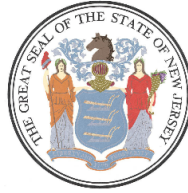


State of New Jersey  
Governor Philip D. Murphy  
Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver



Joseph L. Fiordaliso  
President

Mary-Anna Holden  
Dianne Solomon  
Upendra Chivukula  
Bob Gordon  
Commissioners

Board of Public Utilities



[www.nj.gov/bpu/](http://www.nj.gov/bpu/)

## NOTICE<sup>1</sup>

### IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED READOPTION WITH AMENDMENTS TO N.J.A.C. 14:5 – ELECTRIC SERVICE

#### [Docket No. EX21091121](#)

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBP or Board) hereby gives notice of a virtual Stakeholder Meeting to solicit input from the public and interested parties on the proposed re-adoption with amendments of rules at N.J.A.C. 14:5 which govern electric service. The Board is considering potential rule amendments to N.J.A.C. 14:5, a summary of which can be found attached to this Notice.

#### STAKEHOLDER MEETING

**DATE:** Thursday, January 20, 2022

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** Zoom Virtual Webinar

**REGISTER:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_iE5mKQZSRCGGk0kh7WS0Q](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iE5mKQZSRCGGk0kh7WS0Q)

The deadline for comments on this matter is 5:00 p.m. ET on Monday, February 21, 2022. Please submit comments directly to the specific docket linked above using the Board's [Public Document Search](#) tool and the "Post Comments" button. Comments are considered "public documents" for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act and any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3.

Written comments may also be submitted to:

**Aida Camacho-Welch**  
Secretary of the Board  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350  
Email: [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aida Camacho-Welch".

Aida Camacho-Welch  
Secretary

Dated: January 10, 2022

<sup>1</sup> Not a paid legal advertisement.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**Proposed Readoption with Amendments: N.J.A.C. 14:5**

**Proposed New Rules: N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.9 and 2.10**

**Electric Service**

Authorized By: New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Joseph L. Fiordaliso, President, Mary-Anna Holden, Dianne Solomon, Upendra Chivukula, and Robert M. Gordon, Commissioners.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 48:2-12, 48:2-13, 48:2-16, 48:2-25, and 48:3-96

Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

BPU Docket Number: EX21091121

Proposal Number:

**The deadline for comments on this matter is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 21, 2022.** Please submit comments directly to the specific docket above using the Board's Public Document Search tool and the "Post Comments" button. Written comments may also be submitted to:

Aida Camacho-Welch  
Secretary of the Board  
ATTN: EX21091121  
44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor  
P.O. Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350  
Phone: 609-292-1599  
Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

All comments are considered "public documents" for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Commenters may identify information that they seek to keep confidential by submitting it in accordance with the confidentiality procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3.

The agency proposal follows:

### **Summary**

The Board is proposing to readopt with amendments, new rules, and a repeal the provisions of N.J.A.C. 14:5, Electric Service, which are scheduled to expire on July 22, 2022, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1.c(2). The Electric Service rules delineate the requirements that electric distribution companies (EDCs) subject to the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Board) must abide by in such areas as the construction, inspection, and maintenance of a utility plant, the testing and accuracy of electric meters, residential underground extensions, vegetation management and the maintenance and preservation of records and accounts. These rules are necessary in that they relate directly to the provision of safe, adequate, and proper service by regulated New Jersey EDCs. As the Board has provided a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

The substantive provisions of the chapter proposed for readoption with amendments, new rules, and a repeal by the Board are summarized as follows:

N.J.A.C. 14:5-1.1 delineates the scope and applicability of Chapter 5 and is proposed for readoption without amendment. Specifically, this section states that all EDCs are required to comply with the provisions contained in Chapter 5 and the provisions of the Board's rules for all utilities contained in Chapter 3.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-1.2 includes a list of definitions for terms that are used throughout Chapter 5. The section is proposed for amendment to add the following newly defined terms: “AMI”; “Assisted Living Facility”; “Danger Tree”; “Full Time Equivalent”; “Hospital”; “Interruption, extended”;

