



Agenda Date: 6/30/26
Agenda Item: 80

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

CLEAN ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF DISBURSEMENT OF THE 2026) ORDER
RESIDENTIAL UNIVERSAL BILL CREDIT (“RUBC”))
) DOCKET NO. QO26030089

Party of Record:

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
Neil Hlawatsch, Assistant General Counsel, Atlantic City Electric Company
Tori Giesler, Esq., Managing Counsel, Jersey Central Power & Light Company
Stacy M. Mickles, Esq., Public Service Electric and Gas Company
Enver Acevedo, Esq., Associate Counsel, Rockland Electric Company

BY THE BOARD:

By this Order, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) considers Board staff’s (“Staff”) recommendation to establish a second iteration of the Residential Universal Bill Credit (“RUBC”).

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Increases in Electricity Rates

On February 12, 2025, the Board certified the results of the Basic Generation Service (“BGS”) Auctions for the State’s four (4) electric distribution companies¹ to satisfy supply requirements for the EDCs’ BGS customers for the period June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026.² The Board’s authority over the auctions is limited to certifying the results as consistent with market conditions and does not extend to influence pricing. Based upon the certified results, the projected average monthly customer bill increases, beginning June 1, 2025, ranged from 17.23% to 20.20%, depending on the EDC service territory the customer resides in. These price increases largely stemmed from the July 2024 PJM Base Residual Auction (“BRA”). On February 12, 2026, the Board certified the results of the BGS Auctions for the period of June 1, 2026 through May 31,

¹ The four (4) investor-owned electric distribution companies (“EDCs”) include PSE&G, Atlantic City Electric Company (“ACE”), Jersey Central Power & Light Company (“JCP&L”), and Rockland Electric Company (“RECO”).

² In re the Provision of Basic Generation Service (BGS) For the Period Beginning June 1, 2025, BPU Docket No. ER24030191, Order dated February 12, 2025.

2027, with projected average monthly customer bill changes ranging from -1.8% to 1.6%, depending on the EDC service territory.³

In order to help New Jersey residents manage energy costs and increase affordability of utility service, the Board implemented numerous cost-saving initiatives in 2025. These initiatives included (2) two \$30 bill reductions during the months of July and August for all electric customers, expanded energy assistance benefits provided by the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) program,⁴ suspension of shut offs and waiver of reconnection fees, and Residential Energy Assistance Payment (“REAP”) bill credits in the amount of \$25 per month for the seven month period of August 2025 through February 2026 for residential energy customers.⁵ Following Governor Murphy’s June 5, 2025 announcement of a statewide direct bill relief to all New Jersey ratepayers funded through the Solar Alternative Compliance Payment (“SACP”) and the Board’s allocation of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (“RGGI”) auction proceeds, the Board authorized the first RUBC program, providing (2) two \$50 bill credits in September and October 2025 to more than 3.6 million customers.⁶

Despite the energy bill relief offered through the Board’s successful 2025 bill credit programs and the 2026 BGS Auction rate increases, the Board recognizes that energy bills remain high, resulting in a continued pressing need for bill assistance among New Jersey residents.

On January 20, 2026, Governor Mikie Sherrill signed Executive Order 1 (“EO1”), which declared the ongoing electricity affordability crisis in New Jersey as a state of emergency that warrants decisive leadership and coordinated action, both to provide short-term relief and to initiate long-term reform.⁷ By EO1, Governor Sherrill directed the Board to provide for an additional iteration of RUBC to offset increases in the cost of electricity supply to take effect in 2026, relying on the same or similar sources of funding addressed in the Board’s order of August 13, 2025, that provided for RUBCs, among others that are applicable; and issue RUBCs, or an initial set of RUBCs, no later than July 1, 2026.⁸

In response to EO1, and in a continued effort to address the electricity affordability crisis, Staff recommends issuing a second iteration of bill credits through a 2026 RUBC. Staff recommends

³ In re the Provision of Basic Generation Service (BGS) For the Period Beginning June 1, 2026, BPU Docket No. ER25040190, Order dated February 12, 2026.

⁴ In re a Rate Design and Policy Study Regarding Driving Equity in the Clean Energy Transition, BPU Docket No. QO24110853, Order dated June 18, 2025.

⁵ In re Disbursement of Clean Energy Program Funds for the Residential Energy Assistance Payment, BPU Docket No. QO24020120, Order dated June 18, 2025 (“REAP Order”). The Winter Termination Program provides protection from disconnection of utility service for eligible residential customers, including recipients of state and federal assistance programs and those who are unable to pay utilities bills due to financial hardship. See N.J.A.C. 14:3-3A.5. The Board used a categorical eligibility approach for REAP to eliminate barriers to participation and facilitate the timely distribution of bill credits. REAP Order at 3.

