STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
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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 July 16, 2025 at the Board's Hearing Room at 44 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton and online @ https://www.youtube.com/live/bhG4eKLiEWs?si=KCzMZCLr8Z7nEgj.

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, and 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. Lewis, 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 August 13, 2025, 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.

1. AUDITS

A. Docket No. AA25050298 – In the Matter of an Audit of the Utilities' Calculations of Universal Service Fund/Lifeline Program Factors.

BACKGROUND: By Order dated September 25, 2024, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") directed Board Staff ("Staff") to initiate an audit of the New Jersey's electric and gas utilities' ("Utilities") supporting amounts used to calculate Universal Service Fund ("USF") / Lifeline program rates.

The audit will include, but not be limited to, the Utilities' USF/Lifeline budget process, rates, and utility administrative expenses, and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs USF administrative budget process and actual expenditures in its role as the USF administrator. In addition, the audit will include an examination of the processes used by the Utilities to forecast sales volumes and credits to be applied to customer accounts.

Staff prepared the attached Request for Proposal ("RFP") for this particular engagement scope. Staff requests Board approval to submit the attached RFP to the pool of four (4) management consulting firms previously approved by the New Jersey Department of Treasury and the Board under contract term T-2482 pursuant to Bid Solicitation #23DPP00886.

D. Docket No. GA22030141 – In the Matter of an Audit of the Affiliated Transactions between Elizabethtown Gas Company ("ETG") and South Jersey Industries and its Affiliates and ETG's Compliance with Affiliate Relations and Fair Competition Standards and Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act and a Comprehensive Management Audit of Elizabethtown Gas Company Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-16.4, 48:3-49, 48:3-58 and N.J.A.C. 14:3-2.1 – 14:3-12.4, 14:4-5 et seq.

BACKGROUND: On May 20, 2025, SAGE Management Consultants, LLC ("SAGE") submitted confidential and redacted versions of its final report in the above-referenced audit of Elizabethtown Gas Company ("ETG") ("Final Report"). The Final Report contains an executive summary of the audit findings and twenty-four (24) total chapters containing numerous recommendations, which, if approved by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") and implemented by ETG, may have an impact on ETG's financial materiality, quality of service, and regulatory compliance

At this time, Board Staff ("Staff") is recommending that the Board accept the Final Report for filing purposes only. Staff recommends that the redacted version of the Final Report be released to the public and the confidential version be released to the appropriate parties, subject to a confidentiality agreement if requested. To effectuate release of the reports, Staff has prepared a draft Secretary's letter notifying the parties of the release of the redacted and confidential versions of the report and setting the deadline to file comments as September 16, 2025. After review and receipt of any comments submitted, Staff will present an implementation plan for the Board's consideration.

8. CLEAN ENERGY

A. Docket No. QO25060329 – In the Matter of Mini Bid Request for Proposal for Contractor Support to Study New Jersey's Long-Term Options to Address Resource Adequacy.

BACKGROUND: This matter involves the proposed release of a Mini-bid under the M4010 Request for Proposal ("RFP") for services related to a study of New Jersey's long-term options to address resource adequacy ("Study").

To effectuate the Study, Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") ("Staff") recommends that the Board authorize the release of a Mini-bid under the M4010 RFP to the signatories of State Master Contract M4010 (Statewide Business and IT Consulting and Advisory Services) to solicit proposals from qualified consultants to help develop and issue the Study.

If approved by the Board, the base term of the contract will be until December 31, 2025, with the option of a single extension of up to one (1) year.

B. Docket No. QO21010085 – In the Matter of Modernizing New Jersey's Interconnection Rules, Processes, and Metrics.

BACKGROUND: This matter involves the award of a contract for services to provide administrative, planning, and pilot-development support for the ongoing Grid Modernization Forum ("GMF" or "Forum"), a collection of workgroups led by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("BPU" or "Board") with the overall goal of increasing hosting capacity and enabling broader compensation for distributed energy resources ("DER") services in New Jersey while maintaining optimal safety and reliability standards for the distribution grid.

On April 23, 2025, the Board authorized the release of a Request for Quotation ("RFQ") for to hire a contractor to provide administrative, planning, management, documentation, and pilot-development support for the Forum.

n June 9th, 2025, proposals were received from seven (7) firms in response to the RFQ. An evaluation committee comprised of Board Staff ("Staff") thoroughly evaluated each proposal and determined that the Cadmus Group ("Cadmus") had the strongest proposal according to the average technical score and cost rank.

