



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

ENERGY AND CLEAN ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION OF)
JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY)
FOR APPROVAL OF JCP&L'S SECOND ENERGY)
EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PLAN)
INCLUDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND PEAK)
DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS ("JCP&L EE&C)
PLAN II FILING"))

ORDER FURTHER EXTENDING
REVIEW PERIOD

DOCKET NO. QO23120872

Parties of Record:

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
Mark A. Lazaroff, Esq., Counsel, Jersey Central Power & Light Company
John Kolesnik, Esq., Counsel for the Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey
Steven S. Goldenberg, Esq., Counsel for the New Jersey Large Energy Users Coalition

BY COMMISSIONER DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU:

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

By Order dated May 24, 2023, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") directed each electric and gas public utility to propose, for Board approval, energy efficiency ("EE") programs for the second three (3)-year EE program period ("Triennium 2") pursuant to the Clean Energy Act of 2018, P.L. 2018, c. 17, on or before October 2, 2023, and addressed certain aspects of the Triennium 2 framework.¹

¹ In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Establishment of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs; In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Second Triennium of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs; In re Electric Public Utilities and Gas Public Utilities Offering Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs, Investing in Class I Renewable Energy Resources and Offering Class I Renewable Energy Programs in Their Respective Service Territories on a Regulated Basis, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-98.1 and N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.9 - Minimum Filing Requirements, BPU Docket Nos. QO19010040, QO23030150, and QO17091004, Order dated May 24, 2023 ("May 2023 Order").

By Order dated July 26, 2023, the Board approved the remaining aspects of the Triennium 2 framework.²

By Order dated September 27, 2023, the Board extended the filing deadline for Triennium 2 petitions from October 2, 2023 to December 1, 2023 and directed that any entities seeking to intervene or participate in this matter file the appropriate application with the Board by December 8, 2023, and that entities file with the Board any responses to those motions by December 14, 2023.³ By the September 2023 Order, the Board retained this matter for hearing and, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-32, designated myself, Commissioner Christodoulou, as Presiding Commissioner in this matter authorized to rule on all motions that arise during the pendency of this proceeding, and modify schedules that may be set as necessary to secure a just and expeditious determination of all issues. By Order dated October 25, 2023, the Board delayed the start of Triennium 2 by six (6) months from July 1, 2024 until January 1, 2025.⁴

On December 1, 2023, Jersey Central Power & Light Company ("JCP&L" or "Company") filed a petition with the Board, thereby proposing a total budget of approximately \$964 million for its EE and Conservation Plan II ("EE&C Plan II") over a thirty (30)-month period from January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 ("Petition"). By the Petition, JCP&L sought authorization to recover its EE&C Plan II costs through a consumption rate measured in dollars per kilowatt-hour applicable to all customer classes within the Company's tariff rate schedules. The Company further proposed to introduce a new rate component, EE&C2, under its existing Rider - Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Recovery Charge.

On December 28, 2023, Board Staff ("Staff") issued JCP&L a letter of administrative deficiency ("Letter") identifying administratively incomplete portions of the Petition and requesting that the Company cure any deficiencies.

² In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Establishment of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs; In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Second Triennium of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs; In re Electric Public Utilities and Gas Public Utilities Offering Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs, Investing in Class I Renewable Energy Resources and Offering Class I Renewable Energy Programs in Their Respective Service Territories on a Regulated Basis, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-98.1 and N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.9 - Minimum Filing Requirements, BPU Docket Nos. QO19010040, QO23030150, and QO17091004, Order dated July 26, 2023.

³ In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Establishment of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs; In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Second Triennium of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs; In re Electric Public Utilities and Gas Public Utilities Offering Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs, Investing in Class I Renewable Energy Resources and Offering Class I Renewable Energy Programs in Their Respective Service Territories on a Regulated Basis, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-98.1 and N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.9 - Minimum Filing Requirements, BPU Docket Nos. QO19010040, QO23030150, and QO17091004, Order dated September 27, 2023 ("September 2023 Order"). The September 2023 Order also directed that any entity wishing to file a motion for admission of counsel, *pro hac vice*, should do so concurrently with any motion to intervene or participate. No entity filed a motion for admission *pro hac vice* in this matter.