⁶ In re the Establishment of the Residential Universal Bill Credit (“RUBC”), BPU Docket No. QO25070389, Order dated August 13, 2025.

⁷ See Executive Order No. 1 (2026). All Executive Orders signed by Governor Sherrill are published in the New Jersey Register and are also available for online at: https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/057sherrill/approved/eo_archive.shtml

⁸ Id. at paragraph 1, page 5.

that the Board utilize both SACP and Clean Energy Program (“CEP”) sources to fund the 2026 RUBC.

Solar Alternative Compliance Payment (“SACP”)

The Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act (“EDECA”), N.J.S.A. 48:3-49, et seq., and the Clean Energy Act (“CEA”), N.J.S.A. 48:3-87, et seq., establish a requirement as part of the State’s renewable portfolio standard (“RPS”) that each electric power supplier and basic generation service (“BGS”) provider in the state obtain a certain percentage of its power from the solar facilities developed under the Solar Renewable Energy Credit (“SREC”) program, which was open from 20123 to 2020.

To cap costs, EDECA and the CEA established the SACP as an alternative means by which the suppliers and BGS providers could comply with the SREC requirement. The statute provides that “[t]he board shall determine an appropriate level of solar alternative compliance payment, and permit each supplier or provider to submit an SACP to comply with” the solar purchase requirements that are part of the renewable portfolio standard.⁹ The statute further provides that “[a]ny SACP payments collected shall be refunded directly to the ratepayers by the electric public utilities.”¹⁰

As of June 30, 2026, the Board has \$75,800,978 in SACP funds available.

Clean Energy Program Funds – Societal Benefits Charge

In addition to the approximately \$75 million in available funding through SACP, Staff recommends utilizing funding from the Fiscal Year 2027 New Jersey Clean Energy Program Budget (“FY27 NJCEP Budget”) for a second iteration of RUBC credits. The FY27 NJCEP Budget consists primarily of societal benefits charge (“SBC”) funding, which the Board is authorized to manage and utilize pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-60. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-60(a)(3), the Board is tasked with making a determination, as a result of the comprehensive resource analysis, the programs to be funded by the SBC, the level of cost recovery and performance incentives for old and new programs, and whether the recovery of demand side management programs costs currently approved by the Board may be reduced or extended over a longer period of time. The Board shall make these determinations taking into consideration existing market barriers and environmental benefits, with the objective of transforming markets, capturing lost opportunities, making energy services more affordable for low-income customers and eliminating subsidies for programs that can be delivered in the marketplace without electric public utility and gas public utility customer funding.

By Order dated June 30, 2026, the Board established the FY27 NJCEP Budget, which contains a line item allocating \$95,000,000 in FY27 NJCEP Budget funding to the RUBC.¹¹

The combined total of funds between the SACP and FY27 NJCEP Budget funds amounts to \$170,800,978. Staff recommends that the Board allocate all funds in the SACP and a sufficient amount of funds from the FY27 NJCEP Budget to cover the cost of all RUBC credits.

⁹ N.J.S.A. 48:3-87(j).

¹⁰ ibid.

¹¹ In re the Clean Energy Programs and Budget for the Fiscal Year 2027, BPU Docket NO. QO26040124, Order dated June 30, 2026.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

As stated, Governor Sherrill's EO1 declared the ongoing electricity affordability crisis in New Jersey as a state of emergency and directed the Board to provide for an additional iteration of RUBC to offset increases in the cost of electricity supply to take effect in 2026. EO1 instructed the Board to utilize the same or similar sources of funding addressed in the Board's order of August 13, 2025, that provided for RUBCs, among others that are applicable; and issue RUBCs, or an initial set of RUBCs, no later than July 1, 2026.¹²

With energy affordability being a primary focus of Governor Sherrill, with electricity costs in New Jersey continuing to rise, and in accordance with the directives of EO1, the Board finds that it is in the public interest to issue a second iteration of bill credits for electric utility customers in New Jersey.

The Board therefore **ORDERS** that all residential households with an existing electric account with one (1) of the four (4) EDCs shall be eligible for payments through a 2026 RUBC. The Board **FURTHER ORDERS** that the 2026 RUBC shall be applied so that each eligible customer receives one (1) flat credit of \$25 during the month of August. The Board **DIRECTS** Staff to take all necessary steps to implement the 2026 RUBC accordingly.

