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September 5, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

Sherri L. Lewis
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**Re: I/M/O Modernizing New Jersey's Interconnection Rules, Processes, and Metrics
Notice of Propose Substantial Changes Upon Adoption to Proposed Amendments
Proposed Changes: N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.11, and 5.13
BPU Docket Number: QO21010085**

Dear Secretary Lewis:

Please accept this letter as the comments of the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") regarding the above-referenced rulemaking, published in the July 7, 2025 New Jersey Register by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("BPU" or "Board"). In accordance with the New Jersey Register Notice, these comments are being submitted by electronic mail only. **Please acknowledge receipt of these comments.** Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

BACKGROUND

The Board proposed various amendments, repeals, and new rules regarding grid interconnection on June 3, 2024.¹ On August 2, 2024, Rate Counsel submitted formal comments to BPU’s June 3, 2024 rulemaking proposal raising significant legal and policy concerns. Rate Counsel’s comments provided that the proposed rules lack adequate cost transparency, fail to adhere to traditional cost causation principles, and improperly shift interconnection and grid upgrade costs from private DER developers to captive ratepayers. Further, the rulemaking lacked sufficient data to justify the proposed interconnection fees or the allocation of costs for the Common Interconnection Agreement Process (“CIAP”), Pre-Application Verification/Evaluation (“PAVE”), and hosting capacity maps. Rate Counsel also noted that the Board’s economic, social, and housing affordability impact statements are legally deficient under the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”), and that the rulemaking process itself may be procedurally flawed due to inadequate stakeholder engagement and failure to comply with APA requirements. The comments recommend that the Board revise the rule to ensure that distributed energy resources (“DER”) developers bear the full cost of interconnection, that ratepayer-funded subsidies be transparently disclosed and justified, and that any cost recovery mechanisms be subject to prudence review and consistent with just and reasonable ratemaking standards. Moreover, Rate Counsel urged the Board to provide detailed impact analyses and to ensure consistency across electric distribution companies EDCs in reporting and implementation.

On July 7, 2025, the BPU issued proposed substantial changes to its previous rulemaking proposal with the intention of updating the requirements for interconnecting DER to the electric

¹ 56 N.J.R. 993(a) (June 3, 2024).

grid, which belong to New Jersey’s four EDCs.² The Board stated its proposed substantial changes to the June 3, 2024 rule proposal are in response to comments received from stakeholders, including Rate Counsel, following the public comment period.³ Rate Counsel submits these additional comments for the BPU’s consideration.

COMMENTS

As a preliminary matter, Rate Counsel commends the Board for its willingness to institute substantial changes to the proposed rulemaking in light of the stakeholder comments received. Rate Counsel appreciates the opportunity to continue to participate in the formulation of the major changes to these rules. While some of the Board’s changes address some of Rate Counsel’s initial concerns with the proposed rulemaking, as described in more detail below, Rate Counsel continues to have procedural and substantive concerns.

The Notice of Proposed Substantial Changes is Statutorily Deficient

The Board’s proposed substantial rule changes has several deficiencies that violate the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A 52:14B-1 et seq. (“APA”). Specifically, under the APA, a notice of substantial rule changes must include “a description of the changes between the rule as originally proposed and the new proposed changes” and “the specific reasons for proposing the additional changes.”⁴ Moreover, any rule proposal must meet a standard of clarity which “means the document is written in a reasonably simple and understandable manner which is easily readable” and “is sufficiently complete and informative as to permit the public to

² 57 N.J.R. 1367(a) (July 7, 2025).

³ 57 N.J.R. 1368 (July 7, 2025).

⁴ N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4.10(b).

understand accurately and plainly the legal authority, purposes and expected consequences of the adoption, readoption or amendment of the rule or regulation.”⁵

The Board’s notice of proposed substantial changes failed to provide a meaningful description of the changes being made to the June 3, 2024 proposed rulemaking proposal. Moreover, the notice did not include the full text of the codified rule, the June 3, 2024 proposed rulemaking proposal, nor the proposed substantial changes thereto in one place. Instead, the Board’s notice was confusing and difficult to follow. Items that were included were separated into different sections. Some portions of the notice only included the text of the substantial changes and other sections included the June 3, 2024 proposed rulemaking proposal and substantial changes. As a consequence, the public has been left to piece together the proposed substantial changes by engaging in a time-consuming line-by-line comparison of the two rule proposals. The manner in which the Board published the proposed substantial changes, coupled with the lack of a description, rendered the notice confusing and unusable. As such, the notice of the proposed substantial changes fails to comply with the APA’s requirement for clarity.

Further, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4(a)(2) requires a proposed rule to “be sufficiently complete and informative as to permit the public to understand accurately and plainly the . . . purposes and expected consequences of the adoption” In its June 3, 2024 rulemaking proposal, the Board stated that the proposed amendments and new rules were intended to address delays and confusion, while laying the foundation for broader grid modernization.⁶ Moreover, it is intended to “reduce the uncertainty, inefficiency, and delay” in the interconnection process and to clarify the obligations of applicants, including payment and responsiveness requirements.⁷ The Board

⁵ N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4.1a(b).

⁶ 56 N.J.R. 993(a) (June 3, 2024).

⁷ Ibid.

claims the amendments are aimed to align the financial interests of electric distribution companies (“EDCs”), developers, and ratepayers by discouraging unnecessary system upgrades and promoting targeted, data-informed investments that support DER integration.⁸

The rule proposal stated that these changes were informed by Board’s November 9, 2022 acceptance of recommendations from Guidehouse, Inc., as well as, input from a public stakeholder process initiated in March 2023. The Board first stated this rulemaking was only the first phase of a longer-term effort to modernize the grid. Future reforms—guided by the Grid Modernization Forum—would address cost allocation, system upgrade planning, and DER participation in grid services, with the goal of enabling “proactive expansion of distribution system hosting capacity” and supporting New Jersey’s clean energy targets.⁹

With this rulemaking proposal:

the Board intends for this notice of substantial changes to increase the amount of renewable, storage, and DER capacity in New Jersey to help alleviate growing shortages of generation capacity due to the combination of recent generator retirements and dramatic increases in forecasted electricity demand driven by advances in artificial intelligence.¹⁰

Notwithstanding the question of whether increased amounts of renewable, storage and DER capacity in New Jersey will alleviate capacity shortage concerns raised by increased artificial intelligence, given these technologies relatively low – and decreasing – Effective Load Carrying Capability rating by PJM,¹¹ the Board is in the middle of examining capacity market issues in a separately docketed proceeding on resource adequacy (“Resource Adequacy

⁸ The Board also intended to support its use of community solar policy incentives to expand clean energy access to underserved communities. Ibid.

⁹ 56 N.J.R. 993(a) (June 3, 2024).

¹⁰ 57 N.J.R. 1373 (July 7, 2025)(emphasis added).

¹¹ See <https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/committees-groups/committees/pc/2025/20250313-special/2026-2027-irm-fpr-elcc-and-winter-risk.pdf>

Proceeding”).¹² In the Resource Adequacy Proceeding, Rate Counsel disputed that “Identifying the Proper Resource Mix” and additional subsidies for clean energy will solve New Jersey’s resource adequacy concerns.¹³ Instead, to solve the resource adequacy problems associated with data center growth and increasing artificial intelligence, Rate Counsel recommended a regional or national solution that requires large load additions to self-fund the additional generation they require.¹⁴

In addition, the New Jersey Legislature recently instructed the Board to conduct an investigation into the PJM capacity market.¹⁵ On August 15, 2025, Governor Murphy signed into law Senate Joint Resolution No. 154, which directs the BPU to examine whether PJM’s capacity market is advancing its intended purpose of obtaining adequate resources at the lowest possible cost.¹⁶ It also directs New Jersey to collaborate with neighboring states to promote affordable energy practices and urge PJM to implement market reforms and expeditiously review new electricity generation applications.¹⁷ The Board has yet to establish a proceeding pursuant to this legislative directive.

