



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
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 March 4, 2026 at the Board's Hearing Room at 44 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton and online @ <https://www.youtube.com/live/l15LCVy4O3U?si=5ePZWcR3Z5obFI0R>.

Public notice was given pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-18 by posting notice of the meeting at the Board's Trenton Office, on the Board's website, and 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 Bange, Commissioner
Commissioner Rebhorn, Commissioner
Commissioner Coviello, Commissioner

President Guhl-Sadovy presided at the meeting and Sherri L. Lewis, 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 April 22, 2026, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

I. AUDITS

There were no items in this category.

II. REVENUE AND RATES

A. Docket No. WR26010017 – In the Matter of the Petition of Aqua New Jersey, Inc. for Approval of an Increase in Rates for Water and Wastewater Service and Other Tariff Changes.

BACKGROUND: On January 30, 2026, Aqua New Jersey, Inc. filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) seeking approval of an increase in its base rates for water service of approximately \$6,015,030 and an increase in its base rates for wastewater services of \$1,870,503, for services rendered on and after March 1, 2026.

Board Staff (“Staff”) recommended that the Board issue an Order suspending the proposed rate increase until July 1, 2026. Staff also recommended that this matter be transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for hearings as a contested case.

III. ENGINEERING

A. Docket No. GE25070390 – In the Matter of the Petition of New Jersey Natural Gas for Approval of a Municipal Franchise in the Township of Chester, Morris County.

BACKGROUND: On July 18, 2025, New Jersey Natural Gas Company (“NJNG” or “Company”) filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) seeking approval of Ordinance No. 2025-12 (“Municipal Consent”) granted by the Township of Chester (“Township”) on July 15, 2025, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-14 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.5 (“Petition”).

The Municipal Consent authorizes NJNG to lay, maintain, and operate its conductors, mains, pipes, together with the appurtenances for the purpose of conducting gas, or any mixture of gases of various types including natural gas and for the purpose of transmitting and distributing such gas in the Township, for a period of fifty (50) years.

On October 28, 2025, the Board conducted a duly noticed virtual public hearing on the Petition. No members of the public attended the hearing, and the Board received no written public comments on this matter.

On January 23, 2026 the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel filed comments stating that it did not object to Board approval of the Municipal Consent, subject to certain conditions.

Board Staff recommended that the Board approve the Municipal Consent, subject to certain conditions.

IV. CABLE TELEVISION

There were no items in this category.

V. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

There were no items in this category.

VI. RELIABILITY AND SECURITY

There were no items in this category.

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 IIA and IIIA:

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

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

AGENDA

1. AUDITS

A. Docket No. EO26010015 – In the Matter of the Alleged Non-Compliance of Energy Services Providers, LLC d/b/a New Jersey Gas & Electric to Comply with Certain Provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:3-78 et seq., and the New Jersey Administrative Code, N.J.A.C. 14:4-1.1 et seq.; and

Docket No. EE25100581L – Energy Services Providers, LLC d/b/a New Jersey Gas & Electric; NJG&E – Application for Initial Electric Power Supplier License.

Paul Bulagiar, Division of Audits, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: Agenda item 1A involves two matters on which the Board will vote.

The first involves a third-party supplier who allegedly failed to comply with certain provisions of the New Jersey Statutes and the New Jersey Administrative Code.

Energy Service Providers, LLC doing business as New Jersey Gas & Electric, allegedly did not file an annual information update form to maintain its electric power supplier license before its license expired and continued to operate as a third-party supplier. Following a review of this matter, Staff and New Jersey Gas & Electric executed a stipulation to resolve the New Jersey Gas & Electric's alleged violations. As part of the stipulation, New Jersey Gas & Electric will pay the State of New Jersey \$6,660 within 15 days of the effective date of the Board order approving the stipulation.

The second vote is regarding New Jersey Gas & Electric's initial application for approval to be a licensed third-party supplier in New Jersey.

Regarding the first matter, Staff believes that the stipulation is reasonable based on the alleged violations by New Jersey Gas & Electric, and recommends that the Board accept the stipulations subject to the conditions set forth in a draft order.

Regarding the second matter, given there are no investigations pending with regard to New Jersey Gas & Electric Service provided in New Jersey, Staff recommends that the Board approve the initial license application for Energy Services Providers, LLC doing business as New Jersey Gas & Electric to be a third-party supplier contingent upon a Board's approval of the stipulation and a timely receipt of the \$6,660 settlement payment.