N.J.S.A. 48:3-87(j) directs that SACP funds collected "shall be refunded directly to the ratepayers by the electric public utilities." Accordingly, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** that direct bill assistance for residential electric customers in a 2026 RUBC is an authorized usage of remaining SACP funding. In addition, while the Board recognizes that N.J.A.C. 14:8-2.10(g) provides a procedure for allocating SACP funds to the EDCs on an annual basis, the Board finds that it is in the public interest to provide bill credits to residential customers to help offset electricity costs. Therefore, the Board **WAIVES** N.J.A.C. 14:8-2.10(g) with respect to the distribution of SACP funds for the 2026 RUBC.

Additionally, N.J.S.A. 48:3-60(a)(3) instructs the Board to direct a portion of SBC funding to programs which make energy services more affordable for low-income customers. The Board **HEREBY FINDS** that direct bill assistance in a 2026 RUBC is an authorized use of SBC funding that will make electricity service more affordable for low-income EDC customers.

Accordingly, based on the available \$75,800,978 in SACP funding, and the available \$95,000,000 in FY27 NJCEP Budget funds allocated to a 2026 RUBC, the Board **HEREBY AUTHORIZES** the use of \$170,800,978 in combined SACP and FY27 NJCEP Budget funding to fund the 2026 RUBC. Staff is **HEREBY DIRECTED** to distribute all available SACP funds, with the remaining balance to be provided from the FY27 NJCEP Budget funds, to the EDCs for RUBC payments to all residential customers as ordered above.

The Board **HEREBY ORDERS** that, no later than Thursday, July 16, 2026, each EDC must file with the Board a Utility Certification Form ("Certification"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. The Utility Certification Forms direct the EDC to provide the number of accounts deemed eligible for the 2026 RUBC as of the date of this Order, and to certify that it determined

¹² Executive Order No. 1 (2026), at page 5. All Executive Orders signed by Governor Sherrill are published in the New Jersey Register and are also available for online at: https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/057sherrill/approved/eo_archive.shtml

eligibility using the processes set forth in this Order. Only those accounts determined to be eligible as part of the Certification submission shall receive bill credits. Additionally, the Certifications contain a timeline for rollout of bill credits under the 2026 RUBC, a requirement that any unused funds be returned to the Board, and a requirement for EDCs to comply with reporting requirements contained therein. Upon review and approval of the Certifications provided by each EDC, Staff shall execute each Certification.

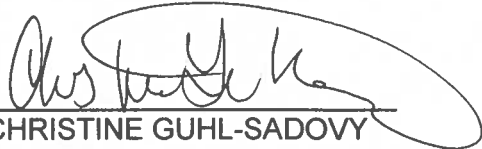
Following submission and approval of the Certification from each EDC, Staff shall determine the total number of households eligible for credits under the second iteration of the RUBC. Based on the total number of eligible accounts and the \$170,800,978 in available funding, Staff is **HEREBY DIRECTED** to transmit funds to the EDCs based on the product of each EDC's number of eligible accounts identified through the eligibility procedures as detailed herein. Staff is **HEREBY DIRECTED** to enter agreements with the EDCs to transmit funding to the EDCs based on the total number of account totals contained in each EDC's approved Certification. The credit(s) would then be applied by the EDCs to all eligible accounts in accordance with any additional instructions provided by Staff.

The EDCs shall report to the Board the total number of accounts credited, total amount of funds disbursed, the total amount of accounts not successfully credited, and the total of unspent funds, no later than Friday, October 16, 2026. The EDCs must use the final accounting form included in this Order as Exhibit 2 ("Final Certification") when submitting final accounting figures. The EDCs are **HEREBY DIRECTED** to return any unused funds to the Board no later than Monday, November 30, 2026. Upon returning any unused funds to the Board, the EDCs are **FURTHER DIRECTED** to certify to the Board, using the Final Certification included in this Order as Exhibit 2, the total amount of funds being returned and a corresponding number of eligible accounts that were not successfully credited. Staff is **HEREBY DIRECTED** to amend any agreements concerning the transfer of funds to be consistent with the figures certified in each EDC's Final Certification Form.

This Order shall be effective on June 30, 2026.