The Board has not made any official findings in the Resource Adequacy Proceeding, nor has it conducted an investigation pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution No. 154. However, the Board’s stated purpose with this rulemaking proposal is that these rules will “help alleviate” the issues under examination in the Resource Adequacy Proceeding and pursuant to its investigation under Senate Joint Resolution No. 154. Solutions to New Jersey’s resource adequacy concerns

¹² I/M/O New Jersey’s Growing Concerns Surrounding Resource Adequacy and Participation in Regional Wholesale Electricity Markets, BPU Dkt No QO25060358.

¹³ Rate Counsel Comments, I/M/O New Jersey’s Growing Concerns Surrounding Resource Adequacy and Participation in Regional Wholesale Electricity Markets, BPU Dkt No QO25060358, dated Aug. 19, 2025, at pp. 10, 12-13.

¹⁴ Id., at pp. 6-14.

¹⁵ S.J. Res. 154, 221st Leg. (N.J. 2025) (enacted) (hereinafter “Senate Joint Resolution No. 154”).

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

should be proposed and vetted in the Resource Adequacy Proceeding and its examination pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution No. 154, not here. Moreover, “artificial intelligence” is not mentioned once in the Board’s previous Chapter 8 rule proposal,¹⁸ so it appears the Board is shifting the stated purpose of amending these rules.¹⁹ Once again, the Board lacks sufficient data in the record to justify these changes in light of the stated purpose.

Of additional concern is that the stakeholders to this Grid Modernization proceeding are not necessarily the same as those in the Resource Adequacy Proceeding, and have not had the opportunity to provide input in the rulemaking proceeding here. “The purpose of the APA rulemaking procedures is to give those affected by the proposed rule an opportunity to participate in the process, both to ensure fairness and also to inform regulators of consequences which they may not have anticipated.”²⁰ In this case, the Board has not made any findings which would inform whether the proposed grid modernization changes would have any meaningful impact on alleviating growing shortages of generation capacity, or whether the additional costs to ratepayers will be outweighed by the benefits. Therefore, the Board’s change in stated purpose of the rule change lacked adequate notice and denied stakeholders, particularly those in the Resource Adequacy proceeding, an adequate opportunity to make the Board aware of better alternatives to the proposed grid modernization rules to address the newly identified goal of alleviating generation capacity shortages. As a result of the conflation of the Grid Modernization rulemaking under this docket and the ongoing Resource Adequacy stakeholder process under

¹⁸ 56 N.J.R. 993(a) (June 3, 2024).

¹⁹ “The very process of rulemaking contemplates public notice and public disclosure of an agency’s regulatory objectives. ... When an administrative regulation disguises an aspect of the agency’s true regulatory purpose, it cannot be sustained as a proper exercise of the rulemaking power.” Lower Main Street Associates v. New Jersey Housing & Mortg. Finance Agency, 114 N.J. 226, 243-244 (1989) (internal citations omitted).

²⁰ In re Provision of Basic Generation Serv. for Period Beginning June 1 2008, 205 N.J. 339, 349 (2011)(quoting In re Adoption of 2003 Low Income Hous. Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan, 369 N.J. Super. 2, 43 (App. Div.))(internal quotation marks omitted).

BPU Docket No. QO25060358, the Board has erred into a procedurally arbitrary process without sufficient credible evidence to support a decision based on the newly stated goals of the rulemaking.

Last, N.J.S.A 52:14B-4.10(c)(2) requires an agency proposing substantial changes to comply with the notice requirements of N.J.S.A 52:14B-4(a)(1), which mandates posting rulemaking proposals “on the agency’s Internet website.”

On July 8, 2025, the Board sent an email to their Listserv subscribers stating:

The notice of proposed substantial changes upon adoption is available on the Board’s website at www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/rules. The notice of proposed substantial changes upon adoption may also be accessed within Docket No. QO21010085 on the Board’s Public Document Search.²¹

While BPU did post the substantial changes rulemaking proposal on the Board’s website on under its “Rules” webpage, to date, the notice still does not appear on the Board’s Public Document Search, attached as **Exhibit 1**,²² making the Board’s July 8 Email misleading and inaccurate. In addition, the notice does not appear on the Board’s Public Notices page, attached as **Exhibit 2**,²³ nor does it appear on the Board’s Grid Modernization page, attached **Exhibit 3**,²⁴ as the Board has customarily done previously for similar other rulemaking proposals. Thus, in order to ensure the public is aware of its most recent proposal and able to provide meaningful comments, the Board should have posted the rulemaking proposal where the notice stated it would and also where it customarily does so for other rulemaking notices. For the above

²¹ E-mail from owner-externaloptins@listserv.state.nj.us, to communications@bpu.nj.gov (July 8, 2025) (hereinafter “July 8 Email”).

²² BPU, Public Document Search, <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/> (search “Docket Number” for “QO21010085”) (last accessed Sept. 2, 2025); attached as Exhibit 1.

²³ BPU, Public Notices, <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/public/> (last accessed Sept. 2, 2025); attached as Exhibit 2.

²⁴ BPU, New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program, “Grid Modernization” <https://njcleanenergy.com/grid-modernization> (last accessed Sept. 2, 2025); attached as Exhibit 3.

reasons, Rate Counsel respectfully requests that the Board re-draft and re-notice the proposed substantial changes to comply with the APA's notice and clarity requirements.

The Board's Conclusion on the Impacts of the Proposed Rule Remain Insufficient

The Board states that the “changes in this notice are not anticipated to have significant impacts on the Social, Economic, Jobs, Agriculture Industry, or Racial and Ethnic Community Criminal Justice and Public Safety Impacts; the Federal Standards Statement; the Regulatory Flexibility Statement; or the Housing Affordability or Smart Growth Development Impact Analyses, as published in the original notice of proposal.”²⁵ In its August 2, 2024 comments, Rate Counsel alerted the Board that its statutorily required impact analyses lacked sufficient evidentiary basis whatsoever rendering them insufficient to satisfy the statutory requirement for the proposed rules. Because the Board has again failed to properly assess the impacts of the proposed rule, Rate Counsel incorporates by reference its August 2, 2024 comments on these issues. For example, the increased rates resulting from this rule will have an economic impact and will likely impact housing, as higher electric rates will lead to higher rents and costs for those owning a home. These cost impacts must be considered when a new rule is proposed.

Additional Changes are Necessary to Protect Ratepayers

Rate Counsel is in full support of efforts to improve New Jersey's interconnection process in ways that enhance transparency, reduce project delays, and promote safe, reliable integration of DERs into the electric grid. A more efficient and predictable interconnection process is important for accommodating New Jersey's clean energy goals, particularly as DER deployment continues to grow. Rate Counsel, however, is also charged with protecting the

²⁵ 57 N.J.R. 1373 (July 7, 2025).

interests of New Jersey’s utility customers, and therefore must closely scrutinize how the proposed rules may affect ratepayers and future already extremely high electric bills.