“Nursing Home”; “Total Number of Customers Served”. This section also contains proposed amendments to the definition of “Major Event” to clarify when a major event can be declared, the duration of an event and situations limiting its use.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.1 pertains to the applicable standards for plant construction. This section is proposed for amendment to update the code reference for the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) to its current version, which was already effective and incorporated by reference pursuant to subsection (b). The NESC is updated every 5 years and offers guidance to safeguard people when electrical supply and communication lines are designed, installed, operated and maintained. This change ensures the most current code is followed.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.2 pertains to the separation and protection of communication and supply conductors or cables that are buried in the earth and is proposed for readoption without amendment. Subsection (a) delineates the requirement that buried communication and supply conductors be separated by specified distances, depending on the type of material used to separate the buried cables. Subsection (b) provides four exceptions to the main requirement contained in subsection (a).

N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.3 pertains to the protection of buried supply conductors and cables at all crossings and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.4 pertains to the protection of communication and supply conductors or cables that are installed in the same trench generally parallel to each other and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.5 requires fault protection for cables where buried communication and power supply conductors of 550 volts or more between conductors are installed in the same trench without separation and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.6 requires each EDC to properly identify its underground cables and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.7 requires specific ground protection where communication and power supply conductors are buried in the same trench without separation and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.8 pertains to the required depths for communication and power supply cables of over 550 volts between conductors that are buried in the same trench without separation or mechanical protection and is proposed for readoption without amendment. This section also specifies the depth that the cables should be buried.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.9 requires electric utilities to inspect and maintain street lighting lamps and accessories pursuant to established practice. This section is renamed “Inspection and Repair of Street Lights” to clearly identify street light rules and remove references to inspection of property.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.10 requires electric utilities to perform safety and service inspections before reinstalling equipment in its system. This language was removed from N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.9(a) and is proposed for adoption in a new section for this purpose.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-3.1 pertains to the supply of polyphase service and defines that term and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-3.2 pertains to the adequacy of service provided by EDCs. This section sets out the requirements for the standard average value of voltage for EDCs supplying electric energy on a constant potential system and requires EDCs supplying alternating current to adopt and maintain a suitable standard frequency and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-3.3 sets out the conditions under which main service cabinets or cabinets enclosing main fuses or breakers may be sealed and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-3.4 requires the grounding of secondaries to be in accordance with the NESC and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-3.5 sets out those instances in which an electric utility may refuse to connect with a customer's installation and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-3.6 requires EDCs to report accidents in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 14:3-6.4 and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-4.1 describes the equipment to be maintained by EDCs for the testing of electric meters and to the inspection of such equipment and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

Specifically, subsection (a) requires the EDC to have a testing lab and the equipment necessary to test the accuracy of the meters. Subsection (b) requires the EDCs to have portable meter testing devices. Subsection (c) requires the EDCs to have the proper equipment to test the accuracy of portable watt-hour meters, while subsection (d) requires watt-hour meters to be certified. Subsection (e) requires all portable meters to be checked against reference standards at least once a week, while subsection (f) allows the instruments and standards mentioned in this section to be certified by a standardizing laboratory that has been approved by the Board.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-4.2 requires the periodic testing of electric meters according to the schedule contained in subsection (a). Subsection (b) identifies how the kilowatt rating of a direct current meter may be determined. Subsection (c) states how all alternating current watt-hour meters installed on customers premises shall be tested. The section is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-4.3 pertains to the accuracy of electric meters and is proposed for readoption without amendment. Subsection (a) states the percentage of error registration that is acceptable in a meter. Subsection (b) prohibits a meter, which registers "no load" from being put into service. Subsection (c) stipulates how the accuracy of a meter shall be determined during periodic testing. Subsection (d) identifies what "light load" is. Finally, subsection (e) identifies how accuracy shall be determined for complaint testing.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-4.4 requires that all electric meters installed outdoors must be compensated for temperature variations and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-4.5 pertains to the adjustment of electric meters after testing and the testing for accuracy prior to installation and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-5.1 pertains to the governance of extensions of electric service and is proposed for readoption without amendment. Specifically, they are governed by the provisions set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:3-8.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-6.1 adopts by references the Uniform System of Accounts (USOA) for Class A and B Electric Utilities promulgated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and is proposed for readoption without amendment. The purpose of the USOA is to require the affected electric utilities to adopt a uniform system of accounting by which to keep their books, records,

