



## NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES PRESS RELEASE

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### **New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Begins Investigation of Utilities' Storm Response**

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has officially launched its investigation into the response of the state's utilities to winter storms Quinn and Riley. The twin storms left hundreds of thousands of the state's residents without power, some for more than ten days and some still remain in the dark. The Board is conducting its investigation at the direction of Governor Murphy.

"BPU has officially begun its thorough investigation into the recent power outages, as ordered by Governor Murphy," said NJBPU President Joseph L. Fiordaliso. "We applaud Governor Murphy for making power restoration improvements a priority and BPU will do everything we can to ensure New Jersey residents experience significant improvements during future storms."

President Fiordaliso convened a meeting of his senior staff this morning in which he directed them to begin the investigation immediately.

As part of its investigation process, the Board will be holding five public hearings across the state, including three hearings within the JCP&L service area. The goal is to hold one in Sussex County, one in Morris County and one in Hunterdon County. The other two hearings will likely be held in Bergen County and the Atlantic City region. President Fiordaliso has directed staff to schedule the first public hearing within the next few weeks. Public input received during the hearings will be a critical part of the investigation.

In addition to hearings, the Board will closely review the more than 100 utility storm protocols it implemented following Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Irene to assess whether these protocols were followed during the recent storms and where improvements should be made. In particular, the BPU will be reviewing mutual aid assistance protocols to ensure New Jersey utilities make restoring power in New Jersey their first priority.

The Board will also examine vegetation management, executive management and dispatching protocols, as well as the utilities' communication with their customers and other utilities during the recent storms. In addition, BPU will be debriefing state and local offices of emergency management to help determine what went wrong.

“I would like to personally thank the thousands of men and women who have been working tirelessly out in the field to get New Jersey back up and running,” said President Fiordaliso. “I would also like to acknowledge the hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents who have suffered without power during these storms for their patience, including those who still remain in the dark and cold today. I assure you, we are going to get to the bottom of this.”

*About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBP)*

*The NJBP is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBP include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight and responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents. To find out more about the NJBP, visit our web site at [www.nj.gov/bpu](http://www.nj.gov/bpu).*