⁴ In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Second Triennium of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs, BPU Docket No. QO23030150, Order dated October 25, 2023 ("October 2023 Order"). The October 2023 Order also extended Triennium 1 through December 31, 2024.

By Order dated January 10, 2024, the Board directed that any entity wishing to file a motion for leave to intervene or participate, or to update a previously-filed motion for leave to intervene or participate, in this proceeding shall have until seven (7) days following Staff's issuance of a letter of administrative completeness to the Company.⁵

On January 16, 2024, JCP&L filed an update to the Petition to cure the deficiencies identified in the Letter ("Update"). On January 19, 2024, Staff issued a letter of administrative completeness, noting that the Update adequately cured the deficiencies identified in the Letter and that Staff therefore determined the Petition to be administratively complete. Accordingly, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-98.1(b), the 180-day period for the Board to review the proposal in this matter commenced on January 16, 2024. The Board subsequently received no additional or updated motions seeking leave to intervene or participate.

By Order dated February 26, 2024, after considering all Motions to Intervene or Participate in this matter and responses to the Motions, I granted intervenor status to the New Jersey Large Energy Users' Coalition ("NJLEUC") and the Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey ("EEA-NJ") (collectively, "Intervenors") and participant status to Convergent Energy and Power; Enerwise Global Technologies, Inc. d/b/a CPower; Uplight, Inc.; Google, LLC; and the joint utilities: Atlantic City Electric Company, ETG, NJNG, PSE&G, Rockland Electric Company, and SJG.⁶

On March 20, 2024, the parties to this matter submitted a stipulation of settlement agreeing to extend the 180-day review period to October 15, 2024 ("March 2024 Stipulation"). By Prehearing Order dated April 12, 2024, I approved the March 2024 Stipulation, thereby extending the 180-day review period to October 15, 2024, and established the procedural schedule in this matter ("April 12 Procedural Schedule"), annexed thereto as Exhibit A.⁷

On May 15, 2024, I received correspondence from JCP&L requesting, with the consent of all parties to this matter, to amend the April 12 Procedural Schedule. Specifically, the Company requested to extend the deadline for the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") and Intervenors to file testimony by two (2) weeks, from May 16, 2024 to May 30, 2024, to allow for further settlement discussions. The Company did not request further modification to the April 12 Procedural Schedule. The Company's correspondence indicated that Rate Counsel, Staff, and the Intervenors supported the request.

⁵ In re the Implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 17, the New Jersey Clean Energy Act of 2018, Regarding the Second Triennium of Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs et al., BPU Docket Nos. QO23030150, QO23120868, QO23120869, QO23120870, QO23120871, QO23120872, QO23120874, and QO23120875, Order dated January 10, 2024 ("January 2024 Order"). By the January 2024 Order, the Board additionally redesignated President Guhl-Sadovy as the presiding commissioner for the Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G") filing, BPU Docket No. QO23120874, and Commissioner Abdou as the presiding commissioner for the Elizabethtown Gas Company ("ETG"), New Jersey Natural Gas Company ("NJNG"), and South Jersey Gas Company ("SJG") filings, BPU Docket Nos. QO23120869, QO23120868, and QO23120870.

⁶ In re the Verified Petition of Jersey Central Power and Light Company for Approval of JCP&L's Second Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan Including Energy and Peak Demand Reduction Programs ("JCP&L EE&C Plan II Filing"), BPU Docket No. QO23120872, Order dated February 26, 2024.

⁷ In re the Verified Petition of Jersey Central Power and Light Company for Approval of JCP&L's Second Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan Including Energy and Peak Demand Reduction Programs ("JCP&L EE&C Plan II Filing"), BPU Docket No. QO23120872, Order dated April 12, 2024.

On May 30, 2024, I received correspondence from JCP&L requesting, with the consent of all parties to this matter, to amend the April 12 Procedural Schedule. Specifically, the Company requested to extend the deadline for Rate Counsel and Intervenors to file testimony by two (2) weeks, from May 30, 2024 to June 13, 2024, to allow for further settlement discussions. The Company did not request further modification to the April 12 Procedural Schedule. The Company's correspondence indicated that Rate Counsel, Staff, and the Intervenors supported the request.

