarding DCA's ongoing administration of the Board's Universal Service Fund program.

DCA has administered the USF program since 2006, and this MOU formalizes updates to the two agencies' ongoing partnership to ensure low-income households have access to affordable energy.

Key provisions of the MOU include updated eligibility criteria, administrative responsibilities, and modified performance and financial reporting.

The MOU also details collaborative efforts for outreach and program promotion statewide. With a term of five years, extendable by mutual agreement, the MOU underscores confidentiality, compliance, and periodic review mechanisms to optimize program effectiveness and fiscal prudence.

Staff has discussed the MOU at length with Staff of the DCA and reached consensus on its contents.

Therefore, Staff recommends the Board approve the 2024 MOU and authorize President Guhl-Sadovy to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

8. CLEAN ENERGY

A. Docket No. QO23060336 - In the Matter of the Contract between Rutgers University, Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences (DMCS) and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU), Division of Clean Energy – Executive Session.

Bailey Wild, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: For more than a decade, through support from the Board, the Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University ("DMCS") has been conducting atmospheric research to evaluate offshore wind resources.

DMCS, through the Rutgers University Center for Ocean Observing Leadership ("RUCOOL") has developed and advanced models capable of estimating and forecasting wind speeds and

other key parameters in the waters off New Jersey's coastline. RUCOOL has also engaged stakeholders in critical issues related to offshore wind development.

The proposed contract between NJBPU and the Rutgers University DMCS is for the period from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The proposed contract would provide funding for staffing, expertise, and resources necessary to carry RUCOOL's previous efforts forward.

As discussed in executive session, Staff recommends that the Board approve the fiscal year 2025 contract between Rutgers University DMCS and NJBPU.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

B. Docket No. QO24020125 - In the Matter of Mini-Bid Request for Quotation for Contractor Support on Federal Clean Energy Grant Applications – Executive Session.

Henry Gajda, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: Since 2020, hundreds of billions of dollars of federal grant funding has become available due to the Inflation Reduction Act, CHIPS and Science Act, and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The IRA alone features \$369 billion in energy security and climate change programs.

It is in the best interest of the residents of the State to secure as much federal funding as possible for climate and clean energy initiatives.

Staff recommends the Board approve the award of a contract to McKinsey & Company for federal clean energy grant support.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

C. Docket No. QO24010069 – In the Matter of the Request for Quotation for Consulting Services for New Jersey Solar for All Program – Executive Session.

Samantha Tse, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter concerns the release of a Request for Quotation for services relating to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Solar for All competitive funding opportunity.

Specifically, Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities seeks approval to hire a contractor using federal grant money to assist with the program design and administration of the New Jersey Solar for All program.

Staff anticipates entering a three-year contract for the combined scope of program design and administration of new competitive solicitations. The Contract will involve a robust stakeholder process to yield a fully-developed program that will disburse New Jersey's award within the 5-year federal funding period.

Staff recommends the Board approve the release of the RFQ to hire a contractor to assist Staff with the New Jersey Solar For All program design and administration, as discussed in executive session.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

D. Docket No. QO24050311 – In the Matter of a Memorandum of Agreement Between the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the Resilient Local Energy Coalition for the USEPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant Authorized Under Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act – Executive Session.

Samantha Tse, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter concerns the Board of Public Utilities entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority leading the Resilient Local Energy System Coalition.

The Coalition is composed of state government entities representing fifteen states that jointly applied for \$500 million under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

The MOA sets forth the roles and responsibilities of each Coalition member, including the requirements each Coalition member must comply with in order to receive its allocation of the USEPA award. These funds will be used to support the on-site deployment of solar plus storage and/or similar zero-emitting technologies plus storage serving public buildings located in communities to reduce emissions and make public buildings more resilient.

Board Staff recommends that the Board approve the MOA with the Coalition under the joint CPRG Implementation Phase application.

Staff also recommends the Board to authorize President Christine Guhl-Sadovy to sign the MOA on behalf of the Board.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

E. Docket No. QO23070426 - In the Matter of the Request for Quotation for the 2024 Energy Master Plan – Executive Session.

Henry Gajda, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter involves a contract scope-of-work change related to the 2024 Energy Master Plan.

Staff is seeking the approval to include three new components to E3's current scope of work, specifically to prepare state comprehensive Climate Action Plan, which is a qualifier for federal US EPA, climate, and clean energy programs to include model and service to calculate the required amount of long-duration energy storage and increments of clean capacity, if needed, in the 2024 EMP and to include a comprehensive evaluation of data center growth, which has recently quickly emerged as a policy priority area.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the contract scope-of-work change for the E3 contract subject to treasury approval.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

F. Docket No. QO24040223 – In the Matter of the Comprehensive Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Resource Analysis for Fiscal Year 2025 Clean Energy Program.