DATED: June 30, 2026

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOVY
PRESIDENT

ABSTAINED

DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU
COMMISSIONER

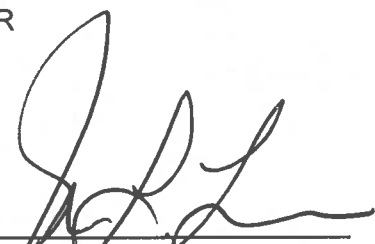

MICHAEL BANGE
COMMISSIONER



EMMA REBORN
COMMISSIONER



JOSEPH COVIELLO
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: 

SHERRIL L. LEWIS
BOARD SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within
document is a true copy of the original
in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW JERSEY CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2025 COMMUNITY ENERGY
PLAN GRANT PROGRAM

DOCKET NO. QO26030089

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**Residential Universal Bill Credit
Utility Company Certification**

1. I, NAME, am TITLE, of UTILITY COMPANY. I am making this Certification in furtherance of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' ("Board" or "BPU") June 30, 2026 Order establishing the second iteration of the Residential Universal Bill Credit (also known as "RUBC"), with which I am familiar. I am authorized to make this statement on UTILITY COMPANY's behalf.
2. I hereby certify that UTILITY COMPANY utilized the processes set forth in the Board's June 30, 2026 Order to calculate the number of customer accounts eligible for the RUBC.
3. I further certify that, as of June 30, 2026 the total number of UTILITY COMPANY customer accounts that are eligible for the RUBC is (NUMBER).
4. I further certify UTILITY COMPANY's understanding and agreement that (i) UTILITY COMPANY will only provide bill credits using Solar Alternative Compliance Payment and/or Societal Benefits Charge funding provided by the BPU, specifically committed to the RUBC, and (ii) will apply these credits exclusively to the residential customer utility accounts determined to be eligible through this certification, in accordance with the instructions set forth in the Board's June 30, 2026 Order.
5. I further certify UTILITY COMPANY's understanding and agreement that all funds received by UTILITY COMPANY from BPU on behalf of each UTILITY COMPANY customer will be applied by UTILITY COMPANY solely for the purpose of reducing an eligible customer's energy burden through this one-time bill credit.
6. I further certify UTILITY COMPANY's understanding and agreement that all funds received by UTILITY COMPANY from BPU will be applied by UTILITY COMPANY to all identified eligible accounts as part of this certification.
7. I further certify UTILITY COMPANY's understanding and agreement that UTILITY COMPANY shall report to BPU the total number of accounts credited and the total amount of funds successfully applied to eligible accounts as described above no later than Friday, October 16, 2026

- 8. I further certify UTILITY COMPANY’s understanding and agreement that UTILITY COMPANY shall refund to BPU any excess amount of Solar Alternative Compliance Payment and/or Societal Benefits Charge monies received that are not successfully applied to eligible accounts as described above no later than Monday, November 30, 2026.

- 9. I further and finally certify that the foregoing statements made by me herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I am aware that, if any of the foregoing statements made by me herein are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

UTILITY CERTIFICATION:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

**RESIDENTIAL UNIVERSAL BILL CREDIT
FINAL ACCOUNTING CERTIFICATION FORM**

Docket No. QO26030089

Pursuant to the Order of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”), in the above referenced Docket, **[Utility Name]** is providing the following information:

“The EDCs shall report to the Board the total number of accounts credited, total amount of funds disbursed, the total amount of accounts not successfully credited, and the total of unspent funds, no later than Friday, October 16, 2026. The EDCs must use the final accounting form included in this Order as Exhibit 2 (“Final Certification”) when submitting final accounting figures. The EDCs are **HEREBY DIRECTED** to return any unused funds to the Board no later than Monday, November 30, 2026. Upon returning any unused funds to the Board, the EDCs are **FURTHER DIRECTED** to certify to the Board, using the Final Certification included in this Order as Exhibit 2, the total amount of funds being returned and a corresponding number of eligible accounts that were not successfully credited.”

[Utility Name] RUBC Final Disbursement Information

RUBC	Date of Final Certification Requirement	Total Accounts Successfully Credited	Total Funds Spent	Total Accounts Not Successfully Credited	Total Funds Being Returned
Final Disbursement of RUBC was applied on [enter date]	October 16, 2026	[Insert Number]	[Insert Number]	[Insert Number]	[Insert Number]

Required Certification of the above RUBC Final Disbursement Information. Pursuant to the Referenced RUBC Order:

I, **[Utility Representative]**, certify, to the best of my ability, based on all data available to me, that the above identified Unused Funds of **[enter amount]**, to be returned to the Board, and the Number of Eligible Accounts Credited per Month fairly represent **[Utility Name]** post-RUBC distribution position.