By Order dated June 10, 2024, I suspended the April 12 Procedural Schedule until June 13, 2024, and directed the parties to this proceeding to provide an update and, to the extent necessary, a proposed modified procedural schedule for my consideration no later than June 13, 2024.⁸

On June 12, 2024, I received correspondence from JCP&L requesting, with the consent of all parties to this proceeding, to amend the April 12 Procedural Schedule. On June 27, 2024, I received correspondence from JCP&L requesting, with the consent of all parties to this proceeding, to suspend the April 12 Procedural Schedule indefinitely to allow the parties to continue fruitful settlement discussions. By Order dated July 1, 2024, I granted the Company's request to fully suspend the remainder of the April 12 Procedural Schedule.⁹

On October 7, 2024, the parties to this proceeding submitted a stipulation of settlement, for my approval, agreeing that a further extension to the 180-day review period is appropriate and agreeing to extend the 180-day period for the Board to review this matter to October 31, 2024 ("October 2024 Stipulation").

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.3 allows any public utility to file with the Board a written stipulation waiving the effective date of any tariff or rate, subject to the Board's approval. In this case, the parties to this proceeding have agreed to an extension until October 31, 2024. No party has opposed the October 2024 Stipulation or the extension of the review period. As such, having reviewed the October 2024 Stipulation, I **HEREBY FIND** the October 2024 Stipulation to be reasonable, in the public interest, and in accordance with the law. Accordingly, I **HEREBY APPROVE** the October 2024 Stipulation in its entirety, **HEREBY INCORPORATE** its terms and conditions as though fully set forth herein, and **HEREBY EXTEND** the review period until October 31, 2024.

I **HEREBY DIRECT** that this Order be posted on the Board's website.

⁸ In re the Verified Petition of Jersey Central Power and Light Company for Approval of JCP&L's Second Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan Including Energy and Peak Demand Reduction Programs ("JCP&L EE&C Plan II Filing"), BPU Docket No. QO23120872, Order dated June 10, 2024.

⁹ In re the Verified Petition of Jersey Central Power and Light Company for Approval of JCP&L's Second Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan Including Energy and Peak Demand Reduction Programs ("JCP&L EE&C Plan II Filing"), BPU Docket No. QO23120872, Order dated July 1, 2024.

This provisional ruling is subject to ratification or other alteration by the Board as it deems appropriate during the proceedings in this matter.

DATED: 10/15/2024

BY:



DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU

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APPROVAL OF JCP&L'S SECOND ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PLAN INCLUDING ENERGY
EFFICIENCY AND PEAK DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS ("JCP&L EE&C PLAN II FILING")

DOCKET NO. QO23120872

SERVICE LIST

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Sherri Golden, Board Secretary
board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Robert Brabston, Esq., Executive Director
robert.brabston@bpu.nj.gov

Stacy Peterson, Deputy Executive Director
stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov

Cindy Bianco
cindy.bianco@bpu.nj.gov

General Counsel's Office

Carol Artale, Deputy General Counsel
carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov

Colin Emerle, Deputy General Counsel
colin.emerle@bpu.nj.gov

Steven Athanassopoulos
steven.athanassopoulos@bpu.nj.gov

Michael Hunter
michael.hunter@bpu.nj.gov

Office of the Economist

Benjamin Witherell, Ph.D., Chief Economist
benjamin.witherell@bpu.nj.gov

Dianne Crilly
dianne.crilly@bpu.nj.gov

Jackie O'Grady
jackie.ogrady@bpu.nj.gov

Division of State Energy Services

Sara Bluhm Gibson, Director
sara.bluhm@bpu.nj.gov

Michelle Rossi
michelle.rossi@bpu.nj.gov

NJBPU, cont'd.