While many elements of the revised proposal represent improvements over current practice, several key provisions would result in unjust and unreasonable outcomes for ratepayers if adopted as written. In particular, Rate Counsel is concerned that (1) the introduction of fixed, “not-to-exceed” application fee caps increases the risk of misaligning cost recovery with cost causation, (2) proposed cost overrun provisions could expose ratepayers to excessive or imprudently incurred project costs, and (3) the creation of a ratepayer-funded backstop for the CIAP undermines the principle that applicants, not ratepayers, should bear the costs of DER interconnection services. Accordingly, the following comments identify specific language that Rate Counsel strongly suggests must be revised, clarified, or supplemented to ensure that the Board’s final rules promote fair and cost-efficient outcomes for all stakeholders. With affordability at the front of everyone’s mind, rate impact must be closely examined to ensure that the Board’s rules do not cause an additional energy burden on New Jersey ratepayers.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

SUBCHAPTER 5: INTERCONNECTION OF CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY

SYSTEMS

N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.1 Interconnection definitions

Rate Counsel incorporates by reference its August 2, 2024 comments on this section.

N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.2 General interconnection provisions

Rate Counsel supports the Board’s revised approach to cost transparency and cost allocation for the CIAP set forth in proposed N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.2(n):

The EDCs shall provide a detailed cost estimate for the development, implementation, and ongoing operation and maintenance of the required CIAP portal. EDCs may only expend funds to implement the CIAP portal after submitting cost estimates for achieving the minimum functionality required at N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.13 to the Board and receiving Board approval to proceed with implementation.

Specifically, Rate Counsel strongly supports the Board's decision to require each EDC to provide a detailed cost estimate for the development, implementation, and ongoing operation and maintenance of its CIAP portal prior to expending any funds on portal development. This change will help ensure that interconnection-related investments are evaluated in advance and subject to regulatory oversight, consistent with basic principles of transparency and prudence. This requirement may also help the Board and stakeholders of all types understand how interconnection cost requirements change with DER interconnection requests to benchmark standard interconnection costs per installed DER capacity, per EDC, over time. This filing requirement serves to enhance DER cost recovery transparency, which Rate Counsel strongly supports.

Rate Counsel also supports the Board's decision, set forth in proposed N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.2(n), to revise the cost recovery mechanism for the CIAP portal to require recovery through application and Pre-Application Verification and Evaluation ("PAVE") fees, rather than through base rates or Infrastructure Investment Program ("IIP") surcharges:

The EDCs shall recover the prudently incurred costs of the CIAP portal over a five-year period through application and PAVE fees collected by each EDC. On an annual basis, the fees collected will be adjusted to enable the EDCs to recover their prudently incurred costs by the end of the fifth year.

This change is consistent with traditional ratemaking principles, which assign cost recovery to the parties that cause them. Because the CIAP portal is primarily designed to benefit DER developers and applicants by providing a more streamlined and accessible platform for

submitting, tracking, and managing interconnection requests, it is appropriate that the costs of developing and maintaining this interconnection system be recovered directly from those users through the application process itself. Recovery through targeted fees, rather than broad-based ratepayer charges, ensures that the costs of private project facilitation are not inappropriately socialized across all utility customers.

Nonetheless, Rate Counsel opposes the newly introduced exceptions to the aforementioned cost recovery rule, set forth in proposed N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.2(n), that would allow an EDC to recover up to five percent of its CIAP costs from ratepayers if application and PAVE fees fall short of covering the full cost:

1. In the event an EDC does not fully recover its prudently incurred costs of the CIAP portal through application and PAVE fees, it may recover the lesser of the difference between its prudently incurred costs of the CIAP portal and the revenue it raised through application and PAVE fees or five percent of its prudently incurred costs of the CIAP portal from its ratepayers.

2. In the event that an EDC recovers more than its prudently incurred costs of the CIAP portal through application and PAVE fees, it shall credit the lesser of the difference between its prudently incurred costs of the CIAP portal and the revenue it raised through application and PAVE fees or five percent of its prudently incurred costs of the CIAP portal from its ratepayers. Any remaining over-recovery shall then be credited to the parties that paid application and/or PAVE fees to the EDC on a pro-rata basis.

The Board's proposed exceptions introduce a ratepayer backstop that is both unnecessary and counterproductive. These exceptions create a moral hazard by weakening the EDCs' incentive to design a cost-effective portal and to propose fees that accurately reflect the expected user base and system usage. Ratepayers should not be exposed to any portion of the CIAP's cost, either through pre-funding or through true-up provisions. CIAP development is a facilitation tool for a specific group of market participants who should not require ratepayer funding. If application and PAVE fees are not set at an adequate level to recover the cost of the

system, the Board should require EDCs to revise their fee structure, rather than rely on ratepayer contributions to make up the difference.

N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.3 Certification of customer-generator interconnection equipment

Rate Counsel incorporates by reference its August 2, 2024 comments on this section.

N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.4 Level 1 interconnection review

Rate Counsel opposes the inclusion of a fixed “not-to-exceed” interconnection application fee, as used in proposed N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.4(b):

For a customer-generator facility described at (a) above, the EDC shall approve interconnection under the level 1 interconnection review procedure upon payment of a fee, not to exceed \$ 100.00 or other value established by Board order, if all of the applicable requirements at (c) through (g) below are met. An EDC shall not impose additional requirements not specifically authorized pursuant to this section.

While the rules explicitly state that the fee could change as a result of a Board order, codifying any specific fee level introduces unnecessary rigidity into the rules. Further, the fixed cap gives the impression that the fees paid by applicants are meant to be capped and disassociated from costs, regardless of the actual costs incurred by the EDC.

Rate Counsel is concerned that the inclusion of a cap would result in the shifting of application costs from the applicants onto ratepayers. This would violate cost-causation principles of ratemaking and unreasonably shift the risk of interconnection onto ratepayers. To better align the application fee with costs, Rate Counsel recommends revising this proposed new rule to state that: “An Application fee shall be set by the EDC based on its historic, actual costs incurred to process a Level 1 application.”

N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.5 Level 2 interconnection review

Rate Counsel incorporates by reference its August 2, 2024 comments on this section.

N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.6 Level 3 interconnection review

Rate Counsel opposes the inclusion of a fixed “not-to-exceed” interconnection application fee, as used in proposed N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.6(k):

An application fee not to exceed \$ 100.00 plus \$ 10.00 per kW of the export capacity up to a maximum of \$10,000 or other value as determined by Board order shall accompany any application and an application shall not be deemed complete until the application fee is received. The application fee shall be in addition to charges for actual time spent on analyzing the proposed interconnection. Costs for EDC studies and facilities necessary to accommodate the applicant's proposed customer-generator facility shall be the responsibility of the applicant.

While the proposed language includes a provision allowing the Board to modify the fee by order, codifying a specific fee structure, including a cap of \$100 plus \$10 per kW up to \$10,000, raises the same concerns Rate Counsel identified in the context of the Level 1 application fee. It gives the impression that fees are intended to be standardized or disconnected from actual processing costs, regardless of the nature or complexity of the proposed project.

Additionally, if the actual cost of processing a Level 3 application exceeds the cap, EDCs may attempt to shift the difference to its ratepayers. This outcome would be inconsistent with cost-causation principles and would impose an unfair burden on customers who are not participating in or benefiting from DER projects. Instead, Rate Counsel recommends that the proposed rule at N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.6(k) be revised to eliminate the specific dollar amounts and instead reference a fee to be established by Board order and updated based on historic and actual costs incurred.

Rate Counsel is also opposed to proposed N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.6(r) which states, in part:

Once the applicant executes the facilities study agreement and pays the EDC pursuant to the terms of that agreement, the EDC shall conduct the facilities study. The facilities study shall include a detailed list of necessary electrical power system upgrades and an itemized cost estimate, breaking out equipment, labor, operation, maintenance, and other costs, including overheads, for completing such upgrades. If the EDC commences construction of actual upgrades, the EDC may not charge the applicant for any portion of cost overruns

that exceed 50 percent of the total estimated upgrade cost. *These costs overruns shall also not be borne by ratepayers, unless the EDC demonstrates to the Board that its original cost estimate was reasonable under the circumstances and the subsequent cost overrun was not the result of its own imprudence.*

While Rate Counsel appreciates the intent of this provision to shield ratepayers from imprudent cost overruns, Rate Counsel is concerned that the 50 percent threshold allows EDCs to deviate significantly from initial cost estimates without consequence. Moreover, although the rule appears to prohibit EDCs from passing on cost overruns to ratepayers unless justified, the language leaves open the possibility that ratepayers could still be held responsible for poorly managed or inadequately scoped projects if the EDC presents a post hoc justification.