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

First Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye
	Commissioner Reborn	Aye
	Commissioner Coviello	Aye

Second Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye
	Commissioner Reborn	Aye
	Commissioner Coviello	Aye

2. REVENUE AND RATES

A. Docket No. WR25080471 – In the Matter of the Petition of Gordon’s Corner Water Company for Approval to Change the Levels of its Purchased Water Adjustment Clause Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:9-7.1 et seq.

Stacy Peterson, Division of Revenue and Rates, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On August 15th, 2025, Gordon's Corner Water Company filed correspondence with the Board indicating its intent to file a petition to modify its Purchase Water Adjustment Clause on or before August 29th, 2025, and seeking, to the extent necessary, an extension of any applicable filing deadline or waiver of any filing deadline.

On August 29th, 2025, Gordon's Corner filed a petition seeking approval to modify its PWAC.

Following review of the petition and conducting discovery, the parties have executed a stipulation, which would, among other things, authorize the company to implement a modified PWAC effective March 5th, 2026. As a result of the stipulation, the average residential customer paying a fixed charge will experience an increase in their monthly bill of \$1.89. Staff recommends that the Board approve the company's request for extension, nunc pro tunc, and adopt the stipulation for rates effective March 5th, 2026. Staff further recommends that the Board direct Gordon's Corner to file revised tariffs prior to March 5th.

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 Bange	Aye
	Commissioner Reborn	Aye
	Commissioner Coviello	Aye

3. ENGINEERING

There were no items in this category.

4. CABLE TELEVISION

There were no items in this category.

5. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A. Docket Nos. BPU TC24080612 and OAL PUC 10005-25 – Lee Widman v. Verizon New Jersey, Inc.

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

BACKGROUND: This matter involves an August 17th, 2024 petition filed by Mr. Lee Widman with the Board alleging poor conditions of utility poles, wiring, and equipment owned by Verizon New Jersey, located in Ventnor and Atlantic City. On June 3rd, 2025, the matter was transferred to the Office of Administrative Law for hearing as a contested case where it was assigned to Administrative Law Judge Carl V. Buck, III.

On October 15th, 2025, the Verizon filed a motion for summary decision pursuant to NJAC 1:1-12.5 seeking dismissal of the petition.

On October 18th, 2025, petitioner filed an opposition to the motion.

On January 22, 2026, ALJ Buck issued an initial decision, which concluded that this matter was appropriate for summary disposition. ALJ Buck found that the record established that the petitioner failed to demonstrate any of the requisite elements for standing, nor did he provide any evidence to support any claims raised in the petition. Notably, ALJ Buck found that the subject utility poles are not located on the petitioner's property and there were no claims that were raised that he received service from the poles in question. Accordingly, ALJ Buck granted Verizon's motion for summary decision. Having reviewed the record and agreeing with ALJ Buck's findings, Staff therefore recommends that the Board adopt the initial decision in its entirety and grant Verizon's motion for summary decision.

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 Bange	Aye
	Commissioner Reborn	Aye
	Commissioner Coviello	Aye

6. RELIABILITY AND SECURITY

There were no items in this category.

7. CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

There were no items in this category.

8. CLEAN ENERGY

A. Docket No. QO22080540 – In the Matter of the Garden State Energy Storage Program.

Katharine Perry, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This item involves recommended incentive awards to three transmission scale energy storage projects with a combined capacity of 355 megawatts resulting from the first ever solicitation of Phase 1 of the Garden State Energy Storage Program or (“GSESP”). This program is the key component of the Board's multi-year effort to implement the Clean Energy Act of 2018's mandate to deploy 2000 megawatts of storage by 2030. The Tranche 1 solicitation in this order also served to implement the requirements of P.L.2025, Chapter 136, which took effect on August 22nd, 2025.

In addition to satisfying these legal requirements, the Board intends for the program and the present Tranche 1 solicitation to mitigate the ongoing electric capacity supply crunch that is driving dramatic rate increases for New Jersey consumers, and is imperiling grid reliability.

This supply crunch led to record high prices in PJM interconnection, LLCs July 2024 capacity auction, which was the primary driver of recent retail rate hikes. And again, in the July '25 and December '25, capacity auctions.

With demand expected to grow, especially from data centers and long timelines for building new generation, energy storage stands out as the fastest and most scalable solution. It dominates New Jersey's approved capacity pipeline and can be deployed more quickly than traditional power plants, making it a key tool for stabilizing rates and alleviating an imminent capacity shortage that is a direct threat to system reliability.

