



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
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www.nj.gov/bpu/**

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

A regular board meeting of the new Jersey Board of Public Utilities was held on April 17, 2024 and at the Board's Hearing Room at 44 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton and via online @ https://www.youtube.com/live/Qzb612pCauY?si=SRKOVxb_ZTOJlcNt

Public notice was given pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-18 by posting notice of the meeting at Board's Trenton Office, on the Board's website, filing notice of the meeting with the New Jersey Department of State and newspapers of broad circulation in the State of New Jersey.

The following members of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities were present:

President Guhl-Sadovy, President
Commissioner Christodoulou, Commissioner
Commissioner Abdou, Commissioner
Commissioner Bange, Commissioner

President Guhl-Sadovy presided at the meeting and Sherri L. Golden, Secretary of the Board, carried out the duties of the Secretary.

It was also announced that the next regular Board Meeting will be held on April 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. and would be a hybrid meeting at the Board's Hearing Room at 44 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton and livestreamed via YouTube.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

After appropriate motion, the following matters, which involved N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7) attorney-client privilege and/or contract negotiations exceptions, were discussed in Executive Session.

8. CLEAN ENERGY

D. Docket No. QO20110700 – In the Matter of the Contract for a Statewide Evaluator of New Jersey’s Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs.

Kevin Monte de Ramos, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter pertains to the contract for the Statewide Evaluator (“SWE”) of New Jersey’s energy efficiency (“EE”) and peak demand reduction (“PDR”) programs. The SWE currently oversees all evaluation, measurement, and verification (“EM&V”) efforts associated with the Triennium 1 (from June 30, 2024 to December 31, 2024) EE programs offered by the investor-owned utilities and New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program (“NJCEP”).

EM&V in this context is the study and analysis of EE and demand response program performance. It is a necessary process to track and improve program efficacy. The Board’s Triennium 1 EE regulatory framework established an EM&V Working Group (“EM&V WG”) to coordinate this process among BPU, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel, the utilities, their independent program evaluators, and a broad set of market stakeholders.

On March 24, 2021, following a competitive bidding process, the Board awarded the contract to oversee all EM&V activities and to convene the EM&V WG to Skumatz Economic Research Associates (“SERA”). The Board authorized a three (3)-year contract term to begin on July 1, 2021 and expire on July 1, 2024, with a single extension option of one (1)-year by mutual consent of the Board and SERA.

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“BPU” or “Board”) requires additional and timely efforts to address the extension of the end of Triennium 1 and the launch of Triennium 2 (January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027). The additional work effort requested builds directly upon the competencies and scopes of work procured from SERA.

Board staff (“Staff”) sought the approval of a budget modification and a single 12-month contract extension. The contract extension would continue their efforts through Fiscal Year 2025 (“FY25”).

The Board’s approval of the contract extension and budget modification would allow Staff to extend SERA’s contract through June 30, 2025, thereby raising the contract total for SWE.

Staff recommended that the Board authorize the contract extension and approve the budget modification described.

F. Docket No. QO24020125 – In the Matter of Mini-Bid Request for Quotation for Contractor Support on Federal Clean Energy Grant Applications.

Henry Gajda, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter involved the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) releasing a Request for Quotation (“RFQ”) to contractors on the State Contract.

The RFQ set forth the terms and conditions for the acceptance of proposals for contractor assistance with grant applications in connection with the following Federal Acts: the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, 117 P.L. 58, 135 Stat. 429 (“BIL” or “IIJA”), the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors Act of 2022, Division A of 177 P.L. 167, 136 Stat. 1366 (“CHIPS”), and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, 117 P.L. 169, 136 Stat. 1818 (“IRA”) (the IIJA, CHIPS, and IRA, collectively, the “Federal Acts”).

Board Staff (“Staff”) recommended that the Board approve releasing the RFQ to contractors on the State of New Jersey Standard Terms and Conditions (“SSTC”) and the Waivered Contracts/Delegated Purchase Authority Supplement to the SSTC for the purpose of assistance with the preparation of applications for federal clean energy grants.

CONSENT AGENDA

I. AUDITS

A. Energy Agent, Private Aggregator and/or Energy Consultant Initial Registrations

EE24020121L

TMGES, Inc.