Division of Revenue and Rates

Anthony DeAnni
anthony.deanni@bpu.nj.gov

Division of Clean Energy

Stacy Ho Richardson, Deputy Director
stacy.richardson@bpu.nj.gov

Kevin Monte de Ramos
Bureau Chief, Energy Efficiency and Building
Decarbonization
kevin.montederamos@bpu.nj.gov

Kevin Nedza
kevin.nedza@bpu.nj.gov

Philip Chao
philip.chao@bpu.nj.gov

Rupa Deshmukh
rupa.deshmukh@bpu.nj.gov

Paul Heitmann
paul.heitmann@bpu.nj.gov

Indrani Pal
indrani.pal@bpu.nj.gov

Jusleen Basra
jusleen.basra@bpu.nj.gov

David Titus
david.titus@bpu.nj.gov

Alexis Trautman
alexis.trautman@bpu.nj.gov

Dustin Wang
dustin.wang@bpu.nj.gov

NJBPU Consultants

Andrew Grant
The Cadmus Group
720 SW Washington St., Suite 400
Portland, OR 97205
andrew.grant@cadmusgroup.com

Jason Meyer
DNV Energy Insights USA Inc.
1400 Ravello Rd
Katy, TX 77449
jason.meyer@dnv.com

Pankaj Lal, PhD
Cassidy Rucker
Montclair State University
426 Center for Environment & Life Sciences
Montclair, NJ 07043
lalp@montclair.edu
rucker@montclair.edu

Jennifer Senick
Rutgers Center for Green Building
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
33 Livingston Ave #158
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
jsenick@rutgers.edu

Lisa Skumatz
Skumatz Economic Research Associates
PO Box 1486
Silverthorne, CO 80498
skumatz@serainc.com

New Jersey Division of Law
Department of Law & Public Safety
R.J. Hughes Justice Complex, 7th Floor West
25 Market Street
Post Office Box 112
Trenton, NJ 08625-0112

Daren Eppley, Section Chief, DAG
daren.eppley@law.njoag.gov

Pamela Owen, Assistant Section Chief, DAG
pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov

Matko Ilic, DAG
matko.ilic@law.njoag.gov

Steven A. Chaplar, DAG
steven.chaplar@law.njoag.gov

New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

140 East Front Street, 4th Floor
Post Office Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Brian Lipman, Esq., Director
blipman@rpa.nj.gov

Maura Caroselli, Esq.
mcaroselli@rpa.nj.gov

Megan Lupo, Esq.
mlupo@rpa.nj.gov

Mamie W. Purnell, Esq.
mpurnell@rpa.nj.gov

Andrew Gold, Esq.
agold@rpa.nj.gov

Terrence Coleman, Paralegal
tcoleman2@rpa.nj.gov

Rate Counsel Consultants

Robert J. Henkes
Henkes Consulting
7 Sunset Road
Old Greenwich, CT 06870
rhenkes@optonline.net

Applied Economics Clinic
6 Liberty Square PMB 98162
Boston, MA 02109

Elizabeth A. Stanton, PhD
liz.stanton@aeclinic.org

Sumera Patel
Sumera.patel@aeclinic.org

Jordan M. Burt
jordan.burt@aeclinic.org

Tanya Stasio
tanya.stasio@aeclinic.org

Rate Counsel Consultants, cont'd.

Acadian Consulting Group
5800 One Perkins Place Drive
Building 5, Suite F
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

David Dismukes, Ph.D.
daviddismukes@acadianconsulting.com

Michael Deupree
michaeldeupree@acadianconsulting.com

Nicolas Alvarez
nicolasalvarez@acadianconsulting.com

Taylor Deshotels
taylordeshotels@acadianconsulting.com

Roberto Hasbun
robhasbun@acadianconsulting.com

Emily Mouch
emilymouch@acadianconsulting.com

Tyler French
tylerfrench@acadianconsulting.com

Jackson Gaspard
jacksongaspard@acadianconsulting.com

Jersey Central Power & Light Company
300 Madison Avenue
P.O. Box 1911
Morristown, NJ 07962-1911

Tori L. Giesler
tgiesler@firstenergycorp.com

Michael Martelo, Esq.
mmartelo@firstenergycorp.com

Mark A. Mader
mamader@firstenergycorp.com

Kurt E. Turosky
turoskyk@firstenergycorp.com

Diane Rapp
drapp@firstenergycorp.com

Edward C. Miller
emille3@firstenergycorp.com

Eric R. Rundy
erundy@firstenergycorp.com

Carol Pittavino
cpittavino@firstenergycorp.com

JCP&L, cont'd.