and accounts in a manner that will afford an intelligent understanding of the conduct of their business. The USOA creates a series of accounts and a related numbering system by which to record various financial transactions pertaining to operating expense accounts, utility plant accounts, balance sheet accounts, income accounts, operating revenue accounts, and operation and maintenance expense accounts.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-6.2 adopts by reference regulations proposed for adoption by the states by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners governing the preservation of records by electric utilities and is proposed for readoption without amendment. These regulations place particular types of records into certain categories and establish period of times during which such records should be maintained. The categories established by the regulations include corporate records, automatic data processing records, general accounting records, insurance records, operation and maintenance records, personnel records, plant and depreciation records, purchase and store records, revenue accounting and collecting records, tax records, and treasury records.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-7.1 establishes guidelines to which EDCs must adhere in constructing overhead transmission lines and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.1 sets forth the purpose and scope of Subchapter 8 as it pertains to measuring reliability and ensuring the quality of the electric service being delivered to New Jersey customers by electric distribution companies and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.2 pertains to reliability performance levels and is proposed for readoption without amendment. Specifically, it requires the EDCs to perform better than the minimum reliability levels in N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.5 and that failure to maintain these levels may result in penalty.



N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.3 pertains to service reliability programs and procedures. This section requires EDCs to ensure that they maintain minimum reliability levels for their respective operating areas and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.4 requires EDCs to consider power quality in the design and maintenance of their distribution power-delivery system components and to maintain power quality programs designed to promptly respond to customer reports of power quality problems and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.5 pertains to individual circuit reliability performance and is proposed for readoption without amendment. Subsection (a) requires EDCs to identify the reliability of their circuits on a predefined basis, while subsection (b) requires EDCs to improve the reliability of their poorest performing circuits. Subsection (c) requires EDCs to review their previous two reports in order to address the reliability performance for their operating areas. Subsection (d) requires EDCs to examine the equipment and circuits for operating areas that have values higher than the minimum performance level of Customer Average Index Duration Index (CAIDI) and System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI) in two of the past three reports. Finally, the worst performing circuits and equipment serving those circuits shall be identified and corrected.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.6 requires each EDC to have inspection and maintenance programs for all their distribution facilities and is proposed for readoption without amendment. Subsection (a) requires that a significant portion of the inspection programs should be focused on mitigating the causes of service interruption. Subsection (b) details plans for inspections, maintenance, and recordkeeping. In addition, subsection (c) requires all EDCs to maintain records of inspection and maintenance activities. Further, subsection (d) requires each EDC to track and report "hazard trees."

N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.7 requires the EDCs to submit quarterly reports. Subsection (a) requires the EDC's to track and report outage data, excluding IEEE 1366 momentary outages and major events, that includes: Outage type (primary, secondary or service line, specific equipment), circuit ID and type, source substation, number of customers on the circuit, municipality outage occurred, number of customers affected by this outage, start date/time of outage, total duration of outage in minutes, and the cause of outage (for example, vegetation, equipment failure, outside influence). It also specifies each EDC may use its own method for identifying the type of outage, that an explanatory summary of unique circumstances or potential problems identified and glossary of terms be provided, and that all outage data must be submitted in a Microsoft Office excel spreadsheet file with the explanatory summary in another Microsoft Office or Adobe Acrobat compatible format. Subsection (b) requires the EDC's to submit an additional Microsoft Office Excel spreadsheet detailing outages at the substation level. This information will include the substation ID, number of outages experienced at each substation due to substation specific equipment, duration of outages, number of customers affected by each outage, and require an explanatory summary of any unique circumstances or potential problems identified. Subsection (c) requires the quarterly reports be submitted in an electronic form, both in redacted and unredacted forms, in order to protect security sensitive information. Proposed addition to subsection (a) will require the SAIFI and CAIDI calculations for the quarter reported and year to date.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.8 provides for the submission by EDCs of an Annual System Performance Report, by May 31st of each year and sets out the components of such report. Proposed addition to subsection (a) requires filing of public and confidential versions of the report. In addition, subsection (b) requires EDCs to include their electric service reliability performance operating areas in relation to their SAIFI and CAIDI levels, with a summary value for each EDCs service