I – EA/PA

GE24020122L

d/b/a Ananta Energy Source

BACKGROUND: The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) must register all energy agents, private aggregators, and energy consultants, and the Board must license all third party electric power suppliers and natural gas suppliers. Annually thereafter, licensed electric power suppliers and natural gas suppliers, as well as energy agents, private aggregators, and energy consultants, are required to timely file annual information update forms and renewal fees for their licenses and registrations in order to continue to do business in New Jersey. N.J.S.A. 48:3-78 to -79; N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.6 to -5.7; N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.8 to -5.9, and N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.11.

Board Staff (“Staff”) recommended that the following applicant be issued initial registrations as an energy agent and private aggregator:

- o TMGES, Inc. d/b/a Ananta Energy Source

B. Docket No. TE23110861 – In the Matter of Petition of BIF IV Intrepid OpCo LLC for Authorization to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Telecommunications Services in the State of New Jersey.

BACKGROUND: On February 8, 1996, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was signed into law to promote competition and remove barriers to entry into telecommunications markets. To that end, 47 U.S.C. § 253(a) provides that “[n]o State or local statute or regulation, or other State or local legal requirement, may prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the ability of any entity to provide any interstate or intrastate telecommunications service.” However, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 253(b), the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”), as the State’s regulatory authority, may impose requirements necessary to protect the public safety and welfare, ensure the continued quality of telecommunications services, and safeguard the rights of consumers on a competitively neutral basis that is consistent with universal service.

Board Staff (“Staff”) reviewed the petition filed by BIF IV Intrepid OpCo LLC (“Petitioner”) seeking authority to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout the State of New Jersey, as well as its request for a waiver of requirements to maintain financial records in accordance with the Uniform Systems of Accounts (“USOA”) and to keep records in New Jersey. Staff determined that the petition complied with all applicable regulatory requirements and is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Additionally, Staff found the Petitioner’s request to maintain its books and records in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (“GAAP”), as opposed to the USOA, and its request for the waiver to maintain in books and records in New Jersey reasonable.

By letter dated March 13, 2024, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") indicated that it did not oppose a grant of authority of Petitioner's request to provide competitive facilities-based and resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout the State of New Jersey. Rate Counsel's letter also indicated that it does not object to granting Petitioner's waiver request in connection with maintaining books in accordance with GAAP, as opposed to the USOA, and within New Jersey.

Staff recommended that the Board approve Petitioner's request for authorization to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout the State of New Jersey and to approve Petitioner's request for a waiver to maintain its books in accordance with GAAP, as opposed to the USOA, and within New Jersey.

II. ENERGY

There were no items in this category.

III. CABLE TELEVISIONS

A. Docket No. CE23090681 – In the Matter of the Verified Petition of CSC TKR, LLC d/b/a Cablevision of Raritan Valley for Renewal of a Certificate of Approval to Continue to Operate and Maintain a Cable System in the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey.

BACKGROUND: On February 17, 2016, CSC TKR, LLC d/b/a Cablevision of Raritan Valley ("Cablevision") filed an application with the Borough of Dunellen ("Borough") for renewal of municipal consent. The Borough adopted an ordinance granting renewal municipal consent to Cablevision on November 16, 2020. Cablevision formally accepted the terms and conditions of the ordinance on May 18, 2021. On September 19, 2023, Cablevision filed with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for a renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Borough.

After review, Board Staff ("Staff") recommended approval of the proposed Renewal Certificate of Approval. This Certificate shall expire on April 24, 2034.

B. Docket No. CE23090682 – In the Matter of the Verified Petition of CSC TKR, LLC for Renewal of a Certificate of Approval to Continue to Operate and Maintain a Cable System in the Township of Fredon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey.

BACKGROUND: On or about April 15, 2022, CSC TKR, LLC ("Cablevision") filed an application with the Township of Fredon ("Township") for renewal of municipal consent. The Township adopted an ordinance granting renewal municipal consent to Cablevision on October 13, 2022. On December 5, 2022, Cablevision formally accepted the terms and conditions of the ordinance. Cablevision filed with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for a renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Township on September 20, 2023.