CONSENT AGENDA

I. AUDITS

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

EE25040194L Harbor Light Energy LLC I – EA

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 ("TPSs"). Annually thereafter, TPSs, 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 recommended that the following applicant be issued an initial registration as an energy agent:

- Harbor Light Energy LLC

B. Docket No. TE25030109 – In the Matter of Verified Petition of Pilot Fiber NJ LLC for Authorization to Provide Facilities-Based Local Exchange, Interexchange and Private Line Telecommunications Services in the State of New Jersey.

BACKGROUND: On February 8, 1996, the Federal 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.

On March 7, 2025, Pilot Fiber NJ LLC ("Petitioner") filed a verified petition with the Board seeking authority to provide facilities-based local exchange, interexchange and private line telecommunications services in the State of New Jersey. Petitioner requested a waiver of requirements to maintain its books and records in accordance with the Uniform Systems of Accounts ("USOA") and to keep records in New Jersey. Petitioner requested authorization to instead maintain its books and records in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") and outside New Jersey.

By letter dated June 6, 2025, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") indicated that it did not oppose the Petitioner's waiver requests and suggested that the Board require the Petitioner submit a verified statement when it commences providing facilities-based local exchange, interexchange, and/or private line telecommunications services in the State. Rate Counsel averred that it should be provided with a copy of the verified statement so that both agencies may update their records accordingly.

Following the review, Board Staff ("Staff") recommended that the Board approve Petitioner's request for authorization to provide facilities-based local exchange, interexchange and private line telecommunications services in the State of New Jersey. Staff also recommended that the Board approve Petitioner's request for a waiver to maintain its books in accordance with GAAP, as opposed to the USOA, and within New Jersey, and that the Board direct Petitioner to provide a verified statement notifying Rate Counsel and Staff when commencing services in the State.

II. ENERGY

A. Docket No. ER25060374 – In the Matter of the Verified Petition of Rockland Electric Company for Approval of Changes in Electric Rates, its Tariff for Electric Service, and its Depreciation Rates; and for Other Relief.

BACKGROUND: On June 30, 2025, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, Rockland Electric Company ("RECO" or "Company"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), filed a petition for approval of an increase in its current base rates for electric service of approximately $18.74 million, excluding Sales and Use Tax ("SUT"), to be effective for electric service provided on and after July 30, 2025, but in no event later than March 30, 2026 ("Petition"). The Company also sought Board approval, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-18 to implement new depreciation rates. RECO requested a return on equity of 10.3%. In addition, RECO requested that the Board consolidate the Petition with the RECO 2024 Storm Deferral filing and the RECO SmartCharge NJ ("SCNJ") Program filing, as part of the Board's suspension order prior to sending the consolidated matter to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL");

Board Staff ("Staff") recommended that the Board find that the three (3) matters: 1) concern different issues of law and facts; 2) seek separate and distinct relief; 3) are already underway; and 4) may have a potential impact on rates and the Company's tariff. As such, Staff recommended that the Board deny, without prejudice, the Company's request to consolidate the Petition with the RECO 2024 Storm Deferral matter and the RECO SCNJ Program matter.

In addition, because a review of this matter will not be complete prior to July 30, 2025, Staff recommended that the Board issue an order suspending the proposed rate increase until November 30, 2025.

III. CABLE TELEVISION

A. Docket No. CE24050294 – In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of Central New Jersey, LLC for a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Continue to Construct, Operate, and Maintain a Cable Television System in and for the Township of Cranbury, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey.

BACKGROUND: On August 2, 2019, Comcast of Central New Jersey, LLC ("Comcast") filed an application with the Township of Cranbury ("Township") for renewal of municipal consent. On January 22, 2024, the Township adopted an ordinance granting renewal municipal consent to Comcast. Comcast formally accepted the terms and conditions of the ordinance on April 10, 2024. Comcast filed with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for a renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Township on May 3, 2024.

After review, Board Staff recommended approval of the proposed Renewal Certificate of Approval. This Certificate shall expire on May 5, 2030.

B. Docket No. CE23100721 – In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of Northwest New Jersey, LLC, for a Certificate of Approval to Continue to Construct, Operate, and Maintain a Cable Television System in and for the Township of White, County of Warren, State of New Jersey.

BACKGROUND: On February 4, 2022, Comcast of Northwest New Jersey, LLC ("Comcast") filed an application with the Township of White ("Township") for renewal of municipal consent. The Township adopted an ordinance granting renewal municipal consent to Comcast on May 10, 2023. On June 27, 2023, Comcast formally accepted the terms and conditions of the ordinance. Comcast filed with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for a renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Township on October 2, 2023.

After review, Board Staff ("Staff") recommended approval of the proposed Renewal Certificate of Approval. This Certificate shall expire on July 23, 2035.