territory as a whole in relation to their minimum service reliability levels for those metrics. In addition, the annual report must reflect for the previous calendar year and previous 10 years. Further, subsection (c) contains a list of the items that should be included in the EDCs annual report, including requirements for information on each EDC's stray voltage program and planned vegetation management activities. Subsection (c) requires hazard tree information as required in N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.6(d)3. Furthermore, subsection (g) requires that eight percent of its worst-performing circuits are identified in each of its operating areas and further states that the EDCs are required to list the circuits that were addressed and the work completed to address them during the applicable performance year and identified at the end of the applicable performance year to be addressed in the next performance year and report this in the Annual System Performance Report. Additionally, the EDC must implement mitigation for these circuits no longer than one year from submission of the Annual System Performance Report and that, if the EDC contends the mitigation work cannot be completed within that timeframe, the EDC must provide a detailed explanation to the Board of the reasons.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.9 requires that electric utilities submit a report within 15 days of a "major event," and includes a list of the items that should be included in that report. The list has been expanded to include proposed amendments that Board Staff requires to do a thorough investigation of an EDC's performance before, during and after a "major event".

N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.10 sets forth the criteria for the establishment of service level values for each EDC's CAIDI and SAIFI levels; requires a review, analysis, and corrective action if the minimum reliability level is not met; and states that the Board may adjust this minimum reliability level after considering various factors. Subsection (a) is proposed for amendment to change the benchmark

standard of a five-year average CAIDI and SAIFI from the years 2010-2014 to the “previous 5 years”.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.11 sets forth standards for the prompt restoration of service by EDCs. Subsection (a) requires EDCs to begin to restore service to an affected area within two hours of notification by two customers or more. Further, subsection (a) requires EDCs to begin the prompt restoration of service if they are made aware of an outage by their "operating management system." Subsection (b) limits this section to disruptions of service that are not caused by a major event. Subsection (c) states that EDCs shall place the highest priority on responding to emergency situations. Finally, subsection (d) states that when the EDC is unable to respond within the two hours required by subsection (a), they shall respond as soon as possible. Proposed subsection (e) contains the requirements of P.L. 2021, c.29.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.12 pertains to the outage management systems to be implemented by each electric utility. Proposed addition refers to Advanced Distribution Management Systems as an alternative to OMS.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.13, proposed for readoption without amendment, sets forth the penalties for violations of the reporting and planning and program submission requirements and for other violations of the subchapter.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.1 pertains to the purpose and scope of the vegetation management standards contained in Subchapter 9 and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.2 Reserved

N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.3 pertains to the general requirements that EDCs must abide by in the performance of vegetation management activities and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.4 pertains to the requirements placed upon EDCs for a vegetation management maintenance cycle and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.5 pertains to hazard trees and is proposed for readoption without amendment. Specifically, this section requires that the EDC must attempt to obtain permission to remove or mitigate identified hazard trees, that if permission is not necessary the EDC shall arrange to remove or mitigate the hazard tree as part of scheduled vegetation management work to be performed during the current year, unless the VM determines that the condition of the hazard tree poses an imminent risk of failure, in which case, the EDC shall remove or mitigate the hazard tree as soon as practicable and that the EDC is required to comply with recording and reporting requirements of N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.9(d)2.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.6 pertains to the technical standards of vegetation management, which requires that the EDCs ensure that vegetation management is conducted in accordance with the standards contained in the publications list contained at subsection (a) and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.7 pertains to the requirements on EDCs for transmission line vegetation management and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.8 pertains to distribution line vegetation management and is proposed for readoption without amendment. This section requires all EDCs to inspect and trim in order to maintain the appropriate horizontal clearance on their distribution lines. Furthermore, on January 1, 2016, all EDCs were mandated to remove any overhanging vegetation in the lock out zone (meaning from the substation to the first protective device) on the distribution lines. The EDC's

vegetation managers have flexibility in determining what the lock out zone is and mature trees are exempt from the overhang mandate.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.9 pertains to the training, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements for EDCs and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.10 pertains to the requirements for public notice that the EDCs are expected to abide by to provide their customers with sufficient notice of upcoming planned vegetation management activities and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.11 pertains to the outreach programs that EDCs are required to conduct to let the public know about the importance of vegetation management activities and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.12 pertains to the penalties that an EDC is subject to for failure to comply with the vegetation management rules and is proposed for readoption without amendment.

