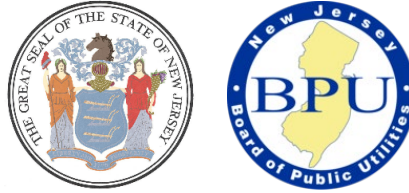


State of New Jersey
Governor Mikie Sherrill
Dr. Dale G. Caldwell



Ben Hertz-Shargel
President

Board of Public Utilities



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Christine Guhl-Sadovy
Michael Bange
Emma Rebhorn
Joseph Coviello
Commissioners

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF THE FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR PHASE 1, TRANCHE 2 OF THE GARDEN STATE ENERGY STORAGE PROGRAM, (GSESP)¹

IN THE MATTER OF THE GARDEN STATE ENERGY STORAGE PROGRAM PHASE 1, TRANCHE 2

[Docket No. QO25120634](#)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“NJBP” or “Board”) Staff (“Staff”) hereby notifies all interested parties and members of the public that the Final Application deadline for Tranche 2 of Phase 1 of the Garden State Energy Storage Program (“GSESP”) has been extended to **11:59 p.m. ET on October 5, 2026**.

This extension is intended to ensure that applicants with projects in PJM Cycle 1 remain eligible for the Tranche 2 solicitation. New Jersey law requires that projects proceeding through a normal PJM interconnection cycle must at least be in the process of undergoing a Phase 1 interconnection study at the time of Final Application to qualify for the Tranche 2 solicitation.² Given PJM’s recent decision to delay the start of Phase 1 review for Cycle 1 projects until September 28, 2026, all Cycle 1 projects would be disqualified from participating in Tranche 2 if the Final Application deadline remained August 7, 2026. Therefore, pursuant to the authority the Board granted Staff in the March 4, 2026, Order initiating the Tranche 2 solicitation,³ Staff is hereby extending the Tranche 2 Final Application deadline to October 5, 2026, to ensure an adequate pool of eligible projects participates in the solicitation.

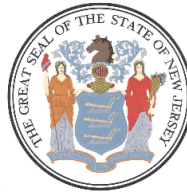
Phase 1, Tranche 2 is open to qualifying stand-alone energy storage projects, as well as solar-plus-storage projects that are ineligible for storage incentives under the Board’s Successor Solar Incentive (“SuSI”) Program. By Order dated March 4, 2026, the Board initiated Tranche 2 of Phase 1 of the GSESP, with the solicitation window opening on May 20, 2026, and originally closing on August 7, 2026. As a result of this extension, Staff expects a corresponding delay in the Board’s decision on the outcome of the solicitation. Staff expect to bring their recommendations for the Board’s consideration to a Board Agenda meeting at the end of Q4 2026. Table 1 below reflects the updated schedule for Tranche 2:

¹ Not a paid legal advertisement.

² N.J.S.A. 48:3-121.3(b)(3)(b).

³ See In re the Garden State Energy Storage Program Phase 1, Tranche 2, BPU Docket No. QO25120634, at 8, 25, Order dated March 4, 2026 (“Tranche 2 Launch Order”).

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Table 1. GSESP 2026 Tranche 2 Transmission-Scale Procurement Schedule (Updated July 2026)

Event	Date
Posting of draft application instructions	April 30, 2026
Publication of application instructions and eligibility requirements; pre-qualification window opens	May 20, 2026
Deadline for submission of pre-qualification materials to receive a guaranteed review for deficiency and opportunity for correction	June 10, 2026
Pre-qualification deficiencies will be reported to bidders by this date for correction	June 26, 2026
Deadline for bidder's question submissions	July 1, 2026
Revised Deadline for final bid submission*	October 5, 2026
Anticipated Board decision on bids	December 2026

Background

On June 18, 2025, the Board established the GSESP and approved the launch of Tranche 1.⁴ The purpose of the GSESP is to incentivize eligible transmission-scale energy storage systems through a competitive solicitation process, supporting the expansion of energy storage in New Jersey to meet the Clean Energy Act of 2018 ("CEA")⁵ mandate of deploying 2,000 MW of energy storage by 2030.⁶ The GSESP also implements P.L. 2025, c.136, which directs the Board to award incentives for at least 350 MW of transmission-scale storage through a Tranche 1 solicitation and at least 1,000 MW of transmission-scale storage across Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 solicitations.⁷

On January 20, 2026, Governor Sherrill issued Executive Order No. 2,⁸ which, in relevant part directed the Board to accelerate the development of transmission-scale energy-storage in order to alleviate the current capacity shortage and lower electricity costs in response to the State's utility-affordability emergency.