IV. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A. Docket No. TM25030173 – In the Matter of the Verified Joint Petition of Broadview Networks, Inc.; Business Telecom, LLC; Cavalier Telephone Mid-Atlantic, LLC; Conversent Communications of New Jersey, LLC; CTC Communications Corp.; Intellifiber Networks, LLC; PAETEC Communications, LLC; Talk America, LLC; US LEC of Pennsylvania, LLC; and Windstream New Edge, LLC, the Windstream Licensees, and PEG Bandwidth NJ, LLC; and Uniti National LLC, the Uniti Licensees for Approval for Proposed Pro Forma Changes in Indirect Ownership.

BACKGROUND: On March 25, 2025, Broadview Networks, Inc.; Business Telecom, LLC; Cavalier Telephone Mid-Atlantic, LLC; Conversent Communications of New Jersey, LLC; CTC Communications Corp.; Intellifiber Networks, LLC; PAETEC Communications, LLC; Talk America, LLC; US LEC of Pennsylvania, LLC; and Windstream New Edge, LLC (collectively, "Windstream Licensees") and PEG Bandwidth NJ, LLC and Uniti National LLC (together, "Uniti Licensees") (Windstream Licensees and Uniti Licensees collectively, "Joint Petitioners") filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting a grant of authority, to the extent it may be required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-51.1 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.14, to complete a series of transactions that would result in pro forma changes in the indirect ownership of the Windstream Licensees and the Uniti Licensees ("Pro Forma Changes").

In the Petition, Joint Petitioners stated that the proposed Pro Forma Changes would allow for the consolidation of the credit groups of Windstream Holdings II, LLC and Uniti Group Inc., the current ultimate parent companies of the Windstream Licensees and Uniti Licensees, respectively, reduce administrative burdens and expenses, and simplify certain federal, state, and local tax reporting, thus strengthening the combined company's position in the robust telecommunications marketplace.

Joint Petitioners stated that the Pro Forma Changes would only change certain intermediate parent companies of the Windstream Licensees and the Uniti Licensees; the Pro Forma Changes will not affect the operations of Joint Petitioners. Customers would continue to have the same service providers and will continue to receive substantially the same services and the same rates, terms, and conditions of service as before the Pro Forma Changes. The Pro Forma Changes would be imperceptible to New Jersey employees of Parent and its subsidiaries as it will cause no operational changes.

The New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel submitted comments on the matter indicating that it did not oppose Board approval of the petition.

Following review of the records in the proceedings, Board Staff recommended approval of the petition.

B. Docket No. TF25030180 – In the Matter of Verified Petition of PEG Bandwidth, NJ LLC and Uniti National LLC for Approval to Participate in Certain Financing Arrangements.

BACKGROUND: On March 28, 2025, PEG Bandwidth NJ, LLC ("PEG NJ") and Uniti National LLC ("Uniti National") (together, "Petitioners") submitted a Verified Petition to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-7 and 48:3-9, requesting Board approval for PEG NJ and Uniti National to participate in certain financing arrangements of Windstream Holdings II, LLC.

Specifically, Windstream Services, LLC and Windstream Escrow Finance Corp. (together, "Issuers") issued 8.250% senior first lien notes due 2031 in an aggregate principal amount of $2.2 billion ("Windstream 2031 Notes"). The Windstream 2031 Notes are guaranteed by Issuers and certain subsidiaries and affiliates of the Issuers on a senior secured basis. In addition to the Windstream 2031 Notes, Windstream Services, LLC entered into a credit agreement with a $475.0 million revolving credit facility and $500.0 million term loan due 2027 and 2031, respectively ("Windstream Loans"). Petitioners sought approval to participate as guarantors or co-guarantors and to pledge their assets as security for the Windstream 2031 Notes and the Windstream Loans.

Board Staff, after review of the information submitted in this proceeding, determined that the asset transfer and financing arrangements are in accordance with the law and in the public interest and therefore recommended approval of the petition.

C. Docket No. TE24090727 – In the Matter of the Application of TAG Mobility, LLC d/b/a TAG Mobile for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

BACKGROUND: On September 20, 2024, TAG Mobility, LLC d/b/a TAG Mobile, LLC ("TAG Mobile " or "Company") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") to provide Lifeline service to qualifying New Jersey consumers ("Petition"). By the Petition, TAG Mobile sought ETC designation to provide Lifeline in its service territories for the purpose of receiving federal Lifeline universal service support. TAG Mobile does not seek designation as an ETC to receive any form of rural, insular, and high-cost area support.

TAG Mobile demonstrated and certified that the Company meets all the statutory and regulatory requirements, including those in the Federal Communication Commission's Lifeline and Link Up Reform Order of February 6, 2012, Lifeline Modernization Order of April 27, 2016, and Lifeline Order of December 1, 2017.