Rate Counsel recommends that the final rule be revised to require EDCs to absorb any cost overruns above the 50 percent threshold unless the utility files a request to the Board, subject to stakeholder comment and evidentiary review, demonstrating the prudence of the overrun and the extraordinary nature of the circumstances that led to it.

N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.7 Interconnection fees

As previously discussed in relation to proposed N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.4 and 5.6, Rate Counsel opposes the fixed cost caps included in proposed N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.7(a), (b), and (c):

(a) An EDC or supplier/provider shall charge an application fee, not to exceed \$100.00, or other value established by Board order, to an applicant that requests level 1 interconnection review.

(b) For a level 2 interconnection review, the EDC may charge initial application fees of up to \$50.00 plus \$1.00 per kilowatt of the customer-generator facility's export capacity, or any alternative value established by Board order. [...]

(c) For a level 3 interconnection review, the EDC may charge initial application fees of up to \$100.00 plus \$10.00 per kilowatt of the customer-generator facility's export capacity, with a maximum of \$10,000 or other value as determined by Board order. [...]

However, Rate Counsel supports the inclusion of proposed N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.7(f) which helps to mitigate CIAP costs being borne by ratepayers:

Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, an EDC shall adjust the size of the application and PAVE fees assessed pursuant to this section, as necessary, to ensure recovery of the prudently incurred costs of developing and implementing the CIAP application portal from applicants within the five-year period specified at N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.2(n). All adjustments to fees made pursuant to this subsection shall take the form of a uniform percentage increase or decrease to all level 1, 2, and 3 interconnection application fees, the maximum level 3 interconnection application fee, and PAVE fees (for example, a 50 percent increase in all level 1, 2, and 3 interconnection application fees, the maximum level 3 interconnection application fee, and PAVE fees). An EDC shall change its application and PAVE fee levels to match the amounts specified at (a), (b), and (c) above, as they may be adjusted by any applicable Board order, once the EDC has recovered the prudently incurred costs of developing and implementing its CIAP application portal. After the CIAP has been implemented, EDCs will recover the prudently incurred costs of operating the CIAP through developer application fees.

While Rate Counsel opposes embedding fixed dollar amounts in the rule text, we support the flexibility introduced through subsection (f), which ensures application and PAVE fees are adjusted as necessary to better align cost causation with cost recovery. This adjustment process also helps to mitigate the risk that under-recovery will result in ratepayer subsidies.

N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.8 Testing, maintenance, and inspection after interconnection approval

Rate Counsel incorporates by reference its August 2, 2024 comments on this section.

N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.11 Hosting capacity maps

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.11(a) requires each EDC, within 240 days of the effective date of this rulemaking, to file a tariff that includes “a common hosting capacity mapping process to aid applicants. Rate Counsel incorporates by reference its August 2, 2024 comments on this section. Rate Counsel opposes requiring ratepayers to pay the costs to prepare and update these hosting capacity maps and to upgrade the electric grid or replace equipment to

subsidize unregulated DER projects. This is especially true where ratepayers would pay an additional amount in rates, on top of the subsidies ratepayers already pay for DER projects, to supplement the profitability of an investment by an already unregulated and heavily-subsidized industry. The responsibility to pay the costs to prepare and update these hosting capacity maps and to upgrade the grid to accommodate new DER projects should remain with the entity proposing the DER project that benefits from its access to the electric grid. The EDCs should also explore if all of the maps can be hosted on a single site for the entire state. This may reduce costs and be more convenient and economical than multiple websites.

N.J.A.C. 14:8-5.13 Common Interconnection Application Process (CIAP)

Rate Counsel supports the establishment of a unified CIAP platform, as detailed in this new rule section. Creating a centralized and consistent interconnection portal across New Jersey's EDCs will help to streamline the interconnection process and enhance transparency for DER developers. A common platform is expected to reduce administrative costs for both utilities and applicants.

Rate Counsel also supports the Board's requirement in subsection (a) that all EDCs jointly procure an independent third-party developer through a competitive bidding process:

All EDCs shall enter into a joint contract to retain a third-party developer of a CIAP. The contract shall be competitively bid to ensure the most efficient and cost competitive price and highest level of consistent functionality to ensure a common experience for customer-generator applicants regardless of which EDC's service territory into which they request interconnection.

CONCLUSION

Rate Counsel thanks the Board for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN O. LIPMAN, DIRECTOR
NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL

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<input type="checkbox"/> QO21010085-	8-13-25-8C (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1393310)	ORDERS	BPU Staff	8-13-25-8C	08/13/2025
<input type="checkbox"/> QO21010085-	QO21010085_GRIDMODINTERCONNECTRULESSTRAW-RC COMMENTS (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1355173)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085_GRIDMODINTERCONNECTRULESSTRAW-RC COMMENTS	09/04/2024
<input type="checkbox"/> QO21010085-	IREC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED INTERCONNECTION RULES 8-2-24 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1352034)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	IREC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED INTERCONNECTION RULES 8-2-24	08/05/2024
<input type="checkbox"/> QO21010085-	2024.08.02 INTERCONNECTION COMMENTS PIQ ENERGY.DOCX (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1352032)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	2024.08.02 INTERCONNECTION COMMENTS PIQ ENERGY.DOCX	08/05/2024
<input type="checkbox"/> QO21010085-	QO21010085_GRID MOD RULE-MAKING_RC COMMENTS (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1352030)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085_GRID MOD RULE-MAKING_RC COMMENTS	08/05/2024
<input type="checkbox"/> QO21010085-	Sunnova Comments New Jersey Grid Modernization QO21010085 8.2.24 (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1351997)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Sunnova Comments New Jersey Grid Modernization QO21010085 8.2.24	08/02/2024
<input type="checkbox"/> QO21010085-	IREC Comments on Proposed Interconnection Rules 8-2-24(1811053.1) (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1351996)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	IREC Comments on Proposed Interconnection Rules 8-2-24(1811053.1)	08/02/2024
<input type="checkbox"/> QO21010085-	Docket No. QO21010085 RECO Comments FINAL 2024 Interconnection Rules (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1351995)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Docket No. QO21010085 RECO Comments FINAL 2024 Interconnection Rules	08/02/2024
<input type="checkbox"/> QO21010085-	ACE - Grid Mod Comments - QO21010085 - 8-2-2024 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1351993)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	ACE - Grid Mod Comments - QO21010085 - 8-2-2024	08/02/2024
<input type="checkbox"/> QO21010085-	2024-08-02 - PSEG - Grid Modernization - Interconnection Process - QO21010085 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1351984)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	2024-08-02 - PSEG - Grid Modernization - Interconnection Process - QO21010085	08/02/2024
<input type="checkbox"/> QO21010085-	CCSA Comments_Interconnection_Docket QO21010085_8-2-2024 (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1351974)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	CCSA Comments_Interconnection_Docket QO21010085_8-2-2024	08/02/2024