After review, Board Staff ("Staff") recommended approval of the proposed Renewal Certificate of Approval. This Certificate shall expire on April 24, 2034.

IV. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A. Docket No. TM23100782 – In the Matter of the Verified Joint Petition of AP VIII Olympus VoteCo, LLC, Transferor and 46 Labs LLC, Transferee for Approval to Transfer Ultimate Control of Intrado Communications, LLC, Licensee.

BACKGROUND: On October 31, 2023, AP VIII Olympus VoteCo, LLC (“Olympus” or “Transferor”), together with Olympus’ indirect subsidiary, Intrado Communications LLC (“Intrado” or “Licensee”), and 46 Labs LLC (“46 Labs” or “Transferee”, collectively with Transferor and Licensee, the “Joint Petitioners”), submitted a Verified Joint Petition to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) requesting approval for a transfer of control of Intrado (“Petition”).

The New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (“Rate Counsel”) submitted comments on the matter. Rate Counsel did not object to Board approval of Joint Petitioners’ request. Rate Counsel noted that there is no guarantee in the Petition that Joint Petitioners will be able to fulfill their obligations with respect to employee pension benefits, as required under N.J.S.A. 48:3-10.

In response, Board Staff (“Staff”) submitted discovery to the Joint Petitioners requesting information pertaining to their obligations to employees in New Jersey. The Joint Petitioners stated that the Licensee has no direct employees in New Jersey.

The Board’s Division of Audits requested discovery regarding the annual assessment liability on February 13, 2024. The Joint Petitioners stated that the Licensee will pay the assessment liability, which is based on gross intrastate revenue irrespective of whether the transaction closes before or after the payment deadline for such assessment.

Following review of the records in the proceedings, Staff recommended that the Board approve the Petition.

V. WATER

A. Docket Nos. BPU WR23110853 and OAL PUC 01015-2024 S – In the Matter of the Petition of Gordon’s Corner Water Company for an Increase in Rates and Charges for Water Service.

BACKGROUND: On November 17, 2023, Gordon’s Corner Water Company (“GCWC” or “Company”) filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) seeking approval of an increase in its base rates of approximately \$2.141 million, or 15.24% for services rendered on and after January 1, 2024.

By Order dated December 20, 2023, the Board suspended the proposed rates until May 1, 2024. The matter was subsequently transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for hearing and assigned to Administrative Law Judge Jacob Gertsman.

Through discovery, GCWC filed an update to include 12 months of actual information (“12+0 Update”). By the 12+0 Update, the Company updated its proposed revenue requirement to approximately \$1.194 million.

Because review of this matter will not be complete prior to May 1, 2024, Board Staff ("Staff") recommended that the Board issue an Order further suspending the proposed rate increase until September 1, 2024.

B. Docket Nos. BPU WC22120730 and OAL PUC 00701-23 – In the Matter of Brenda Castrodad, Robert Harris, Robin Janell, Linda Pack, Lois Silverman, and All Similarly Situated, Petitioners v. Veolia Water New Jersey, Woodmont Properties, Toll NJ I, LLC, and Toll Brothers, Inc., Respondents.

BACKGROUND: On March 5, 2024, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") received Administrative Law Judge Gail Cookson's Initial Decision in the above-captioned matter. The final date of the 45-day statutory period in which the Board must consider this matter and render a Final Decision is April 19, 2024. Prior to that date, Board Staff ("Staff") requested a 45-day extension of time to adequately review the record in this matter.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the request for a 45-day extension of time and require that a Final Decision be entered on or before June 3, 2024.

VI. RELIABILITY AND SECURITY

There were no items in this category.

VII. CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

There were no items in this category.

VIII. CLEAN ENERGY

There were no items in this category.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Approval for the January 10, 2024 Minutes; and
- Approval for the January 24, 2024 Minutes.

After appropriate motion, consent agenda items IA, IB, IIIA, IIIB, IVA, VA, VB, IXA were approved.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

AGENDA

1. AUDITS

There were no items in this category.

2. ENERGY

A. Docket No. ER24030191 – In the Matter of the Provision of Basic Generation Service (“BGS”) for the Period Beginning June 1, 2025.