Modeling performed by Staff projects that the three awarded projects will collectively reduce capacity costs for New Jersey rate payers by about \$333 million to \$420.6 million in present value terms. The cost of the required incentives is \$27.58 million per year for 15 years, or about \$251 million when discounted to present value. Thus, projected capacity savings to rate payers exceeds incentive costs by up to \$169.5 million.

This suggests that funding Tranche 1 incentives would provide greater ratepayer relief than simply returning the same money back to rate payers. This benefit stems from the ability of storage projects to come online quickly and ease capacity constraints before longer lead time

resources are available. Phase 1 of the program established by the June 18th, 2025 launch order and following the structure of P.L.25, Chapter 136, is designed to support the development of at least 1000 megawatts in new capacity from transmission scale energy storage.

As highlighted in the launch order, the program employs a competitive solicitation to ensure that the cost of awards reflects the lowest possible incentive contribution from New Jersey ratepayers. Tranche 1 of the program aimed to award between 350 and 750 megawatts of energy storage install capacity.

Awarded projects will have 30 days following this award order to register with the Board. Awarded projects must also submit estimated dates for project milestones listed in the order within 30 days of receiving notice of a fixed incentive award. A complete registration package must be submitted to the Board prior to the commencement of construction.

The first solicitation opened for prequalification on June 25th, 2025, and the bid submission closed on August 20th, 2025. A total of 11 bids were submitted during Tranche 1 totaling nearly 629 megawatts and 2,580 megawatt hours. However, Board staff determined that one of these 11 final applicants, the Pearl Storage, LLC project, did not satisfy the statutory project maturity requirements. And as such had to disqualify it. This left 10 qualifying projects totaling nearly 543 megawatts of install capacity and 2064 megawatt hours of energy storage capacity.

Projects were ranked on a per unit basis, expressed as dollars per megawatt of unforced capacity per year with adjustments made for community benefit scoring.

The project Staff recommends the Board award all requested incentive levels below the confidential benchmark developed by Staff and Staff's consultant. Projects that proposed incentive levels above this benchmark are not recommended for award.

Projects not selected for award will have an opportunity to apply for Tranche 2.

Staff recommends that the Board approve incentive awards based on the outcome of the solicitation as follows: an award of \$75,000 per megawatt year for the Woods Landing Storage, LLC project in Sayreville, Middlesex County, New Jersey with an AC install capacity of 200 megawatts to be paid annually over 15 years; an award of \$81,840 per megawatt year for the Two Rivers energy storage, LLC project in Ridgefield, New Jersey with an AC install capacity of 150 megawatts to be paid annually over 15 years; an award of \$60,000 per megawatt year for the North American Energy Storage Corp. project in Bordentown, New Jersey with an AC nameplate capacity of five megawatts to be paid annually over 15 years.

Staff further recommends modifying the directives in the June 18th launch order to allow for bid application fees to be refunded when projects become disqualified for reasons beyond their control after they've submitted a final bid application. The Pearl Project was excluded from consideration solely due to a change in statutory law that occurred after the final bid submission deadline, and Staff recommends that the Board direct Staff to return Pearl's bid application fee.

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 Bange	Aye
	Commissioner Reborn	Aye
	Commissioner Coviello	Aye

B. Docket No. QO25120634 – In the Matter of the Garden State Energy Storage Program Phase 1, Tranche 2.

Katharine Perry, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This order establishes Tranche 2 of Phase 1 of the Garden State Energy Storage Program (“GSESP”). By opening Tranche 2, the Board advances Clean Energy Act of 2018, which directs the creation of a mechanism to ensure the deployment of 2000 megawatts of energy storage by 2030. Launching Tranche 2 is also necessary to implement P.L.25, Chapter 136, which directs the Board to procure a thousand megawatts of transmission scale storage.

Additionally, the Board action fulfills Governor Sherill's directive in Executive Order 2 to launch Tranche 2 no more than 45 days after January 20th, 2026, in order to accelerate energy storage deployment and lower electricity costs in response to the current electricity affordability emergency. Tranche 2 will advance cost-effective, reliable energy storage systems and support the rapid deployment of the most shovel-ready source of new electricity capacity available to New Jersey.

An analysis performed by Staff indicates that rapidly deploying transmission scale storage through Tranche 2 is likely to deliver between \$66 million and \$280 million in net savings to rate payers by increasing available capacity and putting downward pressure on PJM capacity prices. This analysis indicates that funding Tranche 2 projects will ultimately provide greater relief than returning the same funds directly to customers. Tranche 2 will be a continuation of the Board's multi-pronged strategy to address the ratepayer impacts of the recent surge in capacity prices.