Viktor Lackmann
vlackmann@firstenergycorp.com

Victoria Lora Reyes
mlora_reyes@firstenergycorp.com

Mackenzie Klie
mklie@firstenergycorp.com

Kori R. Auman-Krebs
kauman@firstenergycorp.com

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
2222 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2921

Mark A. Lazaroff, Esq.
mark.lazaroff@morganlewis.com

Catherine G. Vasudevan, Esq.
catherine.vasudevan@morganlewis.com

Brendon Baatz
Gabel Associates
417 Denison Street
Highland Park, NJ 08904
brendon@gabelassociates.com

Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey
John M. Kolesnik, Esq., Policy Counsel
614 S. 4th St., #307
Philadelphia, PA 19147
jkolesnik@eeaofnj.org

New Jersey Large Energy Users Coalition
Steven S. Goldenberg, Esq.
Giordano, Halleran & Ciesla, P.C.
125 Half Mile Road, Suite 300
Red Bank, NJ 07701-6777
sgoldenberg@ghclaw.com

Atlantic City Electric Company
92DC42
500 North Wakefield Drive
P.O. Box 6066
Newark, DE 19702-6066

Nathanael Gillespie
nathanael.gillespie@exeloncorp.com

Jacob B. Sneed
jacob.sneed@exeloncorp.com

Jessica Yu
jessica.yu@exeloncorp.com

Heather Hall
heather.hall@pepcoholdings.com

ACE, cont'd.

Imran Bell
imran.bell@exeloncorp.com

Daniel Anderson
danderson@pepco.com

Ruth C. Kiselewich
ruth.kiselewich@exeloncorp.com

Susan Marinelli
smarinelli@pepcoholdings.com

Sherryl Chen
sherryl.chen@pepcoholdings.com

Brendon Baatz
brendon@gabelassociates.com

Elizabethtown Gas Company & South Jersey Gas Company

Sheree Kelly, Esq., Regulatory Affairs Counsel
South Jersey Industries
520 Green Lane
Union, NJ 07083
skelly@sjindustries.com

New Jersey Natural Gas Company

Andrew K. Dembia, Esq., Regulatory Affairs Counsel
1415 Wyckoff Road
P.O. Box 1464
Wall, New Jersey 07719
adembia@njng.com

Public Service Electric and Gas Company

Stacey M. Mickles, Associate Counsel – Regulatory
Law Department
PSEG Services Corporation
80 Park Plaza – T10
Newark, New Jersey 07102-4194
stacey.mickles@pseg.com

Rockland Electric Company

Margaret Comes, Esq., Associate Counsel
4 Irving Place
New York, New York 10003
comesm@coned.com

Convergent Energy and Power Inc.

7 Times Square, Suite 3504
New York, NY 10036

Katie Guerry, SVP Regulatory Affairs
kguerry@convergentep.com

Emma Marshall-Torres, Regulatory Affairs Manager
emarshall-torres@convergentep.com

Nathan C. Howe
K&L Gates LLP
One Newark Center
1085 Raymond Blvd.
Newark, NJ 07102
nathan.howe@klgates.com

CPower

Aaron Breidenbaugh, Senior Director of Regulatory
Affairs and Public Policy
64 Westview Rd
Voorheesville, NY 12186
aaron.breidenbaugh@cpowerenergy.com

Google, LLC

Bevan, Mosca & Giuditta P.C.
163 Madison Avenue, Suite 220-8
Morristown, NJ 07960

Murray E. Bevan, Esq.
mbevan@bmg.law

Jennifer McCave, Esq.
jmccave@bmg.law

Uplight

Norris McLaughlin, P.A.
400 Crossing Boulevard, 8th Floor
P.O. Box 5933
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

James H. Laskey, Esq.
jlaskey@norris-law.com

Anthony D'Elia
adelia@norris-law.com

Neil Veilleux
Uplight Inc.
2350 Junction Pl, Ste 200
Boulder, CO 80301
neil.veilleux@uplight.com