Stacy Peterson, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: Two-thirds of the State's Basic Generation Service requirements for residential and small commercial pricing customers are under contract for the period June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026. The Board must determine how the remaining one-third of the BGS requirements for RSCP customers, as well as the State's annual BGS requirements for commercial and industrial energy pricing customers should be procured beginning June 1 of 2025.

Staff is recommending that the Board initiate a transparent and public proceeding to determine what type of process should be used for the procurement of the RSCP and CIEP supply, as well as the capacity needs of Rockland's non-PJM service area customers.

Staff recommends the Board approve a procedural order that would result in a Board decision on the process in November of 2024 and would permit a BGS procurement process in February of 2025. Further, Staff recommends the Board direct the electric distribution companies to make a BGS filing by July, 2024 describing how they intend to procure the remaining requirements. It should also include a proposal from Rockland for procuring the capacity requirements for its non-PJM customers. In addition, Staff recommends the Board invite all other interested stakeholders to provide alternative proposals by July 1.

DECISION: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

B. Docket No. EM24020105 – In the Matter of the Petition of Trenton Renewable Power, LLC for Approval of a Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement with Public Service Electric and Gas Company.

Stacy Peterson, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On February 8 Trenton Renewable Power, LLC filed a petition seeking approval of a renewable energy power purchase agreement with PSE&G. On February 27 PSE&G filed a motion to intervene in the matter.

At this time, Staff recommends that the Board retain this matter for hearing and designate a presiding Commissioner, grant the PSE&G motion to intervene, and set a bar date of May 15 for the filing of any additional motions to intervene or participate.

DECISION: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

C. Docket No. ER23120926 – In the Matter of the Petition of Rockland Electric Company for Approval of a Zero Emission Certificate Recovery Charge.

Stacy Peterson, Division of Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: On December 29 Rockland Electric filed a petition seeking to reconcile the excess ZEC collections from Energy Year 2023 and the balance of the reconciliation for Energy Year 2022. Rockland subsequently amended the petition seeking to maintain the current level of its return of excess collections credit rate. Rate Counsel filed comments to which Rockland responded to.

Staff recommends the Board approve the maintenance of the Rockland's RECCR and direct Rockland to file revised tariffs by May 1. Staff notes that several of the electric distribution companies have made requests to modify the handling of these annual filings. Accordingly, Staff recommends that the Board direct Rockland to work collaboratively with the other EDCs, Staff, and Rate Counsel prior to the next filing to attempt to find a resolution.

DECISION: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

3. CABLE TELEVISIONS

There were no items in this category.

4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

There were no items in this category.

5. WATER

There were no items in this category.

6. RELIABILITY AND SECURITY

There were no items in this category.

7. CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

There were no items in this category.

8. CLEAN ENERGY

**A. Docket No. QO24010046 – In the Matter of the Clean Energy Program
Authorization of Commercial and Industrial Energy Efficiency Incentives
Exceeding \$500,000 – Equinix, Inc.**

Dustin Wang, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: Equinix, Inc. submitted an application under the Large Energy Users Program requesting Board approval of a financial incentive of \$627,423.00 for energy efficiency upgrades at facilities in Secaucus and North Bergen, New Jersey. This proposed project has a total cost of \$836,564.00. If approved, this application would cover a waterside economizer integration at the Secaucus facility and a chiller variable speed drive retrofit at the North Bergen facility.

Annually, this project would conserve 2,673,872 kilowatt hours of electricity and reduce peak demand by an anticipated 478.5 kilowatts. The project also has an estimated annual energy cost savings of \$257,735.00. The application and its covered project comply with program rules and are consistent with previously awarded applications.

Therefore, Staff recommends approval of the application for the total estimated incentive amount.

DECISION: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

**B. Docket No. QO23120873 – In the Matter of the Clean Energy Program
Authorization of Commercial and Industrial Energy Efficiency Incentives
Exceeding \$500,000 – Bristol-Myers Squibb.**

Dustin Wang, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: Bristol-Meyers Squibb submitted an application under the Large Energy Users Program requesting Board approval of a financial incentive of \$2,054,387.05 for energy conservation measures at three facilities in New Jersey. This proposed project has an anticipated total cost of \$4,602,860.00. If approved, this application would cover the steam insulation, the installation of a new kitchen hood and LED lighting upgrades at the Summit facility, chiller plant optimization at the Princeton facility, and a low load chiller installation at the New Brunswick facility.