Matthew Rossi, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: In the matter of the Comprehensive Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Resource Analysis for Fiscal Year 2025 Clean Energy Program, Staff is pleased to present recommendations on funding levels.

As the Commissioners are aware, the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act required the Board to initially undertake a comprehensive resource analysis, or CRA, every four years. Since 2012 this has been done on an annual basis and for FY25 Staff has drafted another one-year CRA.

The CRA Straw Proposal includes the level of funding estimated to meet the needs of the New Jersey Clean Energy Program. For FY25, Staff is recommending that the Board set an SBC funding level of \$344,665,000, which is the same funding level approved by the Board since FY15.

On May 13, 2024, via the BPU listserv and New Jersey Clean Energy website, the Board provided notice of a May 31, 2024, virtual public hearing. The Request for Comments stated that the draft FY25 CRA Straw Proposal would be released during the week of May 20, 2024.

On May 24, 2024, Staff released the CRA Straw Proposal and other FY25 program and budget documents. A virtual public hearing regarding the CRA, along with those programs and budgets and compliance filings, was held via webinar on May 31st and comments were accepted through June 12th. The CRA straw proposal recommends that \$344,665,000 in new SBC funding be approved for FY25.

Staff is recommending that this be allocated across the Energy Efficiency programs, the Distributed Energy Resource programs, the Renewable Energy programs, EDA programs, Planning and Administration, BPU Initiatives, and State Energy Initiatives.

When combined with the new funding and other sources of funds, which include prior estimated commitments carried over from FY24, the total new proposed FY25 funding level is \$786,161,592.

Staff estimates that the proposed FY25 funding level will be sufficient to maintain a full portfolio of programs. Staff has also determined that, by maintaining the FY24 SBC funding level in FY25, that there will be no incremental impact on rates. The CRA Straw Proposal sets out in detail the rationale utilized by Staff in developing the FY25 funding level.

Having reviewed and considered the comments regarding the proposed FY25 funding level, Staff recommends that the Board set, adopt, and approve the proposed FY25 funding level and proposed FY25 utility payments.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

G. Docket No. QO24040224 – In the Matter of the Clean Energy Programs and Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025.

Matthew Rossi, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This item addresses the Clean Energy Programs and Budgets Planned for FY25.

The NJCEP promotes increased energy efficiency and the use of clean, renewable sources of energy. The results for New Jersey are a stronger economy, less pollution, lower costs, and reduced demand for electricity.

Staff is guided in the development of this budget and programs to meet the objectives set forth in various clean energy initiatives including the Clean Energy Act, which places considerable emphasis on the important role of energy efficiency in addition to requiring the transition of the solar program as well as setting energy storage and benchmarking goals, the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act, and New Jersey Electric Vehicle Act, among other pieces of legislation.

Staff is further led by the strategies detailed in the Energy Master Plan, or EMP, which set forth a roadmap for meeting 100% clean energy by 2050 goals. Staff's efforts are highly focused on equity and ensuring the benefits of clean energy and the clean energy economy are enjoyed by all residents.

The NJCEP Budget is developed to achieve these clean energy goals and designed with Staff and our program administrator's involvement before being issued for public comment. Notice was distributed to the BPU listserv about the posting to the NJCEP website of the following proposed FY25 documents: The Division of Clean Energy Compliance Filing, TRC Program Descriptions and Budgets, the Charge Up NJ Compliance Filing, the Comfort Partners Compliance Filing, the Division of Property Management and Construction Designated Project List, the Proposed FY25 Budget, and the CRA Straw Proposal. The distributions and postings requested comments on these documents, with a due date of June 12, 2024.

On May 31, 2024, Staff hosted a webinar and presented an overview of proposed new NJCEP initiatives, along with program changes for FY25 and accepted public comment at that meeting.

In addition, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection confirmed that the Board had consulted with the NJDEP regarding the CRA Straw Proposal and the FY24 funding level and that the NJDEP agreed with the proposed FY25 funding level. The budget is consistent with the funding levels approved in the CRA order.

Based on the goals set forth in the CRA Straw Proposal, the policy objectives of the NJCEP, and historic spend rates, Staff, in close coordination with the TRC Team, developed proposed programs and budgets. The total budget for the NJCEP includes both new funding and estimated prior commitments which are carried over from FY24.

The following summarizes some key programs and funding levels:

The FY25 budget allocates more than \$55 million in new funding to Energy Efficiency Programs, including, but not limited to, \$14.1 million for Commercial and Industrial Buildings, \$5.1 million for Local Government Energy Audits, \$35.8 million for New Construction Programs.

Additionally, over \$44 million in new funding has been provided for Distributed Energy Resources, including \$14.5 million in Combined Heat and Power – Fuel Cells and \$29.5 million for Energy Storage.

The Budget includes over \$5.1 million in new funding for Renewable Energy Programs, including \$1 million for Offshore Wind and \$4.1 million for Solar Registration.