After considering lessons learned from Tranche 1 and the legislative requirements for Tranche 2, Staff recommends that the Board established Tranche 2 with 645 megawatt solicitation target, and offer incentives for eligible transmission scale, energy storage projects, and grid supply solar plus storage projects that do not qualify for incentives under the Board's successive Solar Incentive program.

Staff recommends that awarded projects receive fixed incentive payments dispersed over a period of 15 years.

Staff recommends the following changes from Tranche 1 to Tranche 2: adjust incentive payments to account for battery degradation over time; require submission of annual performance and true-up reports; for projects located on Brownfield sites, the required

submission of an attestation confirming compliance with NJDEP’s site remediation requirements that identifies DEPP case number, and the sites retain licensed site remediation professional in order to qualify for the community benefits bonus; removal of a fixed project completion deadline requirement in the application and instead giving priority to more advanced projects; required submission of installation cost and revenue reporting; adding a nine-month bid validity period; and waiving application fees for projects that participated in but were not awarded incentives in Tranche 1 that choose to bid into Tranche 2.

Staff recommends the Board continue to use a prequalification step prior to the final bid deadline consistent with the process outlined in the Tranche 1 order.

Staff recommends posting draft application instructions for Tranche 2 in April 2026, and opening the prequalification window and publishing final application instructions and eligibility requirements on May 20th, 2026.

Staff further recommends setting a final bid submission deadline of August 7th, 2026, but Staff also recommends authorizing Staff to extend the deadline, should it become necessary to ensure an adequate pool of projects can participate in the solicitation. Staff recommends that the Board approve this order which incorporates Staff’s recommendations, further detailed solicitation requirements, and thereby establishes Tranche 2 of the GSESP.

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 Bange	Aye
	Commissioner Reborn	Aye
	Commissioner Coviello	Aye

C. Docket No. QO21101186 – In the Matter of the Competitive Solar Incentive (“CSI”) Program Pursuant to P.L. 2021, c. 169 – Outcome of the Third Solicitation in the CSI Program.

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

BACKGROUND: This item addresses the outcome of the third solicitation of the Competitive Solar Incentive or CSI program. Pursuant to the Solar Act of 2021, the Board established the CSI program on December 7th, 2022 as a competitive procurement under the umbrella of the Successor Solar Incentive program, complimentary to the Administratively Determined Incentive program and the Community Solar energy program. The Board's solar programs are important contributors to jobs and the affordability of clean energy for New Jersey citizens.

Staff's recommendations before you today support the state's clean energy goals and align with Governor Sherill's two executive orders emphasizing the state's critical need for generation to balance the shortfall of supply.

The CSI program aims to provide incentives for 300 megawatts of new solar generation annually using competitive principles to ensure that the cost of the awarded solar renewable energy certificates, SREC-IIs, represent the lowest incentive contribution from New Jersey's ratepayers. The CSI program is open to qualifying grid supply solar installations, grid supply solar installations in combination with energy storage, and non-residential net metered solar installations with a capacity greater than 5 megawatts DC.

For the third CSI program solicitation, the target capacity was allocated amongst each of the five following separate market tranches: Tranche 1, basic grid supply projects; Tranche 2, grid supply projects sited on the built environment; Tranche 3, grid supply on contaminated sites or landfills; Tranche 4, net metered non-residential projects greater than 5 megawatts; and Tranche 5 pairs storage with grid supply project eligible for Tranches 1, 2 or 3. Within each tranche, projects with similar cost profiles and siting compete on SREC-II bid price only.

The Board opened the third solicitation of the CSI program for prequalification on May 14th, 2025 and initially planned to close to bids on July 16th, 2025. However, following July 4th passage of the H.R. 1 which directed the phase out of the 30 percent investment tax credit, ITC, the Board extended the solicitation window for the third solicitation to September 30th, 2025 to allow potential CSI program applicants to access complete information on changes to federal taxation policies that could impact their bids.

The third CSI program solicitation received 18 bid submissions across the four generation tranches, totaling 143.63 megawatts. However, only two bids fell under the confidential price caps in place for the solicitation in Tranches 2 and 3. An additional three bids were within the Board's discretionary 10 percent above the caps.