As the Board has provided a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirements set forth at N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.1 and 3.2, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

### **Social Impact**

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments, new rules, and a repeal relate directly to the provision of safe, adequate, and proper service by New Jersey electric utilities. Said rules are necessary to ensure that electric plant is constructed and installed pursuant to acceptable standards and is maintained and inspected in a manner that will protect the safety and well-being of the public. The amendments and new rules will ensure that the State's EDCs continue to provide

safe and reliable service to their customers. Amendments that have been proposed to achieve this goal include: 1. clearly defining and limiting the scope of Major Events for more accurate reliability metrics; 2. enhanced Major Event report requirements to better understand and evaluate EDC storm response; and 3. requiring EDCs prioritize the restoration of hospitals, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, dialysis centers and certain medical facilities and labs.

### **Economic Impact**

As a result of the rules proposed for readoption with amendments, new rules, and a repeal, EDCs, as they have in the past, will incur expenses for, among other things, inspecting and testing their plant and meters and maintaining required records, conducting vegetation management activities, and providing notice of proposed vegetation management activities. Since these items represent appropriate business activities, all reasonable levels of costs associated with them will be passed along to ratepayers through rates for service.

### **Federal Standards Statement**

Executive Order No. 27 (1994) and N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., require State agencies that adopt, readopt, or amend State rules that exceed any Federal standards or requirements to include in the rulemaking document a Federal standards analysis. The National Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standard FAC-003, Transmission Vegetation Management, applies only to transmission lines (69 kilovolts and above) that are classified as an element of an Interconnection Reliability Operating Limit (IROL). While New Jersey EDCs operate a number of transmission lines that are not so classified, the loss of any of these lines may cause wide spread outage to customers in New Jersey. Therefore, the Chapter 5 requires all transmission lines in New Jersey to meet the NERC Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distances, a spark over distance, and also

require the EDCs to remove all vegetation within the relevant EDC's rights of way, such that no vegetation will fall into the line (N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.7(e)1). The Board's rules also set forth vegetation management requirements for distribution lines that are not subject to the NERC FAC-003.

N.J.A.C. 14:5-6.1 contains the adoption by reference of the USOA for Classes A and B Electric Utilities that have been promulgated by the FERC, as well as any subsequent amendments, revisions, deletions and corrections, which FERC may make thereto. The remainder of the subject matter of the rules proposed for re adoption with amendments is not the subject of any Federal law, rule, or regulation.

#### **Jobs Impact**

The Board does not anticipate that the rules proposed for re adoption with amendments, new rules, and a repeal will either cause jobs to be generated or lost in any area of the State's economy.

#### **Agriculture Industry Impact**

The Board does not anticipate that the rules proposed for re adoption with amendments, new rules, and a repeal will have any impact on the agriculture industry of the State.

#### **Regulatory Flexibility Statement**

The rules proposed for re adoption with amendments, new rules, and a repeal will not impose reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements on small businesses, as that term is defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq., in that no regulated New Jersey EDC has fewer than 100 full-time employees.

#### **Housing Affordability Impact Analysis**



The rules proposed for readoption with amendments, new rules, and a repeal will have no impact on affordable housing in New Jersey and will not evoke a change in the average costs associated with housing because the rules pertain to the regulation of electric utilities.

### **Smart Growth Development Impact Analysis**

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments, a repeal, and new rules will have an insignificant impact on smart growth and there is an extreme unlikelihood that the rules would evoke a change in housing production in Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, under the State Development and Redevelopment Plan in New Jersey because the rules pertain to the regulation of electric utilities.