By letter dated May 28, 2025, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel indicated that it did not oppose the request by TAG Mobile for ETC designation.

Staff recommended approval of the Petition for designation of TAG Mobile as an ETC in the State of New Jersey.

V. WATER

A. Docket No. WR25060372 – In the Matter of the Joint Petition for an Approval of an Increase in Rates for Water and Wastewater Service and Other Tariff Changes for Middlesex Water Company, Pinelands Water Company, and Pinelands Wastewater Company.

BACKGROUND: On June 30, 2025, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.A.C.14:1-5.11, N.J.A.C 14:1-5.12, N.J.A.C 14:9-7.1 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 14:9-10 et seq., Middlesex Water Company, Pinelands Water Company, and Pinelands Wastewater Company jointly filed a petition seeking approval of an increase in base water rates.

Board Staff recommended that the Board issue an Order suspending the proposed rate increase until December 1, 2025.

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

There were no items in this category.

After appropriate motion, consent agenda items IA, IB, IIA, IIIA, IIIB, IVA, IVB, IVC, and VA

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

Decision: The Board adopted the recommendation of Staff as set forth above.

AGENDA

1. AUDITS

A. Docket No. AA25050298 – In the Matter of an Audit of the Utilities' Calculations of Universal Service Fund/Lifeline Program Factors – Executive Session.

Alice Bator, Division of Audits, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter refers to the commencement of an audit of the New Jersey electric and gas utilities supporting amounts used to calculate the Universal Service Fund/Lifeline Program rates, among other things including a review of the Fresh Start Program as discussed in more detail in the scope of work in the request for proposal, briefings, and executive session.

Staff is requesting approval of the attached request for proposal and for Staff to submit the request to our pool of four management consulting firms previously approved by the New Jersey Department of Treasury and Board under contract T-2482.

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. EO23070446 – In the Matter of the Department of Community Affairs' State Fiscal Year 2024 Universal Service Fund Administrative Cost Budget.

Alice Bator, Division of Audits, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter concerns the April 21, 2025 New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' submittal of a detailed Universal Service Fund Administrative Report for State Fiscal Year 2024 which listed DC, Department of Community Affairs, actual administrative expenditures of $10,468,815.00. This matter also concerns the amount to reimburse the New Jersey Department of Treasury.

On September 18, 2023, the Board approved a budget authorization of $11,444,369.00 for the USF DCA administrative cost for Fiscal Year 2024. DCA's actual expenditures of $10,468,815.00 are $975,540.00 less than the approved budget. These costs include expenses paid and encumbrances, obligations expected to be paid.

Based on documentation from the state's audited comprehensive financial system received from the Department of Community Affairs and Treasury, Treasury represented that the total Department of Community Affairs expenditures to be reimbursed at $10,561,334.00. DCA and

Treasury represent that canceled encumbrances from prior fiscal year periods occurred and thus the $10,468,815.00 amount was adjusted by $92,519.00.

Staff reviewed DCA's and Treasury's account of the basis for the Fiscal Year '24 administrative expenses and also the adjustments resulting from canceled encumbrances from the prior fiscal years and concluded that it is reasonable and necessary to reimburse Treasury in the amount of $10,561,334.00. Staff recommends that the Board find that DCA has adequately justified its Fiscal Year '24 USF administrative expenditures and the Board authorize reimbursement of $10,561,334.00 to Treasury to cover the expenses included in the State Comprehensive Financial System.

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. EA20110733 – In the Matter of an Audit of the Affiliated Transactions Between Jersey Central Power & Light Company, First Energy Corp. and its Affiliates Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-49, 48:3-55, 48:3-56, 48:3-58 & N.J.A.C. 14:4-3.7(e) and (f).

Alice Bator, Division of Audits, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: At its regular meeting of April 12, 2023, the Board accepted for filing purposes only the final audit report of the Liberty Consulting Group in the affiliated transactions audit between Jersey Central Power and Light Company and First Energy Corporation and its affiliates and a comprehensive management audit of Jersey Central Power and Light. There are 105 recommendations set forth in the final audit report. Both JCP&L and Rate Counsel provided comments on the final audit report.

As discussed in full detail in the draft Board Order and in our briefings, Staff recommends implementation of 100 of Liberty's recommendations, some of which with modifications in part. Staff also recommends that the Board direct Staff to commence a forensic audit for further examination of the impacts of the federal investigation on Jersey Central Power and Light and its ratepayers as described in more detail in the Board Order and in our briefings.