Staff makes the following recommendation, that the Board award the following projects in the third CSI program solicitation: In Tranche 2, the Court at Deptford Solar in Gloucester County, with a nameplate capacity of 4.13 megawatts, and in Tranche 3, Deptford Landfill Solar in Gloucester County with a nameplate capacity of 9.9999 megawatts.

Staff further recommends that the Board exercise its discretion pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.10(j) to award one project in Tranche 4, the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission Floating Solar Project on the Wanaque Reservoir in Passaic County with a nameplate capacity of 9.988 megawatts.

Staff emphasizes that the incentive payments for these projects will not be made until the projects have reached commercial operation and begun supplying electricity to the grid. Staff considers that the commercial operation timeline of 36 months provided in the CSI rules has proven an obstacle to other registered CSI projects.

Staff recommends that for awardees in this third CSI program solicitation, the Board grant 48 months to reach their COD and a six-month administrative extension is available. Staff also recommends that the Board waive the registration requirement for CSI-eligible projects of the contract between the primary installer or third-party owner as applicable and the bidder or customer of record submitted within one year of the date of conditional registration, and

recommends that an executed contract should instead be submitted as a part of the quarterly milestone reporting.

Finally, Staff recommends that the Board set the administrative fee for awardees in the solicitation to \$0 and direct awardees to submit an initial registration package within 30 days of 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 Bange	Aye
	Commissioner Rebhorn	Aye
	Commissioner Coviello	Aye

D. Docket No. QO21101186 – In the Matter of the Competitive Solar Incentive (“CSI”) Program Pursuant to P.L. 2021, c. 169.

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

BACKGROUND: This item regards the fourth solicitation of the CSI program. The CSI program is open to qualifying grid supply installations, grid supply installations in combination with energy storage, and non-residential net metered solar installations with a capacity greater than 5 megawatts DC.

As for the Solar Act of 2021, the competitive solicitation structure of the CSI program aims to ensure that projects are awarded at the lowest cost to New Jersey ratepayers with incentive values reflective of current market conditions and suitable to provide a long-term guaranteed incentive for developer investment.

On January 20th, 2026, Governor Mikie Sherill signed two executive orders. The second executive order directed the Board to initiate a solicitation for qualifying solar facilities or solar facilities in combination with storage under the CSI program within 45 days.

To fulfil Governor Sherill's directive in Executive Order 2, Staff recommends that the Board set the solicitation window for the fourth CSI program solicitation to open for prequalification applications on March 11th, 2026 and close to bid submission on April 24th, 2026. Staff's recommended solicitation timeline seeks to enable the participation of projects that may still qualify for the ITC.

Staff recommends that the Board maintain the solicitation target of 300 megawatts of solar generation subdivided into individual tranche allocations and 160 megawatt hours of paired energy storage.

Staff recognizes that the different project types in each competitive tranche carry different cost and revenue expectations. Based on project cost evaluations and consideration of economies of

scale enjoyed by larger projects, Staff recommends that the Board exercise its discretion at NJAC 14:8-11.10(l) to divide Tranche 1 into two tranches; Tranche 1 for basic grid supply projects less than 20 megawatts and Tranche 1A, basic grid supply projects greater than or equal to 20 megawatts. Staff recommends a specifically allocated capacity target for each tranche.

Staff further recommends that for the fourth CSI program solicitation, the Board maintain the Solicitation 3 allowances for participating project types in Tranche 2, specifically open land classified as industrial and commercial complexes, lands classified as extractive mining, and floating solar generation projects.

Executive Order 2 states that solar energy and battery storage are particularly critical technologies to meet the state's and the region's electricity supply shortages and directs the prioritization of energy storage. The CSI program provides an incentive to new solar generation facilities to build paired energy storage as an SREC-II adder. Under the Board's rules, this opportunity is only open to grid supply projects in Tranches 1, 2, and 3. However, given the increased prioritization of energy storage at both the transmission and distribution levels, Staff recommends that for the fourth CSI program solicitation, the Board waive its rules at NJAC 14:8-11.10(F) to allow new net metered non-residential projects greater than five megawatts competing in Tranche 4 to add a paired energy storage component and submit for an SREC-II adder in Tranche 5.

The Solar Act of 2021 provides the Board the authority to establish confidential predetermined price caps for any or all tranches prior to a solicitation. Confidential price caps serve as a protective mechanism for rate payers against excessive incentive levels. Staff recommends that the Board exercise its discretion to establish confidential price caps for each competitive tranche based on an evaluation of current market conditions pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14-8:11.10(j).