### **Racial and Ethnic Community Criminal Justice and Public Safety Impact**

The Board has evaluated the proposed new rule and determined that it will not have an impact on pretrial, detention, sentencing, probation, or parole policies concerning adults and juveniles in the State. Accordingly, no further analysis is required.

## **Chapter 5 - ELECTRIC SERVICE**

### **Subchapter 1 - SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY**

#### **Section 14:5-1.1 - Scope**

(a)-(c) (No change.)

#### **Section 14:5-1.2 - Definitions**

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Additional definitions that apply to this chapter can be found at 14:3-1.1.

...

**“AMI” means Advanced Metering Infrastructure, which is an integrated system of smart meters, communications networks, and data management systems that enables two-way communication between utilities and customers, which is an integrated system of smart meters, communications networks, and data management systems that enables two-way communication between utilities and customers.**

...

**“Assisted Living Facility” means an assisted living residence or comprehensive personal care home licensed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et. seq.**

...

**“Danger tree” is any tree on or off the right of way that could contact electric supply lines if it were to fall.**

...

**“Full Time Equivalent” (FTE) means a unit that indicates the workload of an employed person in a way that makes workloads comparable across various contexts. An FTE of 1.0 is equivalent to a full-time worker, while an FTE of 0.5 signals half of a full work load.**

...

**“Hospital” means hospital licensed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et. seq.**

...

**“Interruption, extended” means an interruption of electric service to one or more customers for a period of at least 24 hours,**

...

"Major event" means any of the following:

1. A sustained interruption of electric service resulting from conditions beyond the control of the EDC, which may include, but is not limited to, thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, heat waves or snow and ice storms, which affect at least 10 percent of the customers in an operating area **within a 24-hour period**. Due to an EDC's documentable need to allocate field resources to restore service to affected areas when one operating area experiences a major event, the major event shall be deemed to extend to those other operating areas of that EDC, which are providing assistance to the affected areas. **The duration of the event shall be limited to the conditions initiating the event and conclude when the final customer outage is restored from the initiating event.** The Board retains authority to examine the characterization of a major event;
2. An unscheduled interruption of electric service resulting from an action:
  - i. Taken by an EDC under the direction of an Independent System Operator;
  - ii. Taken by the EDC to prevent an uncontrolled or cascading interruption of electric service; or
  - iii. Taken by the EDC to maintain the adequacy and security of the electric system, including emergency load control, emergency switching and energy conservation procedures, which affects one or more customers;
3. A sustained interruption occurring during an event, which is outside the control of the EDC, and is of sufficient intensity to give rise to a state of emergency or disaster being declared by State

government. **The event is concluded upon the restoration of all customers affected by the initial event;** or

4. When mutual aid is provided to another EDC or utility, the assisting EDC may apply to the Board for permission to exclude its sustained interruptions from its CAIDI and SAIFI calculations, **if the aid provided substantially affected the EDC’s ability to respond to those interruptions.**

Interruptions occurring during a major event in one or more operating areas shall not be included in the EDC's CAIDI and SAIFI calculations of those affected operating area(s). However, interruption data for major events shall be collected, according to the reporting requirements outlined in 14:5-8.9 and 8.10.

...

**“Nursing Home” means a nursing home licensed pursuant to P.L.1971 c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et. Seq.).**

...

**“Total number of customers served” means the number of active metered accounts as of the last day of the prior calendar year or the average of 12 months of active monthly metered accounts. This number generally excludes all street lighting (dusk-to-dawn lighting, municipal street lighting, traffic lights) and sales to other electric utilities.**

Subchapter 2 – PLANT

Section 14:5-2.1 - Plant construction

(a) The construction and installation of plant and facilities of EDCs must be in accordance with all of the following, as they applied at the time of construction:

1.-2. (No change.)

3. The [2012] National Electrical Safety Code, which is available at [<http://standards.ieee.org/nesc/>] **standards.ieee.org/products-services/nesc.**

(b) (No change.)

Section 14:5-2.2 - Separation and protection of conductors buried in earth

(a)-(b) (No change.)

Section 14:5-2.3 - Protection at crossing of cables

(a)-(b) (No change.)

Section 14:5-2.4 - Protection of cables installed parallel

(a)-(b) (No change.)