The FY25 budget also covers the cost for administration, including Staff's salaries and our partnerships with Sustainable Jersey and NJIT.

Also, over 22,000 in new funding has been budgeted for Program Evaluation/Analysis to continue the efforts on several critical studies approved by the Board as well as to engage in several new studies to track and report progress in meeting the EMP goals and ensure increased oversight of programs.

Additionally, several key BPU Initiatives will receive new funding including \$16.6 million for low-income residents via Comfort Partners. The new Federal Grid Modernization Program State Match will receive \$25 million to aid in updating the grid to support more modern uses and spur clean energy investments.

Lastly, the FY25 budget allocates \$82.5 million in new funding for EV incentives. Specifically, \$30 million will continue to annually support the Plug In EV Incentive Fund, \$3.5 million for Charge Up New Jersey, \$1 million for EV Studies, Pilots, and Administrative Support, \$10 million for Clean Fleet, \$9 million for chargers at Multi-Unit Dwellings, \$3 million for EV Tourism, \$3 million for the E-Mobility Pilot Programs, and \$15 million for the Electric School Buses Program.

Additionally, 2 new programs will receive \$8 million in new funding. The School Bus V2G Pilot will receive \$2 million to further support the electrification of school buses, and the Medium Heavy Duty Depot will receive \$6 million to create a demonstration pilot for medium- and heavy-duty depots encouraging non-wire solutions and storage.

Staff has reviewed and considered the comments received and recommends that the Board approve the processes utilized in developing the detailed FY25 program budgets contained in the order as well as the FY25 program budget and compliance filings.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

**H. Docket No. QO24050285 – In the Matter of the Clean Energy Program
Authorization of Commercial and Industrial Energy Efficiency Incentives
Exceeding \$500,000 – Princeton University.**

Dustin Wang, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: Princeton University submitted an application under the Large Energy Users Program requesting board approval of a financial incentive of \$847,942.26 for energy conservation measures at several of its facilities in Princeton, New Jersey. This proposed project has an anticipated total cost of \$3,212,991.40.

If approved, this application would cover the following measures across multiple facilities on campus:

Variable speed drives, kitchen ventilation controls, occupancy sensors, a REALice water treatment system, LED lighting, an air recirculation system conversion, and the integration of a dehumidification system within the campus' central building automation system.

Annually, this project would conserve 1,681,600 kilowatt-hours of electricity, 80,343 therms of natural gas, and 272.25 kilowatts of peak demand. The proposed project has an estimated annual energy cost savings of \$169,923.98 and estimated annual operational and maintenance savings of \$109,185.83.

Staff recommends approval of the application for the total estimated incentive amount.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

**I. Docket No. QO24050310 – In the Matter of the Clean Energy Program
Authorization of Commercial and Industrial Energy Efficiency Incentives
Exceeding \$500,000 – Equinix, Inc.**

Dustin Wang, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: Equinix, Inc., submitted an application under the Combined Heat and Power and Fuel Cell Program requesting Board approval of a financial incentive of \$1,000,000 for the
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installation of a fuel cell system at its data center in Carteret, New Jersey. This proposed project has an estimated total cost of \$39,991,467.

If approved, this application would cover the installation of 19 modular fuel cell units with a total capacity of 5,950 kilowatts from Bloom Energy.

This project is expected to have a system efficiency of 53.3% and is designed with a grid-independent operating mode. Annually, this project is anticipated to produce 49,515,900 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Staff recommends approval of the application for the total estimated incentive amount.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

J. Docket No. QO21081095 – In the Matter of the Solar Transition Pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 17 – Application for Certification of Solar Facility as Eligible for TRECS Pursuant to Subsection (t) of the Solar Act of 2012 – Reeder Property Solar Farm, LLC, Block 7, Lot 11.

Diane Watson, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This item relates to a Subsection (t) application from CEP Renewables to have its Reeder Property Solar Farm, LLC project certified as being located on a "brownfield" pursuant to Subsection (t) of the Solar Act of 2012.

The Applicant's proposed 15.2832 MWdc project is to be located on 33.18 acres on Reeder Road in Harmony Township, Warren County, New Jersey.

Staff reviewed the application and supplied a copy to NJDEP for their review. NJDEP determined that the proposed project is located on land that had been actively devoted to agricultural or horticultural use and that had been valued, assessed, and taxed pursuant to the Farmland Assessment Act of 1964 within the ten-year period prior to July 24, 2012.

As such, NJDEP advised that the proposed site does not constitute a brownfield and is not eligible for incentives through the Transition Incentive Program pursuant to Subsection (t).

The Division of Law also obtained applications for farmland assessment for the property as well as tax records from Warren County for Block 7, Lot 11 that confirm the property's farmland tax assessment.