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. GA22030141 – In the Matter of an Audit of the Affiliated Transactions between Elizabethtown Gas Company ("ETG") and South Jersey Industries and its Affiliates and ETG's Compliance with Affiliate Relations and Fair Competition Standards and Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act and a Comprehensive Management Audit of Elizabethtown Gas Company Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-16.4, 48:3-49, 48:3-58 and N.J.A.C. 14:3-2.1 – 14:3-12.4, 14:4-5 et seq. – Executive Session.

Alice Bator, Division of Audits, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This agenda matter involves the comprehensive management audit of Elizabethtown Gas Company and audit of affiliated transactions and affiliate standards compliance review audit of Elizabethtown Gas Company, South Jersey Industries, and its affiliates. On May 20, 2025 SAGE Consulting, LLC submitted a final audit report in the above referenced audit. The final report contains 24 chapters, including an executive summary, and includes 102 recommendations.

Staff is recommending that the Board accept the final audit report for filing purposes only, post the public final audit report on our website, and issue a secretary's letter seeking comments from Rate Counsel and the company due by September 16, 2025. After review and receipt of these comments, Staff will bring the matter back to the Board's agenda for consideration of the recommendation and an implementation plan. Staff further recommends, consistent with the terms of the agreement for consulting services with SAGE, that the holdback fees in the amount of $143,630.25 pending acceptance of the final report be released to SAGE.

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**

2. ENERGY

A. Docket No. EX24090717 – In the Matter of a Rulemaking Proceeding to Establish AMI Data Access Standards.

Dean Taklif, Division of Engineering, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter concerns the proposal of new rules governing the handling of Advanced Metering Infrastructure, or AMI, data to be added to the Board's existing rules contained within the New Jersey Administrative Code under N.J.A.C. 14:5 titled Electric Service. The proposal creates new rules under 14:5-10 called AMI Data Access Standards and would establish the rights and rules regarding the collection, use, and sharing of data collected by AMI meters.

On September 17, 2024 Staff released a notice of a stakeholder meeting scheduled for September 30, 2024 and a request for comment on the draft new rule proposal. The Board accepted written comments through October 30th of 2024, which were submitted by the electric distribution companies, third-party suppliers, Rate Counsel, and other interested stakeholders. Staff reviewed these comments and made recommended changes to the rule where appropriate to address stakeholder concerns.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the rule proposal for publication in the New Jersey Register.

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. GR25020033 – In the Matter of the Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company for Approval of the Next Phase of the Gas System Modernization Program and Associated Cost Recovery Mechanism ("GSMP II Extension") (February 2025 GSMP II Extension Rate Filing).

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

BACKGROUND: On February 3, 2025, PSE&G filed a petition seeking review and approval of gas base rate changes to provide for cost recovery associated with the extension of the company's gas system modernization program.

On May 21st the company provided an update reflecting actual information through April 30, which supported a revised revenue requirement of $49.4 million. Following review, the parties have executed a stipulation which recommends approval of the updated proposed revenue requirement. As a result, a typical residential heating customer would experience an increase in their monthly winter bill of $1.91.

Staff recommends that the Board issue an order approving the stipulation and directing PSE&G to file revised tariffs prior to August 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**

3. CABLE TELEVISION

A. Docket No. CE25020070 – In the Matter of the Application for Renewal of a System-Wide Cable Television Franchise for Cablevision of Monmouth, LLC.

Nancy Wolf, Division of Cable Television, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This concerns the matter of the application for renewal of a systemwide cable television and it involves a final approval of Cablevision of Monmouth Systemwide Cable Television franchise.

On February 11, 2010, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities issued an order memorializing the conversion of Cablevision of Monmouth's consent based municipal franchises in the Borough of Interlaken. It converted into a systemwide cable television franchise in Docket Number CE10010023 for a term of seven years to expire on January 11, 2017. Cablevision added an additional 19 municipalities to its systemwide cable television franchise during this term.

On February 22, 2017, the Board issued a renewal systemwide cable television franchise to Cablevision for a term of seven years which expired on January 11, 2024. On January, on June 13, 2024, the Office of Cable Television notified Cablevision of its intention to review its performance during the past seven years and invited the company to file comments on its performance under its systemwide cable television franchise and to assess how it will meet the future needs of the communities listed in the franchise application. Cablevision filed its initial comments with the OCTV&T on July 12, 2024.

On November 21, 2024 the Board issued an ascertainment report on Cablevision's performance under its systemwide cable television franchise and the future systemwide cable franchise needs of the municipalities under the systemwide.

On February 19, 2025 Cablevision filed an application for renewal of its systemwide cable television franchise with the Board. Following Cablevision's filing of its renewal application on May 8, 2025, the Board held two virtual public hearings on the application. Written comments were received from the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel on May 12, 2025, which provided that upon review it would support approval of the application. Rate Counsel stated that the parameters of the Board's statutory criteria outlined the review of the application pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17 and 5A-28 and it appears to have been met. No other comments were received.