<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- Solar Landscape Comments (2024.08.02) Docket No. QO21010085 FINAL (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1351901)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Solar Landscape Comments (2024.08.02) Docket No. QO21010085 FINAL	08/02/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- JCPL COMMENTS ON INTERCONNECTION RULES 2024--FILED 8.2.24 (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1351893)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	JCPL COMMENTS ON INTERCONNECTION RULES 2024--FILED 8.2.24	08/02/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- NJUA Joint EDC Comments on Proposed Amendments to Rule_Docket No. QO21010085 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1351884)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	NJUA Joint EDC Comments on Proposed Amendments to Rule_Docket No. QO21010085	08/02/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- BPU - Interconnection Distributed Energy to Electric Grid - 56 N.J.R (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1351874)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	BPU - Interconnection Distributed Energy to Electric Grid - 56 N.J.R	08/02/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- EDF's Comments on Proposed Amendments to Rule_Docket No. QO21010085 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1351756)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	EDF's Comments on Proposed Amendments to Rule_Docket No. QO21010085	08/01/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- Docket QO21010085_PowerFlex Written Comments_7.31.24 (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1351609)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Docket QO21010085_PowerFlex Written Comments_7.31.24	07/31/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- 2024-7-24-24-GRIDMODERNIZATION-QO21010085-FINAL (1) (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1351462)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	2024-7-24-24-GRIDMODERNIZATION-QO21010085-FINAL (1)	07/30/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- RE_ PROPOSED AMENDMENTS_ N.J.A.C. 14_8-4.2 AND 14_8-5, PROPOSED NEW RULE_ N.J.A.C. 14_8-5.10, 5.11 AND 5.12 (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1345045)	RULES	BPU Staff	RE_ PROPOSED AMENDMENTS_ N.J.A.C. 14_8-4.2 AND 14_8-5, PROPOSED NEW RULE_ N.J.A.C. 14_8-5.10, 5.11 AND 5.12	06/04/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- PRN 2024-067 (56 N.J.R. 993(A)) CHAPTER 8 - RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY (GRID MODERNIZATION NOTICE OF PROPOSAL) (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1345044)	RULES	BPU Staff	PRN 2024-067 (56 N.J.R. 993(A)) CHAPTER 8 - RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY (GRID MODERNIZATION NOTICE OF PROPOSAL)	06/04/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO21010085 - FRED DESANTI (NJ SOLAR ENERGY COALITION) SUBMITTED COMMENTS PERTAINING TO NEW JERSEY GRID MODERNIZATION RULES (2 OF 2) (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1301093)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085 - FRED DESANTI (NJ SOLAR ENERGY COALITION) SUBMITTED COMMENTS PERTAINING TO NEW JERSEY GRID MODERNIZATION RULES (2 OF 2)	05/15/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO21010085 - FRED DESANTI (NJ SOLAR ENERGY COALITION) SUBMITTED COMMENTS PERTAINING TO NEW JERSEY GRID MODERNIZATION RULES (1 OF 2) (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1301092)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085 - FRED DESANTI (NJ SOLAR ENERGY COALITION) SUBMITTED COMMENTS PERTAINING TO NEW JERSEY GRID MODERNIZATION RULES (1 OF 2)	05/15/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- NJSEC COMMENTS DOCKET NO. QO21010085 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1300673)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	NJSEC COMMENTS DOCKET NO. QO21010085	05/11/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- Grid_Modernization_Comments_-_CEP (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1300591)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Grid_Modernization_Comments_-_CEP	05/10/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- KARTIK AMARNATH DOCKET NO. QO21010085 ADDENDUM COMMENTS (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1299846)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	KARTIK AMARNATH DOCKET NO. QO21010085 ADDENDUM COMMENTS	05/04/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO22110710 RECO COMMENTS INTERCONNECTION RULES (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1298998)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085 RECO COMMENTS INTERCONNECTION RULES	04/27/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- JOINT EDC COMMENTS - NJ INTERCONNECTION QO21010085 - 4-24-2023 (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1298993)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	JOINT EDC COMMENTS - NJ INTERCONNECTION QO21010085 - 4-24-2023	04/27/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO21010085 COMMENTS OF JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY ON STAKEHOLDER NOTICE - 4-24-23 (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1298992)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085 COMMENTS OF JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY ON STAKEHOLDER NOTICE - 4-24-23	04/27/2023

<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- TESLA COMMENTS, DOCKET NO. QO21010085, INTERCONNECTION (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1298991)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	TESLA COMMENTS, DOCKET NO. QO21010085, INTERCONNECTION	04/27/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO21010085 NEXAMP INTERCONNECTION COMMENTS (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1298990)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085 NEXAMP INTERCONNECTION COMMENTS	04/27/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- FUELCELL ENERGY INC. COMMENTS ON NJ BPU INTERCONNECTION RULES UPDATE QO21010085 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1298989)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	FUELCELL ENERGY INC. COMMENTS ON NJ BPU INTERCONNECTION RULES UPDATE QO21010085	04/27/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- DOCKET QO21010085 CCSA, NJSEC, SEIA, VOTE SOLAR JOINT COMMENTS (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1298988)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	DOCKET QO21010085 CCSA, NJSEC, SEIA, VOTE SOLAR JOINT COMMENTS	04/27/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- 2023-04-24 PSE&G COMMENTS ON INTERCONNECTION RULES GRID MOD DOCKET QO21010085 (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1298985)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	2023-04-24 PSE&G COMMENTS ON INTERCONNECTION RULES GRID MOD DOCKET QO21010085	04/27/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- CleanCapital Comments, Docket QO21010085, April 2023 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1298717)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	CleanCapital Comments, Docket QO21010085, April 2023	04/24/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- New Jersey Grid Modernization Sunnova Comments 4.24.23 (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1298710)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	New Jersey Grid Modernization Sunnova Comments 4.24.23	04/24/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- 2023-04-24 PSE&G Comments on Interconnection Rules Grid Mod Docket QO21010085 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1298671)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	2023-04-24 PSE&G Comments on Interconnection Rules Grid Mod Docket QO21010085	04/24/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- ACE - Grid Mod Comments - QO21010085 - 4-24-2023 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1298670)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	ACE - Grid Mod Comments - QO21010085 - 4-24-2023	04/24/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- TESLA COMMENTS, DOCKET NO. QO21010085, INTERCONNECTION (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1298668)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	TESLA COMMENTS, DOCKET NO. QO21010085, INTERCONNECTION	04/24/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- JOINT EDC COMMENTS - NJ INTERCONNECTION QO21010085 - 4-24-2023 (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1298623)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	JOINT EDC COMMENTS - NJ INTERCONNECTION QO21010085 - 4-24-2023	04/24/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- Joint EDC Comments - NJ Interconnection QO21010085 - 4-24-2023 (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1298615)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Joint EDC Comments - NJ Interconnection QO21010085 - 4-24-2023	04/24/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- EcogyEnergy_NJBPU_IX_Rules_Mod_Comments_4.2 4.23 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1298601)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	EcogyEnergy_NJBPU_IX_Rules_Mod_Comments_4.24.23	04/24/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- BW COMMENT DOCKET QO21010085 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1297765)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	BW COMMENT DOCKET QO21010085	04/13/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- REVISED NOTICE_INTERCONNECTION_PROPOSEDRULELA NGUAGE 3-2-23 (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1293205)	NOTICES	BPU Staff	REVISED NOTICE_INTERCONNECTION_PROPOSE DRULELANGUAGE 3-2-23	03/02/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- NOTICE_INTERCONNECTION_PROPOSEDRULELA NGUAGE (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1289297)	NOTICES	BPU Staff	NOTICE_INTERCONNECTION_PROPOSE DRULELANGUAGE	01/27/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- 11-9-22-8A (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1281615)	ORDERS	BPU Staff	11-9-22-8A	11/15/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- NJDRC COMMENTS - IMO NEW JERSEY GRID MODERNIZATION INTERCONNECTION PROCESS - BPU DKT. NO. QO21010085 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1270001)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	NJDRC COMMENTS - IMO NEW JERSEY GRID MODERNIZATION INTERCONNECTION PROCESS - BPU DKT. NO. QO21010085	07/20/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- NJRCEV COMMENTS GRID MODERNIZATION REPORT (DocumentHandler.ashx? document_id=1270000)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	NJRCEV COMMENTS GRID MODERNIZATION REPORT	07/20/2022