Staff recommends that the price caps differentiate among, and be specific to, the competitive tranches in the CSI program. Staff also recommends that all price caps be confidential in keeping with the competitive structure of the solicitation and the statutory mandate to develop a fair and competitive process.

Finally, Staff recommends that the Board waive the required \$1,000 per megawatt bid fee in the fourth solicitation for applicants that previously participated in the third solicitation with a substantially similar project.

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 Bange	Aye
	Commissioner Rebhorn	Aye
	Commissioner Coviello	Aye

E. Docket No. QO22030153 – In the Matter of the Community Solar Energy Program.

Dr. Sawyer Morgan, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This agenda item involves the expansion of the Community Solar Energy Program or (“CSEP”) pursuant to L.2025, c.135 and updates to the program resulting from the three-year review of the Administratively Determined Incentive Program.

Community Solar allows utility customers to participate in a solar energy project that is remotely located from their properties and receive guaranteed savings on their utility bill for their participation. The CSEP enables access to clean energy for utility customers unable to install clean energy generation at their own properties. The BPU developed this program with the focus of ensuring that low to moderate income customers can benefit from substantial bill savings by participating in Community Solar and that Community Solar development is pursued without materially compromising the preservation of open space or protected lands in New Jersey.

The Board established the permanent CSEP and proposed program rules on August 16, 2023. The Board has since opened megawatt blocks for each of the state's electric distribution company areas in three capacity allocations totaling 750 megawatts. 72 Community Solar projects have since begun operation in the CSEP and another 400 projects are conditionally accepted to the program.

On August 22nd, 2025, Governor Murphy signed L.2025, c.135 into law directing the Board to increase the capacity goal of the CSEP to 3,000 megawatts through December 31, 2029.

On January 20, 2026, Governor Sherill issued Executive Order Number 2 which directed the Board to implement this law by opening 3,000 megawatts of capacity in the CSEP within 45 days.

In furtherance of these goals, Staff now therefore recommends that the Board allocate an additional 3,000 megawatts to the EDC capacity blocks in the CSEP and ADI program to meet the requirements of the statute. This capacity would be distributed among the EDCs proportional to electric sales with a 300 megawatt carve out for projects located on landfills.

Staff recommends that the capacity reopen to new registrations on March 6th, 2026 and that projects be accepted into the program on a first-ready, first-served basis without an additional registration period or tiebreaker, waiving provisions of NJAC 14:8-9.3(c).

Staff further recommends that to ensure Community Solar provides a substantial bill credit relief for subscribers, projects must provide subscribers a guaranteed bill credit discount of no less than 20 percent and provide low to moderate income subscribers a guaranteed bill credit discount of no less than 25 percent.

Board Staff conducted a stakeholder meeting for the three-year review of the ADI program on July 11th, 2025 and solicited stakeholder comment. Based on the input received, program performance, and updates to economic modeling, Staff recommends updating the incentive that Community Solar projects receive in the ADI program to \$60 per megawatt hour for projects that register on/or after the effective date of the Board order.

Staff additionally recommends that the Board waive NJAC 14:8-9.5(f), which permits EDCs to register Community Solar projects due to the change in statute and project registration method.

Adding thousands of megawatts of new community solar in the coming years will help address the need for new energy capacity in the state and improve energy affordability for hundreds of thousands of New Jersey households. Staff recommends the Board approve the changes to the community solar energy program.

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 Bange	Aye
	Commissioner Reborn	Aye
	Commissioner Coviello	Aye

9. MISCELLANEOUS

There were no items in this category.

LATE STARTER A

REVENUE AND RATES

Docket Nos. BPU ER25060374 and OAL PUC 13561-2025 N – In the Matter of the Verified Petition of Rockland Electric Company for Approval of Changes in Electric Rates, its Tariff for Electric Service, and its Depreciation Rates; and for Other Relief.

Stacy Peterson, Division of Revenue and Rates, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On June 30th, 2025, Rockland Electric Company filed a petition seeking approval of an increase in its current base rates for electric service. By orders dated July 16th, 2025, and November 21st, 2025, the Board suspended the proposed rates through March 30th, 2026. As the suspension period currently ends on March 30th, the parties have executed a stipulation to extend the suspension period through April 30th, 2026 to allow the parties to continue towards a resolution in this this matter. Staff recommends that the Board issue an order approving the extension stipulation.

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 Bange	Aye
	Commissioner Reborn	Aye
	Commissioner Coviello	Aye

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

Sherri L. Lewis

Sherri L. Lewis
Board Secretary

Date: 5/21/26