

**From:** [steven\\_fenichel](#)  
**To:** [comments\\_EMP](#)  
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## Statement Made on 9/12/2019 Concerning State of NJ EMP

“As the Planet burns the BPU, like Roman Emperor Nero, fiddles”.

I will start by stating that I have no confidence in the NJ EMP and therefore oppose it. NJ has a political system that is dependent on “legal” campaign contributions doled out by corporate lobbyists to the politicians. They then enact laws that in issues like the EMP get rubber stamped by the BPU. Further clarification of my opposition will be detailed in my statement.

Clearly the only solution that might stop or slow down the unfolding climate catastrophe is with a massive public takeover of the nation’s electric grid.

The for-profit companies that reign over our energy system have shown no indication of being willing to transform our energy system; they are more interested in shareholder gains and business as usual.

Together, for profit utilities and fossil fuel companies have created powerful-political economic machines across the country to solidify the status quo of extraction and extortion. The extortion portion was clearly revealed by a \$50,000 check to Senate President Steven Sweeney from PSE&G shortly before the BPU voted to approve a rate payer subsidy for PSE&G which they attempted to ennoble by calling it a Zero Emissions Certificate. It passed the rubberstamping BPU by a vote of 4 to 1. The lone dissenter, Commissioner Chivukala has earned the public’s respect for protecting the rate payers and our planet. With this vote the utility is to receive a \$900 million rate payer subsidy over 3 years with no end in sight. It keeps the Salem Nuclear Plant in operation where the radioactive emissions, despite the meaninglessly named ZEC, is an attempt to whitewash their actions. These radioactive emissions have resulted in one of the highest incidents of cancer in NJ and the highest levels of strontium 90 found in the baby teeth of infants in the Salem area.

It is only by democratic public ownership of our energy system that community benefit would be prioritized over corporate profits thus paving the way for a just and equitable energy system.

The transition to public ownership can’t be left to the corporate investors who to date have betrayed the public. It is the only way to ensure that the benefits of the public takeover don’t disappear into the pockets of the billionaires like Elon Musk, Warren Buffet, and the Koch family.

The future is public. It is accountable to the principles of environmental justice. It is democratic. It is decommidified- change will have to come from a united and empowered people. We learned long ago that private interests won’t solve for climate and justice at the same time. This realization is firmly on the presidential political agenda.

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