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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to Shine Light on Community Solar Pilot Program

Program Is Designed for Those Who Have Lacked Access to Solar Power

TRENTON—The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) will host a [stakeholder meeting](#) to solicit input in the development of its Community Solar Energy Pilot Program. The program, part of Governor Phil Murphy’s ambitious clean energy agenda, would enable investor-owned electric utility customers who cannot install solar on their homes or businesses to participate remotely. Participating community solar customers could receive a credit on their utility bills. This is one of the areas in which NJBPU is seeking stakeholder comments.

The daylong meeting will be divided into topics based on the Pilot Program criteria, including siting and project size, low- and moderate-income access, and customer protections.

NJBPU is particularly interested in ensuring that low- and moderate-income customers are able to access community solar and that community solar development does not negatively impact open space or protected lands.

“The Community Solar Pilot Project is integral to Governor Murphy’s clean energy agenda because it specifically provides access to solar to those who live in communities who have been and continue to be disadvantaged from environmental degradation and climate change,” said NJBPU President Joseph L. Fiordaliso.

“We look forward to hearing what the stakeholders say so we can move this project forward as quickly as possible,” he added.

The Clean Energy Act, signed into law by Governor Murphy on May 23, requires NJBPU to adopt rules and regulations establishing a Community Solar Pilot Program within 210 days of its enactment. The Program is geared particularly for those who cannot access solar.

The hearing will be held Tuesday, July 24, 10 a.m. at the Rutgers University College Avenue Student Center, Multipurpose Room, 2nd floor, 126 College Ave., New Brunswick.

NJBPU staff requests that those stakeholders who would like to speak at the hearing only speak on the session topic they select. Staff asks that stakeholders who wish to be called on first, submit a summary of their comments, and identify the specific session during which they would like to be speak. Stakeholders wishing to speak during multiple sessions should submit a summary for each of the relevant sessions. Summaries must be submitted via email to communitysolar@njcleanenergy.com no later than **5 p.m. on Thursday, July 19, 2018**.

Stakeholders wishing to speak at the public meeting without previously submitting summaries may do so by signing up upon arrival to the public meeting. However, those submitting statements in advance will speak first.

Written comments are also encouraged and must be submitted to Aida Camacho, Secretary, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314, CN 350, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. Written comments may also be submitted electronically to Rule.Comments@bpu.nj.gov in PDF or Microsoft Word Format. All comments must be received on or before **5 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2018**. All comments must be New Jersey specific. Stakeholder comments received in person and via email will inform NJBPU's drafting of rules and regulations establishing the Pilot Program.

The Pilot Program will provide necessary experience and lay the groundwork for the development and implementation of a full-scale Community Solar Energy Program within 36 months, in conformance with the Clean Energy Act.

About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)

The NJBPU 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 NJBPU 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 NJBPU, visit our web site at www.nj.gov/bpu.

About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (NJCEP)

NJCEP, established on January 22, 2003, in accordance with the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act (EDECA), provides financial and other incentives to the State's residential customers, businesses and schools that install high-efficiency or renewable energy technologies, thereby reducing energy usage, lowering customers' energy bills and reducing environmental impacts. The program is authorized and overseen by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU), and its website is www.NJCleanEnergy.com.