Pursuant to statute, the applicant must meet the specific requirements for operating a systemwide cable television franchise as delineated in subsection N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(h) through (n). Cablevision certified that it would comply with these commitments, which include line extensions, public educational governmental access channels, interconnection with other cable television companies, free cable and internet service to public schools and municipal buildings, training equipment for PEG access users, return fees, and compliance with customer service regulations. Cablevision is committed to abide by these requirements, as well as maintain its current insurance and performance bond amounts, adherence to the requirements for a local office, and designation of the OCTV&T as the complaint officer under the franchise.

After review, Board Staff recommends that the Board approve Cablevision's application to renew its systemwide cable television franchise, subject to the conditions outlined in the draft, in the order and subject to all applicable state and federal laws and the rules and regulations of the OCTV&T. This certificate as proposed shall expire on January 11, 2031.

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. CE17030183 – In the Matter of Cablevision of Hudson County, LLC for the Renewal of its System-Wide Cable Television Franchise.

Nancy Wolf, Division of Cable Television, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This concerns the matter of the application of Cablevision of Hudson for the renewal of its systemwide cable television franchise. It is the initial stage of the ascertainment report.

This matter involves the first phase of the renewal process of the systemwide franchise for Cablevision of Hudson County and requests the Board's approval for the release of the ascertainment report by the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications.

On May 11, 2010 Cablevision converted its franchise in the City of Hoboken into a systemwide cable television franchise as provided in the 2006 amendments to the New Jersey Cable Act N.J.S.A. 48:5A, et seq, the State Act. An order memorializing of the Hoboken franchise was issued by the Board on august 4, 2010 which granted Cablevision a systemwide cable television franchise for a term of seven years. On April 27, 2011 the Board issued an amendment to the systemwide franchise to include the townships of North Bergen and Weehawken. On February 10, 2012, the Board issued an amendment to the systemwide franchise to include the town of West New York. On March 18, 2015, the Board issued an amendment to the systemwide to include the City of Union City. On June 30, 2017 the Board issued a renewal systemwide cable television franchise to Cablevision for a term of seven years, which expired May 11, 2024. At present, the Cablevision systemwide franchise contains the five municipalities described above.

On June 11, 2021 Cablevision notified the Board of its intention to renew its systemwide cable television franchise. On October 16, 2024, the OCTV&T notified Cablevision of its intention to review its performance under its systemwide cable television franchise pursuant to federal and state guidelines as outlined above and invited Cablevision to file comments on its performance under its systemwide cable television franchise and to address how it would meet the future needs of the communities listed in the franchise application. Cablevision filed its comments with the OCTV&T on November 15, 2024.

Franchise renewals are governed by the Federal Communications Act, the State Act, and the OCTV&T's rules under the New Jersey Administrative Code. Ascertainment is a term utilized to explain the factfinding process required under the Federal Act to examine the past performance of the cable operator and identify the future cable related needs of the community. Pursuant to the Board's rules the OCTV&T must issue an ascertainment report to the Board, which must be available for public inspection.

The Board's review of Cablevision's performance and the report is limited to: (1) any statewide needs and requirements established under the act; (2) the extent to which it has met its franchise commitments; and (3) performance in substantial compliance with the material terms and conditions of the franchise.

The report prepared by the OCTV&T addresses Cablevision's comments and reviews its past performance under the franchise during the term. Pursuant to the franchise renewal rules, Cablevision will file its formal franchise renewal application filing the release of the report and two public hearings will be held thereafter to provide opportunity for public comment prior to Board, prior to final Board review.

Staff, therefore, recommends Board approval of the release of the OCTV&T's ascertainment report in compliance with the renewal process for Cablevision's systemwide franchises.

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**

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. QO25060329 – In the Matter of Mini Bid Request for Proposal for Contractor Support to Study New Jersey's Long-Term Options to Address Resource Adequacy – Executive Session.

Amanda Lescano, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter involves the release of a mini-bid under the M4010 Request for Proposal, or RFP, to retain a consultant to assist Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities in studying New Jersey's long-term options to address resource adequacy.

As discussed in executive session, Staff recommends that the Board approve the issuance of the scope of work to contractors on the State of New Jersey Master Contract M4010.

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. QO21010085 – In the Matter of Modernizing New Jersey's Interconnection Rules, Processes, and Metrics – Executive Session.

Dr. Natalie Stuart, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter involves the award of a contract for services to provide administrative, planning, and pilot development support for the ongoing grid modernization forum, a collection of work groups led by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities with the overall goal of increasing hosting capacity and enabling broader compensation for distributed energy resource services in New Jersey, while maintaining optimal safety and reliability standards for the distribution grid.

