



Chris Christie
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
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Kristi Izzo
Secretary of the Board
(609) 292-1599

In the Matter of Additional Methods to Inform the Public Concerning Utility Filings
Docket No. AO13030252¹

Utility regulation in New Jersey is conducted by the Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”), which is a quasi-judicial body. As such, the Board conducts its business in a manner different than other public entities, e.g. a municipal or county governing body. Because the processes at the Board are different, the Board is seeking ways to increase public awareness regarding the appropriate methods to obtain information about or participate in a matter pending before the Board.

Therefore, Board Staff is proposing the methods set forth below to educate the public and provide greater transparency regarding matters pending before the Board. Comments regarding these suggested methods are being sought and will be accepted until Friday, August 9, 2013. After considering the comments received, Staff will make a recommendation to the Board.

Board Staff proposes that the utilities undertake the following actions to educate the public and provide transparency regarding the Board’s process and pending matters:

1. When a utility files a case which could result in an increase in rates – where a public hearing is required pursuant to regulation or statute, the utility will
 - a. Post the following documents on prominent location (s) on its website, such as the home page and other pages frequented by ratepayers, and provide a link to the documents on its social media sites (if it maintains a social media presence):
 - i. Petition and all attachments
 - ii. Company testimony and rebuttal testimony
 - iii. The public hearing notice(s) (date, time & place) with an **explanation** that the time to comment is during the public hearing. Also, it should be made clear to the public that information provided at such hearings will be part of the record and considered by the Board prior to voting on the issue(s).
 - b. Place a url (web address) for the information contained in (a) above in all public hearing notices.

¹ Not a paid legal advertisement

Such postings shall be made in a universally accessible format (e.g. PDF) with appropriate redactions for any information which is claimed to be confidential pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.1 et seq.

2. Each utility shall place a line on its bill with a url (web address) for the above information on the utility's website.
3. Each utility shall provide a link on its website to the BPU website.
4. Each utility shall provide a link on its website to the Division of Rate Counsel website.

Comments and suggestions about these proposed recommendations are welcomed and should be sent to the following address no later than the close of business on Friday, August 9, 2013:

Kristi Izzo, Secretary of the Board
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Or by email to

board.secretary@bpu.state.nj.us

Whether comments are submitted in hard copy or via email, please indicate the comment relates to:

Informing the Public, Docket No. AO13030252



Kristi Izzo
Secretary of the Board

Dated: July 17, 2013