Based on the information provided in the application, NJDEP's determination that the proposed solar array is located on property that has been assessed and taxed as qualified farmland during the ten-year period preceding July 23, 2012, and tax records obtained by the Division of Law, Staff recommends that the Board deny conditional certification for the applicant's 15.2832 MWdc Reeder Property Solar Farm, LLC, project as not being eligible for participation in the Subsection (t) program consistent with the Solar Act of 2012.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

K. Docket No. QO21081098 – In the Matter of the New Jersey Solar Transition Pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 17 – Application for Certification of Solar Facility as Eligible for TRECS Pursuant to Subsection (t) of the Solar Act of 2012 – Kober Solar Auto Parts Inc.

Diane Watson, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This item relates to a Subsection (t) application also from CEP Renewables to have its Kober Solar Farm, LLC, project certified as being located on a "brownfield" pursuant to Subsection (t) of the Solar Act of 2012.

The Applicant's proposed 24.998 MWdc project is to be located on 93 acres identified as Block 9, Lots 11 and 11.01 on the tax maps of Franklin Township, Warren County, New Jersey.

Staff reviewed the application and supplied a copy to NJDEP for their review. NJDEP issued an advisory memorandum advising that the proposed project is located on land that had been actively devoted to agricultural or horticultural use and that had been valued, assessed, and taxed pursuant to the Farmland Assessment Act of 1964 within the ten-year period prior to July 24, 2012.

As such, NJDEP advised that the proposed site does not constitute a brownfield and is not eligible for incentives through the Transition Incentive Program pursuant to Subsection (t).

The Division of Law obtained property tax records in Franklin Township for Block 9, Lots 11 and 11.01 that confirm the property's farmland tax assessment within the ten-year period prior to July 24, 2012, and up until 2021.

Based on the information provided in the application and the records obtained by the Division of Law, as well as NJDEP's determination that the proposed solar array is located on property that has been assessed and taxed as qualified farmland during the ten-year period preceding July 23, 2012, Staff recommends that the Board deny conditional certification for the applicant's

24.998 MWdc Kober Solar Farm, LLC, project as not being eligible for participation in the Subsection (t) program consistent with the Solar Act of 2012.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

L. Docket No. QW23080568 – In the Matter of Successor Solar Incentive Program Pursuant to P.L. 2021, c. 169 Request for Determination of Eligibility in the Administratively Determined Incentive Program – Manan Shah Mass Associate and Consulting UREnergy; and

**Docket No. QO22080541 – In the Matter of Dakesh Patel Request for Inclusion into the Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC) Program
NJSRRE1544621473.**

Adam Coleman, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter pertains to two petitions, one seeking entrance to the Board's legacy Solar Renewable Energy Certificate Registration Program, or SRP, and one to its closed Transition Incentive Program, or TI Program, respectively.

In 2022, Dakshesh Patel petitioned for a 4.8 kW solar project to be registered in the SRP. The Board has previously addressed his petition in an October 2022 order, allowing the project admittance to the Administratively Determined Incentive Program, or ADI Program. However, that order did not address his request for entrance into the SRP. In 2023, Manan Shah petitioned for a project of undisclosed capacity to be registered in the TI Program.

Both petitions requested entrance into closed programs. Both petitions also run afoul of the ADI Program rules stating that projects must register in ADI Program prior to receiving Permission To Operate, or PTO.

However, the Board has already waived that requirement for Mr. Patel and has previously allowed projects that received PTO prior to registration to register in the ADI Program.

Staff recommends both projects be denied entry into their respective legacy programs, but be encouraged to register for the ADI Program and granted a waiver of N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.4(b), which requires registration prior to PTO, and N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.6(a), which indicates that incentive qualification life begins upon receipt of PTO.

Staff also recommends that the Board order that the qualification life for these projects commence instead on August 28, 2021, the date on which the ADI registration portal opened to the public.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

M. Docket No. QO24060418 - In the Matter of Memorandum of Understanding of Northeast States on Offshore Wind Transmission Collaboration – Executive Session.

Ryann Reagan, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On June 16, 2023, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, along with eight other states, sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Energy establishing and requesting assistance with forming the "Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission."

The group has met to conduct education, align policy goals, and hear from the industry on what the major challenges, barriers, and opportunities for offshore wind transmission are.

As discussed in Executive Session, The States of the collaborative have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding for the purposes of committing states to the coordination and collaboration in pursuing offshore wind goals, and to not inhibit each other from succeeding.

This MOU will provide information sharing and staff resources for continued engagement with other states in successfully integrating offshore wind in the northeast.

Board Staff recommends that the Board authorize the President Guhl-Sadovy to execute the MOU on behalf of the Board.

Decision: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

9. MISCELLANEOUS

There were no items in this category.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Sherri L. Golden

Sherri L. Golden
Board Secretary

Date: 10/9/2024