On April 23, 2025, the BPU authorized the release of a Request For Quotation to hire a contractor to provide administrative, planning, management, documentation, and pilot development support for the forum. On June 9, 2025, proposals were received from seven firms in response to the RFQ.

Staff recommends the Board award the contract to the selected vendor as discussed in the executive session.

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. QO25030171 – In the Matter of the Clean Energy Program Authorization of Commercial and Industrial Energy Efficiency Incentives Exceeding $500,000 – Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission.

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

BACKGROUND: The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission submitted an application under the large energy users program requesting Board approval of a financial incentive of $1,483,543.95 for energy efficiency upgrades at its campus in Newark. This proposed project has a total cost of $10,770,000.00.

If approved, this application would cover the replacement of the existing natural gas hot water boilers with new specialized boilers, heat exchangers, and associated control and interconnection equipment to recover heat from the Zimpro wet air oxidation process, a wastewater treatment process that reduces solids and sludge.

The Commission has undertaken the project to satisfy a special condition of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's approval of the Commission's gas fired backup power plant, which is to install and operate state of the art air pollution control devices for the current Zimpro boilers. This project is estimated to result in an annual reduction of 1.17 tons of volatile organic compounds, 10.3 tons of nitrogen oxides, and 3.42 tons of carbon monoxide.

Annually, this project would increase electricity usage by 326,310 kilowatt hours of electricity and increase peak demand by 32.25 kilowatts, but also save 424,327 therms of natural gas, for a net reduction in energy consumption. It would also result in an annual reduction of $120,125.00 in energy costs and $20,000.00 in operational and maintenance costs.

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

D. Docket No. QW25040187 – In the Matter of the Petition of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, in Conjunction with Nexamp Solar, LLC., for a Renewed Floating Solar Project Eligibility Waiver Under the Competitive Solar Incentive Program (P.L. 2021, c. 169).

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

BACKGROUND: This matter pertains to a petition filed with the Board by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission in conjunction with Nexamp Solar, collectively the petitioners, seeking to waive the Board's siting prohibitions for the competitive solar incentive eligible facilities.

Petitioners seek to locate a solar project on the Wanaque Reservoir within the Highlands preservation area, specifically at Block 106, Lot 1, 1 F. A. Orechio Drive, Wanaque, Passaic County, New Jersey, 07465. The project is planning to be approximately 10 megawatts in direct current consisting of two islands, each approximately 10 acres in size, with on-land interconnection components. This is the second petition submitted seeking a land use waiver for the site.

By order on January 10, 2024, the Board denied the initial petition on the basis that the petitioners had not provided enough supporting documentation to determine if a waiver was in the public interest. On April 1, 2025, the petitioner submitted the second petition providing additional information to address the concerns established in their original petition's denial.

Pursuant to the Board's siting rules at N.J.A.C. 14:8-12.6, Board Staff consulted with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, NJ DEP, and the Highlands Council for a review of the petition. In a letter dated May 1, 2025, the Council advised that the project approval offered in April '21 remained applicable, subject to the conditions outlined in that approval.

In a letter dated May 15, 2025, the NJ DEP advised that based on the submission of updated materials, including an NJ DEP permit readiness checklist and documentation for meetings with both the DEP and the Council, the NJ DEP recommended that the petitioners be granted a waiver to participate in the CSI program solicitation. NJ DEP noted that the petitioners must maintain approval from the Highlands Planning Commission and meet all permit application and approval requirements from the NJ DEP.

Based on the information contained in the petition, the Highlands Council's documentation pertaining to the project, and the NJ DEP's findings, Staff recommends the following. That the Board approve the petitioners request for a land use waiver for a project as being in the public interest; that the petitioners may participate in the third CSI solicitation as a public entity and must meet all CSI program requirements for an approval of a pre-qualifications package; and that if awarded, the petitioners must demonstrate that all NJ DEP and Council requirements have been satisfied prior to the issuance of a post-construction certification.

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. QO24100834 – In the Matter of the Establishment of an Urban Heat Island (UHI) Mitigation Program.

Isabel Molkina & Dr. Aileen Eagleton, Division of Clean Energy, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: This matter pertains to the establishment of a new UHI mitigation program in which the Board would contribute $5 million in funds in the Fiscal Year 2026 New Jersey Clean Energy Program to support a grant program that will prioritize and directly support the reduction of extreme heat impacts and energy demand in overburdened communities within overburdened municipalities.

