From:	David Pringle
To:	comments, EMP
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] EMP resiliency comments
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Clean Water Action's preliminary recommendations regarding sustainable and resilient energy infrastructure at the NJBPU Stakeholder Meeting on Friday, September 28, 2018.

Governor Murphy's commitment to 100% clean energy economy wide by 2050 is visionary. Achieving that goal and hitting key interim benchmarks restores New Jersey as the national leader not just in terms of addressing the climate crisis but also advancing public health, protecting private property, growing the economy and creating good jobs.

While Hurricane Sandy was catastrophic in so many ways, it was not as catastrophic as it could've been in the dead of winter or in the heat of summer when energy needs would've been higher and even more life-threatening.

Like the Jersey Shore, Newark was faced with tremendous destruction of homes, many feet of water and loss of power, but its Ironbound residents were also exposed to many toxics from chemical and sewage plants overwhelmed by surge waters that ended up in neighborhoods and homes making people sick. There needs to be better emergency plans for these hazardous facilities, many of which lost power and under staffed at best during the crisis. We have seen this more recently with Hurricane Florence - coal plant shut down, workers trapped and nearby coal ash and pig poo lagoons overflowed.

If we are to create a more sustainable and resilient energy infrastructure, we need to plan for the extremely hazardous situations mentioned earlier and take steps to address them. Here are 7 to start with, there are many more:

1) getting power back quickly in all neighbors regardless of color, income and geography -
- Newark residents were without power in some cases much longer than the Jersey Shore;

2) having independent micro grids that allow complexes, institutions and neighborhoods to stay on line and with power regardless of the larger system being damaged;

3) getting back on line faster with emergency power systems prioritizing the most vulnerable - the elderly, sick and disabled;

4) having neighbor to neighbor check in systems and broadcast public alert systems via text message and other means about status of power, where to get services, power and shelter especially for the most vulnerable;

5) ensuring that we have ability to take renewable energy systems off the grid and put into local and on site use as back up when larger system is down;

6) taking steps to minimize use of gas and diesel powered generators which are unsafe, contribute greenhouse gases and other co-pollutants, as well being difficult to access during power outage when pumping stations do not work anyway;

7) emphasizing more decentralized renewable energy and reduced demand (energy efficiency,

demand response and conservation) policies NOT building more fossil fuel infrastructure (pipelines like Penn East, South Jersey Gas, Southern Reliability Link, and Raritan Bay, power lines like Susquehanna-Roseland and Meadowlands-NYC, compressor stations like Franklin and Roseland, and gas plants like the Musconetcong, Woodbridge and the Meadowlandsand) or new nukes (including ZECs which should only be offered over a short period of time for the minimum price needed to secure the minimum power needed -- neither an electron nor penny more) in the name of creating redundancy in the power grid system.

Finally, we're pleased to see 2 hearings have been added at time and locales that are better for EJ communities but have 2 concerns. First, both hearings are set for exactly the same time but different cities as the 1st 2 ZEC hearings. Second, notification and outreach needs to be more pro-active. It can't just be notice on the website, press release ... We urge you to aggessively reach out and engage EJ communities to ensure that folks are not only getting the word about, but are spreading the word and actually engaging themsevles. Key constitutencies include but are not limted to governing bodies of EJ communities (Newark, Camden, Jersey City, Elizabeth, Trenton, etc.), the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance, NJDEP's Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, the Ironbound Community Corporation, Newark Environmental Commission, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

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