<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	BPU Docket No. QO21010085 RECO Grid Mod Comments 7-19-2022 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269959)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	BPU Docket No. QO21010085 RECO Grid Mod Comments 7-19-2022	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	2022-07-19 PSEG Grid Modernization Comments (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269958)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	2022-07-19 PSEG Grid Modernization Comments	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	Docket No. QO21010085_PowerFlex Written Comments to NJ BPU Regarding Grid Modernization (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269955)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Docket No. QO21010085_PowerFlex Written Comments to NJ BPU Regarding Grid Modernization	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	EcogyEnergyNJBPUGridModComments71922 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269954)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	EcogyEnergyNJBPUGridModComments71922	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	JCPL GRIDMOD INTERCONNECTION PROCEEDING COMMENTS ON DRAFT REPORT 7-19-22 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269940)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	JCPL GRIDMOD INTERCONNECTION PROCEEDING COMMENTS ON DRAFT REPORT 7-19-22	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	QO21010085 NFCRC COMMENTS ON DRAFT GRID MOD REPORT 07_19_22 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269937)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085 NFCRC COMMENTS ON DRAFT GRID MOD REPORT 07_19_22	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	BW GRID MOD COMMENTS (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269936)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	BW GRID MOD COMMENTS	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	MRC NJ GIRD MODERNIZATION COMMENTS FINAL (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269935)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	MRC NJ GIRD MODERNIZATION COMMENTS FINAL	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	Comments on the BPU Grid Modernization Report 7-19-22 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269930)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Comments on the BPU Grid Modernization Report 7-19-22	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	Bloom Energy_Grid Modernization Comments_7.19.22 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269927)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Bloom Energy_Grid Modernization Comments_7.19.22	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	EDF Comments on NJBPU Grid Modernization and Interconnection (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269924)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	EDF Comments on NJBPU Grid Modernization and Interconnection	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	CPR Comments to NJBPU (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269923)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	CPR Comments to NJBPU	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	ACE - Grid Modernization - Draft Report Comments - QO21010085 - 7-19-2022 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269922)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	ACE - Grid Modernization - Draft Report Comments - QO21010085 - 7-19-2022	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	NJ BPU Docket QO21010085 NFCRC Comments on Draft Grid Mod Report 07_19_22 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269907)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	NJ BPU Docket QO21010085 NFCRC Comments on Draft Grid Mod Report 07_19_22	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	TESLA COMMENTS, DOCKET NO. QO21010085, GRID MOD (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269896)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	TESLA COMMENTS, DOCKET NO. QO21010085, GRID MOD	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	JOINT SEIA-NJSEC-CCSA COMMENTS, DOCKET NO. QO21010085, GRID MOD (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269855)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	JOINT SEIA-NJSEC-CCSA COMMENTS, DOCKET NO. QO21010085, GRID MOD	07/19/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	QO21010085 FUELCELL ENERGY SUBMISSION TO GRIDMOD (COMMENT) (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1269487)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085 FUELCELL ENERGY SUBMISSION TO GRIDMOD (COMMENT)	07/13/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	QO21010085 JCPL GRIDMOD INTERCONNECTION PROCEEDING PRE-DRAFT REPORT COMMENTS (FILED 6-21-22) (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1268019)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085 JCPL GRIDMOD INTERCONNECTION PROCEEDING PRE-DRAFT REPORT COMMENTS (FILED 6-21-22)	06/21/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	Tesla PPT Jan 28_QO21010085 (1) (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1267390)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Tesla PPT Jan 28_QO21010085 (1)	06/10/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085-	QO21010085 - 5-17-2022 ACE'S COMMENTS CLMH (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1265739)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085 - 5-17-2022 ACE'S COMMENTS CLMH	05/17/2022

<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- Cover Letter - QO21010085 - 5-17-2022 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1265731)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Cover Letter - QO21010085 - 5-17-2022	05/17/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- 5.12.22 Updated Draft ACE Grid Mod Comments ds-aml CLMH 5.17 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1265729)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	5.12.22 Updated Draft ACE Grid Mod Comments ds-aml CLMH 5.17	05/17/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- NOTICE GRID MODERNIZATION STAKEHOLDER MEETING APRIL 19 2022 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1263417)	NOTICES	BPU Staff	QO21010085 NOTICE GRID MODERNIZATION STAKEHOLDER MEETING APRIL 19 2022	04/20/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- COMMENTS21010085 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1260367)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	COMMENTS21010085	03/24/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO21010085-COMMENTS ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY 3-22-2022 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1259816)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085-COMMENTS ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY 3-22-2022	03/23/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO21010085 LETTER (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1258125)	CORRESPONDENCE	BPU Staff	QO21010085 LETTER	03/09/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO21010085 BROOKVILLE SMART ENERGY BUS DEPOT OVERVIEW_EXTERNAL_FINAL (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1258123)	CORRESPONDENCE	BPU Staff	QO21010085 BROOKVILLE SMART ENERGY BUS DEPOT OVERVIEW_EXTERNAL_FINAL	03/09/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO21010085 - AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH (BPU) SUBMITTED A REVISED UPCOMING PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETING FOR 1.28.22 FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1254436)	NOTICES	BPU Staff	QO21010085 - AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH (BPU) SUBMITTED A REVISED UPCOMING PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETING FOR 1.28.22 FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.	02/02/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO21010085 - AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH (BPU) SUBMITTED A PUBLIC NOTICE OF A REVISED UPCOMING STAKEHOLDER MEETING (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1254431)	NOTICES	BPU Staff	QO21010085 - AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH (BPU) SUBMITTED A PUBLIC NOTICE OF A REVISED UPCOMING STAKEHOLDER MEETING	02/02/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO21010085 - AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH (BPU) SUBMITTED A PUBLIC NOTICE OF AN UPCOMING STAKEHOLDER MEETING FOR 1.28.22 FROM 9-1 P.M. (VIRTUAL) (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1254429)	NOTICES	BPU Staff	QO21010085 - AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH (BPU) SUBMITTED A PUBLIC NOTICE OF AN UPCOMING STAKEHOLDER MEETING FOR 1.28.22 FROM 9-1 P.M. (VIRTUAL)	02/02/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO21010085 SUNNOVA COMMENTS (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1253160)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085 SUNNOVA COMMENTS	01/14/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- Docket QO21010085 RECO BPU Grid Mod Presentation Jan 14, 2022 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1253077)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Docket QO21010085 RECO BPU Grid Mod Presentation Jan 14, 2022	01/12/2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- QO21010085 GRID MOD. STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1249797)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	QO21010085 GRID MOD. STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS	11/17/2021
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- NJ BPU Grid Mod Comments 20211116 (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1249729)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	NJ BPU Grid Mod Comments 20211116	11/16/2021
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- Stakeholder Session 2 _Tesla Energy_NJBPU Grid Modernization (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1249719)	COMMENTS	BPU Staff	Stakeholder Session 2 _Tesla Energy_NJBPU Grid Modernization	11/15/2021
<input type="checkbox"/>	QO21010085- NOTICE GRID MODERNIZATION STAKEHOLDER MEETING (DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1248467)	NOTICES	BPU Staff	NOTICE GRID MODERNIZATION STAKEHOLDER MEETING	10/15/2021

