



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:
Susanne LaFrankie
609-292-0701

Christie Administration Supports Supplier Diversity Development With Minority-Women, and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses

2016 SDDC Annual Conference “Matchmaking” Opportunities and Importance of Businesses Participation in Cyber Security

Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) Supplier Diversity Development Council (SDDC) continued to support and develop opportunities among minority- women, service disabled veteran-owned business enterprises (M/W/SDVBEs) and regulated utilities at its annual conference.

Established in 1997 by BPU resolution, the SDDC has been working for the last 19 years to foster and grow business relationships between M/W/SDVBEs and utilities. The SDDC Annual Conference was held September 13, 2016 at Rutgers University in Piscataway. A sold out crowd of over 250 attendees, represented New Jersey’s largest utilities, prime contractors, and diverse business owners. The conference is a forum for utilities to share opportunities with business owners to gain a better understanding on how to effectively position their businesses with utilities and their contractors.

This year, select attendees had the unique opportunity to participate in *individual matchmaker meetings*, where they presented their services and products directly to utilities and their prime contractors. NJBPU Commissioner, Upendra Chivukula applauded the attendees’ participation encouraging them to “never give up participating.” Other important topics of discussion included how the attending suppliers can competitively do business with Rutgers University, best practices in Social Media and the critical role the attendees play in Cyber Security.

NJBPU’s President Richard S. Mroz, is also the Chairman of the Critical Infrastructure Committee for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, (NARUC). The committee provides state regulators a forum to analyze possible threats and solutions to utility infrastructure security and delivery concerns including cybersecurity threats. Mroz said, “In New Jersey, we prepare and plan safeguards from all threats whether from weather or international terrorism. However, confronting cyber security is like no other threat.”

The NJBPU was one of the first utility commissions to order regulated utility companies to create cybersecurity plans. Last year Governor Christie issued an executive order detailing more pro-active innovative efforts.

Mroz called on attendees to help NJ strengthen its cyber security by taking an active role by participating in cyber security protection. “Now integrated threat and incident reporting and analysis can help connect the dots and show that what might appear to be random or disparate electronic invasions, possibly in total different types of companies or industries, could actually be part of a larger coordinate attack. Whether you are a business owner, or a utility you and your company need to be part of our efforts to protect and help deter threats.”

Represented utilities include AT&T, Verizon, PSE&G, and Elizabethtown Gas. Contractors who attended included IBM, Henkels & McCoy Inc., Wesco, Elecnor Hawkeye LLC, Safeway, Ferreira Construction Co. Inc., Donofrio General Contractors Corp, TSR Consulting and others.

The SDDC's commitment to its mission will enhance supplier diversity among New Jersey companies, resulting in the development of a strong economy and a productive environment for the growth of business throughout the state.

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