



# Board of Public Utilities



## A Commitment to the Board of Public Utilities Priorities *Ensuring Safe and Proper Utility Services*

### A Commitment to the Board of Public Utilities' Mission

The Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is a regulatory authority with a statutory mandate to ensure safe, adequate, and proper utility services at reasonable rates for customers in New Jersey. Accordingly, the BPU regulates critical services such as natural gas, electricity, water, telecommunications and cable television. The Board addresses issues of consumer protection, energy reform, deregulation of energy and telecommunications services, and the restructuring of utility rates to encourage energy conservation and competitive pricing in the industry.

### Protecting Priorities in the Face of an Economic and Fiscal Crisis

The Department's priorities reflected in the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget:

- Capitalize on the energy efficiency and renewable energy marketplaces to foster green manufacturing and technology, thereby stimulating economic and job growth in New Jersey;
- Analyze and realign resources, as necessary, to ensure the safe and cost efficient delivery of adequate critical services such as natural gas, electricity and water;
- Review and modernize the regulations and policies governing the evolving utility industry to make it more competitive while ensuring reasonable rate impact.

### Making Tough Decisions

The Department's leadership understands the need to share in the burden of overall budget-cutting, and has identified areas where reductions can occur.

- Consolidate offices into one operation located in Trenton, thereby reducing the overall cost, while ensuring better efficiency and alignment with State government operations;
- Merge and reorganize divisions within the BPU to reflect the evolution of the industries and to streamline personnel and services;
- Modernize the information technology infrastructure, thereby reducing dependency on personnel to fulfill basic functions.

### Making the BPU Work Better for New Jersey

The Board currently operates primarily out of an office in Newark, while maintaining a small office in Trenton to ensure that Commissioners and staff have a base of operations near the central hub of state government. By moving the agency's operations into one central office in Trenton, the BPU will ultimately save significant costs, while providing ease of access from all areas of the state via public transportation.

By consolidating certain divisions into one practice, the BPU will align state government with the evolution of the industry, and will eliminate redundancies in staffing. Ultimately, this streamlined approach will reduce costs and increase the ability of the BPU to regulate in a manner that is consistent with industry practices. Through a variety of initiatives, the Board oversees a variety of programs which direct funds and resources towards technologies that save electricity and natural gas, and increase the amount of electricity generated from clean, renewable resources. In 2010, the Board will work to align these programs with the economic development goals of Governor Christie.