New Jersey is the fastest warming state in the northeast, with dense urban planning significantly contributing to this plan and intensity the UHI effect. Urban Heat Islands are linked to health risks, degraded air and water quality, as well as increased energy use. Dense urban planning, historic red lining practices and limited green infrastructure expose overburdened communities to more severe extreme heat impacts. Overburdened communities face additional challenges, such high energy burdens and majority renter populations.

This initiative aims to resource community driven strategies to improve energy efficiency of community facilities and expand green infrastructure to reduce extreme heat exposure and energy costs for overburdened communities within overburdened municipalities.

Staff proposes a funding structure that would prioritize and directly benefit overburdened communities. Grants will be available in three categories: Up to $1 million for comprehensive urban heat island interventions focused on large scale expansion of cooling infrastructure in public spaces; up to $500,000 for cooling the built environment by enhancing cooling efficiency and energy resilience of community buildings; and up to $50,000 for urban microclimate interventions, which include community identified smaller scale projects.

By building or implementing cooling infrastructure, including green infrastructure in public spaces, we can strengthen community cohesion and resilience and reduce energy consumption. Each strategy is constructed to help aid in these goals. Further, the program aligns with multiple state plans, including the 2019 Energy Master Plan, Extreme Heat Resilience Action Plan, Priority Climate Action Plan, and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI, Strategic Funding Plan, while having a similar framework to the BPU's community energy grant program.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the establishment and funding structure of the Urban Heat Island Mitigation Program for Fiscal Year 2026.

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. QO23030150 – In the Matter of 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

Stacy Richardson, Division of Legal, presented in this matter.

BACKGROUND: The Direct Install, or DI, program is designed for existing small to midsized nonresidential facilities with an average annual energy demand of less than 300 kilowatts or 40,000 therms. DI is intended to offer a turnkey solution to the problem of upgrading older, inefficient lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning and other operational equipment. DI offers a free onsite energy assessment which produces a report of recommended energy efficiency, or EE, measures or upgrades and then covers up to 80 percent of the total project cost of these measures.

Pursuant to the Clean Energy Act of 2018, many EE programs including DI were transferred from New Jersey's Clean Energy Program to the electric and gas public utilities. Following this transfer, the need for local governments, boards of education, and county colleges, contracted or otherwise (“contracting units”) to comply with public contracting laws became a barrier to those entity's utilization of DI.

As part of the current second three-year period, or Triennium 2, of the EE programs, the utilities agreed to offer two public sector DI program pathways. On June 18 of this year the Board issued an order directing the utilities to file tariffs that would enable contracting units to participate in the DI program pathway that employ the direct contracting model if the Board approves those tariffs.

The second DI pathway employs the trade ally model. Under this model, there must be a separation of an energy audit with EE measure recommendations and subsequent installation of the EE measures. Pursuant to applicable public contracting laws for projects exceeding a contracting unit's bid threshold, the contracting unit shall procure a vendor to perform the work through a competitive bid solicitation. The entity that performs the audit may not also respond to the bid solicitation. As part of their DI bid responses, utility trade allies shall provide the total cost of the installation, including estimates of any associated utility incentives.

Staff recommends that the Board direct the utilities to implement the program requirements detailed in the order to enable the trade ally pathway of the DI program.

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 – Order Extending the Third Solicitation of the CSI Program.

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

BACKGROUND: This item regards the third solicitation of the Competitive Solar Incentive, or CSI, Program. The CSI 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 greater than 5 megawatts.

By order dated April 23, 2025, the Board set the solicitation window for the third CSI program solicitation to open for prequalification applications on May 14, 2025 and closed to bid submissions on July 23, 2025 at 11:59:59 p.m. In the April 23 order, the Board recognized that high market volatility and uncertainty, such as the reduction or loss of the investment tax credit, or ITC, could impact financial considerations for these large-scale renewable energy projects.

On July 4, 2025, the Act to Provide For Reconciliation Pursuant to Title II of House Concurrent Resolution 14, or H.R. 1, was signed into law. H.R. 1 directs the phaseout of renewable tax energy credits on an accelerated timeline. This legislation was followed on July 7, 2025 by Executive Order 14315, which directs the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States to issue guidance within 45 days on the termination of tax credits for wind and solar renewable energy generation facilities, including clarification of safe harbor and beginning of construction guidance and the implementation of H.R. 1 foreign entity of concern restrictions for renewable energy projects.

Participants in the third CSI solicitation deserve and require time to consider federal guidance as it is issued and to submit bids informed by policies impacting solar and energy storage project planning.

Thus, Staff recommends that the Board extend the solicitation window for the third solicitation to September 30, 2025 with the solicitation window closing to bids at 11:59:59 p.m. on that date.

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.

Sherri L. Lewis

Sherri L. Lewis
Board Secretary

Date: 10/8/2025