

**From:** Bill Dressel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** 'board.secretary@bpu.state.nj.us'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on EDC Storm Prep and Response EO 11090543

### Comment on EDC Storm Prep and Response EO 11090543

On behalf of the Officers of the New Jersey League of Municipalities, and on behalf of our Emergency Management Committee, I want to thank President Hanna, his staff and the representatives of the utilities for their willingness to engage in this exercise. We support the recommendations contained in the Emergency Preparedness Partnerships' August 9, 2012 "Performance Review of EDCs in 2011 Major Storms." Those recommendations seem to address the major concerns raised by the League and our member Mayors in the two public meetings, which the Board of Public Utilities hosted last year.

Soon after Irene made landfall in New Jersey, and again after the October snow storm, problems with utility response to local requests for information and assistance were brought to my attention. Mayors turned to the League for assistance. I immediately reached out to [the BPU President](#) and the Board for help.

In response to that request, and with President Hanna's leadership, vital lines of communications were opened, conference calls were arranged and a series of hearings were held. The Emergency Preparedness Partnerships' report, requested by Governor Christie and President Hanna, seems to cover all the problems that we were able to identify and embodies many of the recommendations made by the League's Emergency Management Committee and our member Mayors.

This marks the beginning, not the end, of the preparations for the inevitable next storm. Response to that storm begins today with open lines of communication among New Jersey's Mayors, New Jersey's utilities, the League and the Board of Public Utilities. The utilities, through their local area managers, need to be proactive in reaching out to local officials in areas like vegetation management, service restoration prioritization and the maintenance of lines of communication.

Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, the unique needs of each municipality need to be recognized and respected.

Again, we thank and commend Governor Christie and President Hanna for their leadership.

William G. Dressel, Jr. Executive Director, New Jersey League of Municipalities    Sept 19,2012