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IN THE MATTER OF BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT ("BEAD") GRANT FINAL PROPOSAL	Aug 26		Sep 2	
August 22, 2025 Special Public Meeting	Aug 18	Aug 22		Aug 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting Replay
I/M/O Provision of BGS – Period Beginning June 1 2026 DKT NO. ER25040190	Aug 5	Sep 18	Oct 25	
SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE- In the Matter of New Jersey's Growing Concerns Surrounding Resource Adequacy and Participation in Regional Wholesale Electricity Markets	Jul 18	Aug 5	Aug 19	Aug 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting Replay
In the Matter of the Proposed Readoption with Amendments to N.J.A.C.14:4 ET SEQ.. Energy Competition	Jul 16	Jul 30	Aug 13	Jul 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting ReplayPresentation
In the Matter of the Three-Year Review of the Administratively Determined Incentive Program	Jun 30	Jun 11	Jun 21	Jun 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting ReplayPresentation
The Board has re-scheduled the Special Public Meeting to Monday, June 30, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.	Jun 26	Jun 30		Jun 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting Replay
Please be advised, the Special Agenda Meeting previously scheduled for June 26, 2025, is hereby cancelled and rescheduled to June 30, 2025.	Jun 26	Jun 30		
Public Information Session on Residential Energy Bill Relief and Mitigation Efforts	Jun 25	Jun 23		

<u>Topic & Notice Link</u>	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Meeting Date(s)</u>	<u>Comment Deadline</u>	<u>Related Materials</u>
STAKEHOLDER MEETING: In the Matter of the Implementation of P.L. 2018, C. 17, The New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Third Triennium of Energy and Peak Demand Reduction Programs	Jun 16	Jul 14 Jul 15	Jul 29	
In the Matter of the Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to P.L. 2021, c.169	Jun 2	Jun 12		June 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Replay
Notice of Public Stakeholder Meeting and Request for Comment	May 23	Jun 3	Jun 6	June 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Replay • Presentation
June 13, 2025, Quarterly Meeting	May 20	Jun 13	Jul 18	June 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Replay
In the Matter of Comprehensive Energy Efficiency and Renewal Energy Resource Analysis for Fiscal Year 2026 Clean Energy Program/ In the Matter of the Clean Energy Programs and Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026.	May 7	May 28	Jun 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Replay • Presentation
In the Matter of Prospective Nuclear Energy Generation in New Jersey	May 5		Jun 23	
Notice of Fund Availability New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Availability of Grant	Mar 24		Jul 11	
In the Matter of Addressing New Jersey Affordability for Low-and Moderate-Income Households	Mar 20	Apr 1	Apr 10	April 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Replay • Presentation
Request for Comments: Establishment of an Urban Heat Island ("UHI") Mitigation Program	Mar 17		Apr 17	
Request for Information: In the Matter of Successor Solar Incentive Program Pursuant to P.L. 2021, C.169/ In the Matter of Certification of Energy Year 2023 Cost Cap Calculation and Setting ADI Program Megawatt Blocks for Energy Year 2025	Mar 17		Apr 16	
In The Matter Of The Clean Energy Programs And Budget For Fiscal Year 2025 – True-Up, Revised Budgets and Program Changes	Mar 11		Mar 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Replay • Presentation
Notice of Request for Comments: Adoption of the Program Year Technical Reference Manual for New Jersey's Triennium 2 Energy Efficiency Programs	Mar 10		Mar 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PY5 TRM change log • PY5 TRM DRAFT redline • PY5 TRM DRAFT

Topic & Notice Link	Date Issued	Meeting Date(s)	Comment Deadline	Related Materials
In the Matter of the 2024 New Jersey Energy Master Plan	Feb 28 Revised Mar 14	Mar 13	May 1	March 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay Presentation
March 14, 2025 Quarterly Meeting	Feb 26	Mar 14	Apr 18	March 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Reply
In the Matter of the Provision of Basic Generation Service ("BGS") For the Period Beginning June 1, 2025	Feb 11	Feb 12		
BGS Auction has Ended	Feb 10			
IN THE MATTER OF NET METERING FOR CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS	Feb 5	Feb 10	Mar 3	February 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay Presentation
IN THE MATTER OF THE DUAL-USE SOLAR ENERGY PILOT PROGRAM	Jan 6			EOI Submission Form

2024 Public Notices

Topic & Notice Link	Date Issued	Meeting Date(s)	Comment Deadline	Related Materials
In the Matter of the Provision of Basic Generation Service ("BGS") For the Period Beginning June 1, 2025	Dec 23	Feb 10 Feb 11 Feb 12 Feb 13 Feb 14		
Request for Comments-Adoption of the Program Year 4 Technical Reference Manual for New Jersey's Triennium 2 Energy Efficiency Programs	Dec 20		Jan 15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> PY4 TRM DRAFT.docx PY4 TRM DRAFT redline.pdf PY4 TRM change log.xlsx
IN THE MATTER OF NET METERING FOR CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS	Dec 20	Feb 10	Mar 3	
Notice-Interest Rate for Calendar Year 2025	Dec 16			
IN THE MATTER OF NEW JERSEY'S DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCE PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY MARKETS	Dec 12	Jan 17	Jan 31	January 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay Presentation

Topic & Notice Link	Date Issued	Meeting Date(s)	Comment Deadline	Related Materials
Revised CY2025 Board Meeting Notice	Dec 11			
In the Matter of the Provision of Basic Generation Service for the Period Beginning June 1, 2025 – Electric Distribution Companies’ (“EDCs”) BGS Compliance Filings -Docket No. ER24030191	Dec 9			
December 13, 2024 Quarterly Meeting	Dec 5	Dec 13	Jan 17	December 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
IN THE MATTER OF A RULEMAKING PROCEEDING TO ESTABLISH THE DUAL-USE SOLAR ENERGY PILOT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO P.L. 2021, c. 170	Dec 2	Dec 17	Jan 31	December 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay Presentation Q&A Document
IN THE MATTER OF COMPETITIVE SOLAR INCENTIVE (“CSI”) PROGRAM PURSUANT TO P.L. 2021, C.169	Dec 2		Dec 16	
Stakeholder Meeting In the Matter of the Community Solar Energy Program	Nov 21	Dec 3	Dec 16	December 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay Presentation
CY2025 Board Meeting Notice	Nov 13			
Revised CY2024 Board Meeting Notice	Nov 8			
In the Matter of Net Metering for Class I Renewable Energy Systems	Nov 8	Nov 19		November 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay Presentation
In the Matter of the New Jersey Energy Storage Incentive Program 2024 Straw Proposal	Nov 7	Nov 20	Dec 18	November 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay Presentation
Notice-Special Public Board Meeting- October 30, 2024	Oct 28	Oct 30		October 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
Notice of Fund Availability New Jersey Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Equity Pilot Grant Program	Oct 23			
Watershed Property Review Board Agenda	Oct 16	Oct 24		October 24