Annually, this project will conserve 5,735,476.67 kilowatts of electricity and 64,934.56 therms of natural gas. The project also has an estimated annual energy cost savings of \$667,553.00 and estimated annual operational and maintenance savings of \$28,305.00. The application and its covered project comply with project program rules and are consistent with previously awarded applications.

Therefore, Staff recommends approval of the application for the total estimated incentive amount.

DECISION: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Recused
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

C. Docket No. QO24030167 – In the Matter of the Town Center Distributed Energy Resources Microgrid Incentive Program 2024 Memorandum of Understanding to City of Atlantic City;

Docket No. QO24030168 – In the Matter of the Town Center Distributed Energy Resources Microgrid Incentive Program 2024 Memorandum of Understanding to the Borough of Highland Park;

Docket No. QO24030169 – In the Matter of the Town Center Distributed Energy Resources Microgrid Incentive Program 2024 Memorandum of Understanding to the City of Hoboken;

Docket No. QO24030170 – In the Matter of the Town Center Distributed Energy Resources Microgrid Incentive Program 2024 Memorandum of Understanding to Hudson County;

Docket No. QO24030171 – In the Matter of the Town Center Distributed Energy Resources Microgrid Incentive Program 2024 Memorandum of Understanding to the Township of Montclair;

Docket No. QO24030172 – In the Matter of the Town Center Distributed Energy Resources Microgrid Incentive Program 2024 Memorandum of Understanding to Neptune Township; and

Docket No. QO24030173 – In the Matter of the Town Center Distributed Energy Resources Microgrid Incentive Program 2024 Memorandum of Understanding to the Township of Woodbridge Middlesex County.

Michael Hornsby, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter involves the issuance of a new MOU to replace an expired MOU for the Town Center Distributor Energy Resources, or TCDER, Phase II Detailed Design Program.

The background is on February 19, 2020, the Board authorized the release of the Phase II Detailed Design Program application and authorized the allocation of \$4 million in budgeted clean energy funding for the incentives. On March 3, 2021 the Board awarded incentives to eight awardees under the Phase II Town Center Distributed Energy Resources Microgrid Program, the Program. The March 3, 2021 order outlined several requirements for awardees, including directing each awardee to enter into an MOU, memorandum of understanding, or 2021 MOU, with the Board.

The 2021 MOU provided funding to the awardees to enable them to prepare a microgrid design report. The Board enter into MOUs with seven of the eight awardees, one party subsequently withdrew from the program prior to receiving award, between May 7 and May 13, 2021. The MOUs were for a two-year time period and are now expired. However, additional work remains to be done, namely completion of the design reports and acceptance/rejection of said reports by Board Staff. No new funds are being provided.

The 2024 MOU shall remain in effect until one of the following conditions are met: Board Staff accepts the final microgrid design report submitted by the awardee and pays the awardee the 25 percent retainage as described in the 2021 MOU; Board does not accept the final microgrid design report submitted by the awardee and determines that the 25 percent retainage should not be released to the awardee; or a party which is to withdraw from the 2024 MOU pursuant to the terms of section 3L of the 2021 MOU.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the 2024 MOUs with the seven remaining awardees and authorize the President to sign the MOUs and transmit them to the respective parties for countersignature and execution.

DECISION: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

D. Docket No. QO20110700 – In the Matter of the Contract for a Statewide Evaluator of New Jersey’s Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs – Executive Session.

Kevin Monte de Ramos, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: The matter discussed in executive session pertains to the contract for our statewide evaluator, herein referred to as SWE, for New Jersey’s Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Response Program. The SWE, which is Skumatz Economic Research and Associates, currently oversees all EM&V efforts, that’s evaluation, verification and measurements, associated with our first three-year energy efficiency portfolio known as Triennium 1. That includes all EE programs offered by investor owned utilities and the clean energy program.

