



On behalf of the members of the New Jersey Energy Coalition, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the 2019 Energy Master Plan. As a background, the New Jersey Energy Coalition is a broad-based advocacy group whose membership includes local and statewide companies and organizations which represent a broad cross-section of energy, labor, trade, and civic communities. Some of our members include: Atlantic City Electric, Exelon Corporation, New Jersey Natural Gas, PennEast Pipeline, Public Service Electric & Gas, South Jersey Gas, KML Carpenters, and Local Union 94.

Our mission is simple: raise public awareness and generate public support for the increase and distribution reliable, affordable, cleaner energy within New Jersey. Since the Coalition was created in 2007, we have been actively engaged in promoting these objectives and have provided comments on the 2008, 2011, and 2015 Energy Master Plan updates. Our leadership and staff possess vast experience in public policy issues in New Jersey and has proven energy expertise, which make the Coalition uniquely qualified to provide comments and feedback to the questions presented by the Energy Master Plan Committee.

We thank the Energy Master Plan Committee for hosting stakeholder meetings to discuss the important topics that will help New Jersey's Energy Future. The EMP's five main focus areas will help reach the state's energy goals.

Innovation is one of the key factors in moving our energy economy into the future. New technology is an important and necessary step to reach the state's new energy goals. While new and emerging technologies and energy sources are important, resiliency and redundancy are key to keeping the lights on and our homes heated while transitioning to these new systems. We have to make sure that we are using all available, fuel sources to address current and future need when new renewable sources are not available.

We, as a state, have to take a holistic approach and include a diverse energy portfolio, to ensure that all ratepayers of New Jersey have energy when they want it, but

more importantly when they need it. Transition energy sources play a key role in reaching the state's goals. There needs to be a responsible mix of generation over the next decades to make sure all New Jerseyans are receiving cleaner energy, without an astronomical raise in rates and without any generation or distribution interruptions. Some of these transitional sources should include natural gas and nuclear. Natural gas currently has extremely low prices and abundance, and nuclear provides the largest share of our states carbon free electricity. Both of these energy sources provide a bridge for the future for New Jersey.

Reaching the goals of the state will take a multi-faceted approach involving all key players- the ratepayers, the companies, and state government.

- 1) Ratepayers- The ratepayer will be responsible for the cost burden of these new technologies. Every decision should take the rate payer into consideration, current and future. Those in the future must be kept in mind when making decisions today, that will affect them tomorrow.
- 2) Companies- The future of the energy sector is going to change the way energy companies in all aspects of the industry do business. They will most likely have to create a new business model that promotes a reduction in energy consumption.
- 3) Government –New Jersey leaders have to look at the full scope of our Energy Economy. We believe state entities should look at what other states are doing successfully, and to create programs based off of the states that are getting it right. There are many avenues for the state to do this, like through NARUC, MACRUC and national Energy organizations. The state should also look at the current tariff system and how the Clean Energy Fund is being utilized.

One of the most exciting aspects of the new Clean Energy Plan is the prospective economic growth and workforce development. If there is a comprehensive plan, and the state allows the industry to grow organically, there will be a sustained positive economic impact. More offshore wind in the state, means more jobs manufacturing the turbines and assembling them out at sea. More electric vehicles on the road, means more infrastructure will be needed to distribute the new energy need. More solar panels being added to the grid means more jobs that will be created. To fully grasp

the possible economic growth over the next few decades, the state should form lines of communications with the groups within New Jersey that are already focused on economic development and job creation.

Reducing energy consumption is something New Jersey is working towards. The legislature has created a bill to give out credit for green buildings and the Clean Energy Program has some good resources for homeowners and companies to replace aging and less efficient appliances. While this is a great start, we have to be doing more. There must be more communication between all involved parties so everyone knows what resources are available to them. Third party advocacy groups can help craft specific messages to different types of customers and can help get that information out to the public. We, as a state, have to help the ratepayers to reduce not only their consumption but also their rates, while keeping the companies whole.

According to the Energy Information Agency, in 2016 the most energy consumption by end use belonged to the transportation sector. Electrification has become a big topic of interest in the country and the world. We are beginning to see more electric car models being sold and plug in fueling stations on highways and buildings. However, one electric car is equivalent to half a house load of energy. If we want to have reliability for our homes and our vehicles we will have to make sure there is enough generation and storage, also known as readily available energy. This means that upgrades to distribution systems will be needed to make sure the electrification of the transportation sector does not create less reliable and redundant energy for our homes and businesses.

Challenges come with any change in policy, but if you have collaboration with all the key players great things can happen, which is why this stakeholder process is so important. Thank you again for letting us submit comments, and we look forward to working with the BPU and all stakeholders in this process.

Morgan Pyle

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