Topic & Notice Link	Date Issued	Meeting Date(s)	Comment Deadline	Related Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
Amended Watershed Property Review Board Public Meeting Notice	Oct 16	Mar 26 Oct 24		
Stakeholder Meeting and Request for Comments: In the Matter of a Rulemaking Proceeding To Establish AMI Data Access Standards	Sep 17	Sep 30	Oct 30	AMI Data Access Proposed New Rule September 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
Hybrid Stakeholder Meeting and Request for Comment: In the Matter of the Opening of a Solicitation for a Transmission Infrastructure Project to Support New Jersey's Offshore Wind Public Policy	Sep 16	Oct 1	Oct 15	October 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
September 20, 2024 Quarterly Meeting	Sep 12	Sep 20		September 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
Request for Comments: In the Matter of Proposed Updates to New Jersey's Clean Energy Program State Energy Programs for Non-Investor Owned Utilities	Sep 11		Sep 30	SEP Non-IQU Compliance TRC Filing
Request For Comments-EY24 ZEC Double Payments			Nov 12	
In the Matter of Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to P.L. 2021, C. 169	Aug 30	Sep 17	Sep 24	September 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
Request For Information – Remote Net Metering	Aug 13		Aug 27	
2025 BGS Legislative Type Hearing	Aug 12	Sep 20	Oct 7	September 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
Request for Comments-In the Matter of the Dual-Use Solar Energy Program	Jun 10		Jun 24	
June 14, 2024 Quarterly Meeting	Jun 7	Jun 14	Jul 12	June 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
Notice of Request for Comments -In The Matter of Proposed Updates to New Jersey's Clean Energy Program State	May 31		Jun 7	

Topic & Notice Link	Date Issued	Meeting Date(s)	Comment Deadline	Related Materials
Energy Program for Non-Investor Owned Utilities				
Proposed Updates to New Jersey's Clean Energy Program State Energy Program for Non-Investor-Owned Utilities	May 15		May 31	
RFI - In the Matter of the 2024 New Jersey Energy Master Plan	May 14	May 20 May 22 May 29 Jun 3	Jun 12	May 20 • Meeting Replay May 22 • Meeting Replay May 29 • Meeting Replay Jun 3 • Meeting Replay
FY25 Clean Energy Program Proposed Program Budgets and Compliance Filings related to Electric Vehicles	May 13	Jun 4	Jun 12	June 4 • Meeting Replay • Presentation
FY25 Clean Energy Program Proposed Comprehensive Resource Analysis, Budgets and Programs	May 13	May 31	Jun 12	May 31 • Meeting Replay • Presentation
RFI-In the Matter of the Implementation of Federal Inflation Reduction Act Homes (Homes Efficiency Rebates) and HEEHR (Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates) Program	May 7		May 21	
Watershed Property Review Board Agenda	Apr 23	May 1		
Notice of Fund Availability Community Energy Plan Grant (CEPG) Program	Apr 3			
Notice of Fund Availability Community Energy Plan Grant Implementation (CEPI) Grant Program	Apr 3			
In The Matter of The Proposed Readoption of N.J.A.C. 14:17, Rules of Practice and Procedure of The Office of Cable Television	Apr 1	Apr 23	May 31	
Energy Master Plan - Hearing #4	Mar 22	Jun 3	Jun 12	

Topic & Notice Link	Date Issued	Meeting Date(s)	Comment Deadline	Related Materials
In the Matter of the Clean Energy Programs and Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 -True-Up Revised Budgets and Programs.	Mar 15	Mar 15	Mar 27	March 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
Request for Comments: In the Matter of New Jersey's Clean Energy Program: New Construction Program	Mar 15		Mar 27	
In the Matter of the 2024 New Jersey Energy Master Plan	Mar 11	May 20 May 22 May 29	Jun 12	May 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay May 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay May 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay Jun 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
Request For Information: In the Matter of New Jersey's Distributed Energy Resource Participation In Regional Wholesale Electricity Markets	Mar 7		Apr 22	
In the Matter of the Opening of New Jersey's Fourth Solicitation for Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (ORECs)	Mar 6	Mar 20	Mar 27	March 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay Presentation
March 15, 2024 Quarterly Meeting	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 12	March 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
BGS Special Board Meeting	Feb 7	Feb 8		February 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
2024 BGS auction has ended	Feb 6			
BGS AUCTION IN PROCESS	Feb 2			
Notice-Special Public Board Meeting- January 24, 2024	Jan 16	Jan 24		January 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Replay
Request for Information: In the Matter of Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Equity (NJBIDE) Pilot Program	Jan 12		Feb 16	
In the Matter of the Provision of Basic Generation Service ("BGS") For the Period Beginning June 1, 2024	Jan 12	Feb 5 Feb 6 Feb 7 Feb 8		

Topic & Notice Link	Date Issued	Meeting Date(s) Feb 9	Comment Deadline	Related Materials
Watershed Property Review Board Public Meeting Notice	Jan 09	Mar 26 Oct 24		
Technical Conference In the Matter of the Implementation of Federal Inflation Reduction Act Homes (Home Efficiency Rebates) and HEEHR (Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates) Program	Jan 04 (Revised)		Jan 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting Replay



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Grid Modernization

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("NJBP" or "Board") hereby [gives notice](#) of a series of public meetings to collect stakeholder input on the current distribution grid interconnection policies and process, and potential improvements that will enable faster grid modernization and higher levels of distributed energy resource (DER) absorption.

All meetings in the series start with a brief presentation by NJBP Staff recapping the State of New Jersey Grid Modernization ("GridMod") initiative and activities to date, with an emphasis on their relation to strategies outlined in the 2019 NJ Energy Master Plan. The sessions then feature specific presentations and a facilitated comment collection that will be used in a formalized NJBP Proceeding at the conclusion of the series. The aim is to facilitate a guided discussion on recognition of existing barriers, estimate economic impacts of alternative reform paths, and ultimately build the broadest consensus on aligned measures that can remove or reduce the biggest barriers to grid modernization.

The public meetings were held at the dates, times, and manner shown below. Meeting materials and video recordings are available on the links below. To receive information on this topic, please subscribe to the [Renewable Energy listserv](#).

Meeting Date and Time	Agenda Focus
Feb 10, 2023 (1PM-5PM EDT)	Initial Rules Proposal Review A Rules Proposal was noticed and issued and reviewed with stakeholders on a Zoom call, with comments taken during the meeting. Meeting Materials: Notice , Presentation and Webinar Recording
Oct 26, 2021 (9AM-12PM EDT)	Grid Modernization Context This meeting presented research findings and best practices on state rules, regulations, and processes which govern the grid interconnection application, review, and approval workflow. Meeting Materials: Presentation and Webinar Recording
Nov 16, 2021 (9AM-12PM EST)	Stakeholder Data/Comment Ingestion This meeting facilitated direct feedback from public stakeholders on their experiences with current processes, ideas for improvement and innovation, success stories, and other relevant input. Meeting Materials: Presentation and Webinar Recording
Jan 14, 2022 (9AM-1PM EST)	EDC Readout - Collaborative Alignment This meeting opened with summary comments from each of the electric distribution companies ("EDCs") on their current baseline process, historical data from key research questions, and then proceeded to a structured conversation on priority topics raised from previous stakeholder sessions. Meeting Materials: Presentation and Webinar Recording
Jan 28, 2022 (9AM-1PM EST)	Non-EDC Readout - Collaborative Alignment Discussion topics covered technical, financial, and procedural issues regarding the current grid interconnection process. Staff requested presentations from non-EDC stakeholders that covered a diversity of project size, technologies, and organization types and that represent a diversity of opinions, constituencies, and business models. Meeting Materials: Presentation and Webinar Recording
June 27, 2022** (9AM-12PM EST)	Draft Report Review and Comment This meeting will present the Draft Report of findings and recommendations that will be made public prior to the meeting. This session is designed to elicit comments that will inform the Final Report production. Meeting Materials: Presentation , Webinar Recording and Poll Results

All comments must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. EDT on **July 19, 2022****.

**Date revised April 20, 2022. See the [public notice](#) for more information.

Members of the public may file written comments after any of the meetings regardless of whether they participate in the public meeting process. Please submit comments directly to [Docket No. QQ21010085](#) as detailed in the public notice. Comments are considered "public documents" for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act and any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. Written comments, including questions regarding the stakeholder process, may also be submitted to:

Aida Camacho-Welch
Secretary of the Board
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
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Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Phone: 609-292-1599
Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

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