By order dated March 24, 2021, the Board awarded the contract to SERA, that’s the Skumatz Economic Research and Associates, and authorized a three-year contract that was set to expire July 1, 2024. We do have in that a single extension option for one year by mutual consent by the Board and SERA. Board Staff requires additional and timely efforts to address the extension of the end of Triennium 1, which is now an 18-month period, June 30 through December 31, and the launch of Triennium 2, which will span from January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027. The additional work effort requested builds directly upon the competencies and the scopes of work procured from SERA and as discussed in executive session, Staff seeks the approval of the budget modification and a single 12-month contract extension. The Board’s approval of this contract extension and budget modification would allow Staff to extend SERA’s contract through June 30, 2025.

DECISION: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

E. Docket No. QO24030166 – In the Matter of a Memorandum of Agreement Between the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (NOWRDC) for an Offshore Wind Black-Start Feasibility Framework for System Restoration Planning.

Bailey Wild, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This item pertains to a memorandum of agreement between the Board and the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium, or NOWRDC, to fund a project entitled Offshore Wind Black-Start Feasibility Framework for System Restoration Planning, or project. The project seeks to develop a generalized framework that can be used on a systemwide basis in identifying the black-start capabilities of offshore wind under a range of different operational and contingency scenarios and develop easy-to-use metrics for system operators to use in system restoration with offshore wind resources.

If this item is approved, it would enable the funding of a total of \$265,350.00 to the project, covering one-third of its anticipated cost, \$230,739.00, and an additional 15 percent, \$34,611.00, for indirect expenses including NOWRDC project management.

Staff recommends the Board approve the disbursement of \$265,350.00 to be used by NOWRDC for the project.

DECISION: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

F. Docket No. QO24020125 – In the Matter of Mini-Bid Request for Quotation for Contractor Support on Federal Clean Energy Grant Applications – Executive Session.

Henry Gajda, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: Since 2020, hundreds of billions of dollars in federal grant funding have become available due to Inflation Reduction Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Inflation Reduction Act alone features \$369 billion in energy security and climate change programs. It is in the best interest of the residents of the State to secure as much federal funding as possible for climate and clean energy initiatives.

Staff recommends that the Board approve releasing a mini bid RFQ to qualifying entities for the purpose of assistance with the preparation of applications for federal clean energy grants.

DECISION: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

G. Docket No. QO21101186 – In the Matter of the Competitive Solar Incentive (“CSI”) Program Pursuant to P.L. 2021, c. 169 – 2024 CSI Program Solicitation Results.

Diane Watson, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This agenda item addresses the outcome of the second solicitation of the Competitive Solar Incentive, or CSI, program.

Pursuant to the Solar Act of 2021 signed into law by Governor Murphy on July 9, 2021, the Board established the CSI program by Board order on December 7, 2022 as a part of the Board's Successor Solar Incentive, or SuSI, program. The SuSI program is divided into the Administratively Determined Incentive program for net metered residential projects, net metered nonresidential projects smaller than 5 megawatts, and community solar projects, and the CSI program for qualifying grid supply solar facilities that sell into the wholesale markets and large net metered nonresidential projects greater than 5 megawatts. The CSI program has been codified in rules which were published in the New Jersey Register on December 18, 2023.

The Board's solar programs are important contributors to jobs and the affordability of clean energy for New Jersey citizens. As of January 31, 2024, New Jersey has over 4,766 megawatts of installed solar capacity and more than 807 megawatts under development. The State's solar energy policies have resulted in over 184,000 residential solar installations, close to 9,300 nonresidential net metered installations, almost 200 grid supply solar facilities, and over 100 community solar projects. Staff's recommendations before you today reinforce Governor Murphy's ambitious clean energy goals and further New Jersey's leadership in combatting climate change, which represents an imminent threat to the State's economy and the health, safety, and welfare of New Jersey's residents.

The CSI program plays a key role in these New Jersey efforts by creating, by greatly increasing the supply of electricity that New Jersey consumers receive from clean solar energy, while decreasing the cost of solar generation to ratepayers through mechanisms of market competition. Consideration of the environmental impacts of solar development also informed the CSI program design, as large-scale grid supply solar development comes at a risk of unintended impacts to vulnerable farmland and open space, which is already under pressure from other economic and social development trends in the State. CSI-eligible solar generation facilities are, therefore, required to meet stringent siting criteria aimed at preserving New Jersey's agricultural lands, important soils, and open spaces and to provide native plant habitat for pollinators.