⁴ In re the Garden State Energy Storage Program ("GSESP") Pursuant to P.L. 2018, c.17, BPU Docket No. QO22080540, Order dated June 18, 2025,

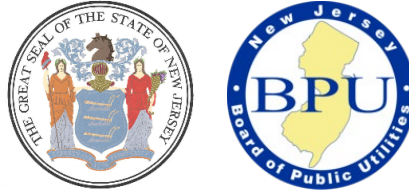
⁵ P.L. 2018, c.17.

⁶ See N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.8. All megawatt or MW values in this Notice are in alternating current or "AC."

⁷ N.J.S.A. 48:3-121.3(a)(2).

⁸ Exec. Order No. 2 (Jan. 20, 2026), 58 N.J.R. 1041(a) (Feb. 17, 2026).

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The Board awarded three (3) projects with a combined nameplate or installed capacity of 355 MW under Tranche 1 by Order dated March 4, 2026.⁹ The Board launched Tranche 2 in a separate Order that same day.¹⁰ Tranche 2 aims to award an additional 645 MW of storage capacity, enabling the State to achieve the statutory requirement of 1,000 MW of transmission-scale storage under Phase 1.

For each solicitation, the Board sets the solicitation window during which projects must prequalify by demonstrating that they satisfy the applicable maturity requirements and tranche-specific eligibility criteria. In the March 4, 2026, Order, the Board established a prequalification period beginning on May 20, 2026, and a Final Application deadline of August 7, 2026. Eligible applicants seeking Tranche 2 incentives must submit both an administratively complete pre-qualification and a Final Application. Projects that submitted a prequalification application by June 10, 2026, were guaranteed a review for deficiencies and an opportunity to correct those deficiencies before the Final Application deadline. Timely completed prequalification applications were reviewed, and applicants were notified of any deficiencies by June 26, 2026. After the Final Application deadline, no revisions to Final Applications or prequalification materials will be accepted.

On July 24, 2026, PJM posted a revised schedule delaying the commencement of its Phase 1 interconnection study of projects in Cycle 1 until September 28, 2026, resulting in the Phase 1 review beginning after the previously established Tranche 2 Final Application deadline of August 7, 2026. Because New Jersey law requires that projects proceeding through a normal PJM interconnection cycle must at least be in the process of undergoing a Phase 1 interconnection study at the time of final application to qualify for the Tranche 2 solicitation,¹¹ all Cycle 1 projects would be disqualified from participation in Tranche 2 if the final application deadline remained August 7, 2026. Therefore, pursuant to the authority the Board granted Staff in the March 4, 2026, Order initiating the Tranche 2 solicitation,¹² Staff is hereby extending the Tranche 2 Final Application deadline to October 5, 2026, to ensure an adequate pool of eligible projects participates in the solicitation. As a result of this extension, Staff expects a corresponding delay in the Board's decision on the outcome of the solicitation and expects to bring its recommendations for the Board's consideration to a Board Agenda meeting at the end of 2026.

Interested parties may submit Prequalification Applications and Final Applications [here](#).

Sherri L. Lewis

Sherri L. Lewis
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Dated: July 30, 2026

⁹ In re the Garden State Energy Storage Program ("GSESP") Pursuant to P.L. 2018, c.17, BPU Docket No. QO22080540, Order dated March 4, 2026.

¹⁰ In re the Garden State Energy Storage Program Phase 1, Tranche 2, BPU Docket No. QO25120634, Order dated March 4, 2026.

¹¹ N.J.S.A. 48:3-121.3(b)(3)(b).

¹² See Tranche 2 Launch Order at 8, 25.