Overall, the SuSI program targets 3,750 megawatts of new solar electric generation by 2026. The goal of the CSI program is to provide incentives for at least 300 megawatts of solar generation annually. The program is open to qualifying grid supply solar installations, grid supply solar installations in combination with energy storage, and nonresidential net metered solar installations with a capacity of greater than 5 megawatts direct current.

The CSI program awards SRECs, or its Solar Renewable Energy Certificates, through a competitive solicitation with projects competing in the following five separate bracket tranches. Tranche one, basic grid supply projects. Tranche two, grid supply projects sited on the built environment. Tranche three, grid supply on contaminated sites or landfills. Tranche four, net metered nonresidential projects greater than 5 megawatts. Tranche five, pairs storage with grid supply projects eligible for tranches one, two, or three.

Within each tranche, projects are selected based on SREC-II bid price only. As codified at N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.10, all bids in tranches one, two, and three, that is all grid supply projects, are ranked from lowest to highest bid price and compete against each other initially. Projects eligible for tranches two or three that are not initially selected, then compete within their specified tranche. Tranche five storage bids are evaluated after projects are selected in tranches one, two, and three.

The Board opened the second solicitation of the CSI program for prequalification on November 27, 2023 and closed to bids on February 29, 2024. The second CSI program solicitation received 14 bid submissions totaling 374.34 megawatts of solar generation capacity. Nine bids were submitted in tranche one, basic grid supply, and five bids were submitted in tranche three, contaminated sites or landfills. One tranche one project and one tranche three project also submitted bids for storage paired with solar electric generation in tranche five. No bids were submitted in tranche two, grid supply on the built environment, or tranche four, net metered projects greater than five megawatts.

Staff makes the following recommendations regarding the outcome of the second solicitation of the CSI program. That the Board reallocate unbid capacity from tranche two 80 megawatts, and tranche four, 40 megawatts, to tranche one for a total of 260 megawatts as the competitive bids received in tranche one exceeded the target capacity of 140 megawatts for that tranche. That the Board reallocate any unawarded capacity from tranche three to tranche one to award additional competitively bid capacity. That the Board award a final project that will cause the overall procurement target to be exceeded since the exact procurement target will otherwise not be met.

And that the Board award the following projects. In tranche one, Harmony Plains Solar One, LLC in Warren County with 95 megawatts capacity. In tranche one, Buckshutem Solar I, LLC in Cumberland County with 72.56 megawatts capacity. In tranche one, Nabb Solar 1, LLC in Cumberland County with 63.8 megawatts capacity. In tranche one, Fenwick Creek Solar, LLC in Salem County with 50.54 megawatts capacity. In tranche three, NJR Clean Energy Ventures III Aero Haven Landfill in Burlington County for 2.772 megawatts capacity. In tranche three, Next Grid Manchester Landfill, LLC in Ocean County with 5.2 megawatts capacity. In tranche three, Citizens NP Solar, LLC in Gloucester County with 7.416 six megawatts capacity. In tranche one,

Quakertown Solar Farm II, LLC in Hunterdon County with 12.93 megawatts capacity. And in tranche five, Harmony Plains Solar I, LLC for 80 megawatt hours of storage paired with solar generation.

Staff further recommends that the Board sets the administrative fee for awardees in this solicitation to zero dollars and directs awardees to submit an initial registration package within 30 days of the effective date of the order. Finally, Staff recommends that the Board direct staff to evaluate various participation in tranches two and four to make any recommendations of restructuring of tranches or capacity allocations before the opening of the next CSI program solicitation.

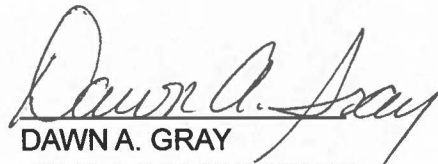
DECISION: After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

Roll Call Vote:	President Guhl-Sadovy	Aye
	Commissioner Christodoulou	Aye
	Commissioner Abdou	Aye
	Commissioner Bange	Aye

9. MISCELLANEOUS

There were no items in this category.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.


DAWN A. GRAY
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Date: 8/14/2024