Section 14:5-2.5 - Fault protection

(No change.)

Section 14:5-2.6 - Identification of conductors

(No change.)

Section 14:5-2.7 - Ground protection

(a) (No change.)

Section 14:5-2.8 - Depth of buried cables

(No change.)

Section 14:5-2.9 - Inspection [of property] **and Repair of Street Lights**

(a) Each EDC shall inspect lamps and street lighting accessories and maintain such service in accordance with 14:3-2.7(a) and established industry practice. [Whenever any transformers, high tension insulators, and equipment are removed from the system for any reason they shall be inspected as to safety and serviceability before being reinstalled in the same or other location.]

(b) (No change.)

**Section 14:5-2.10 - Inspection of property**

**Whenever any transformers, high tension insulators, and equipment are removed from the system for any reason they shall be inspected as to safety and serviceability before being reinstalled in the same or other location.**

Subchapter 3 – SERVICE

Section 14:5-3.1 - Polyphase service

(No change.)

Section 14:5-3.2 - Adequacy of service

(a)-(b) (No change.)

Section 14:5-3.3 - Sealing of main fuse cabinets or circuit breakers

(No change.)

Section 14:5-3.4 - Grounding of secondaries

(No change.)

Section 14:5-3.5 - Refusal to connect

(No change.)

Section 14:5-3.6 - Accidents

(No change.)

Subchapter 4 – METERS

Section 14:5-4.1 - Testing of electric meters

(a)-(f) (No change.)

Section 14:5-4.2 - Periodic testing of electric meters

(a)-(c) (No change.)

Section 14:5-4.3 - Determination of electric meter accuracy

(a)-(e) (No change.)

Section 14:5-4.4 - Outdoor meters

(No change.)

Section 14:5-4.5 - Readjustment of electric meters

(No change.)

## Subchapter 5 - EXTENSION OF ELECTRIC SERVICE

### Section 14:5-5.1 - Extensions

(No change.)

## Subchapter 6 - UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS FOR CLASSES A AND B ELECTRIC UTILITIES

### Section 14:5-6.1 - Adoption by reference of the Uniform System of Accounts

The Board adopts by reference the Uniform System of Accounts (USOA) for Classes A and B Electric Utilities that have been promulgated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (**FERC**), as well as all present and subsequent amendments, revisions, deletions and corrections, which the **FERC**[ederal Energy Regulatory Commission] may adopt, insofar as they relate to EDCs subject to the jurisdiction of the Board and are in accordance with the Board's policies and procedures. Information about the [(USOA)] may be obtained at [<http://www.ferc.gov/legal/acct-matts/usofa.asp>]**www.ferc.gov/enforcement-legal/enforcement/accounting-matters.**

### Section 14:5-6.2 - Adoption by reference of rules concerning preservation of records

(No change.)

## Subchapter 7 - ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES



Section 14:5-7.1 - Requirements for electric transmission lines

(a)-(b) (No change.)

Subchapter 8 - ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SERVICE RELIABILITY AND QUALITY  
STANDARDS

Section 14:5-8.1 - Purpose and scope

(a)-(d) (No change.)

Section 14:5-8.2 - Reliability performance levels

(a)-(b) (No change.)

Section 14:5-8.3 - Service reliability

(a)-(c) (No change.)

Section 14:5-8.4 - Power quality

(a)-(c) (No change.)

Section 14:5-8.5 - Individual circuit reliability performance

(a)-(d) (No change.)

Section 14:5-8.6 - Inspection and maintenance programs

(a)-(d) (No change.)

Section 14:5-8.7 - Quarterly reporting

(a) On a quarterly basis, each EDC shall prepare and submit a report to the Board's Energy Division providing the following information regarding all outages experienced and recorded during each quarter (other than momentary outages as defined by IEEE 1366 and major events, which shall be excluded). Each quarterly report shall be due within 60 days of the end of the quarter.

1. The quarterly outage reports shall provide the following information:

i.-ix. (No change.)

**x. The SAIFI and CAIDI calculations for the quarter and year to date.**

2.-4. (No change.)

(b)-(c) (No change.)

#### Section 14:5-8.8 - Annual System Performance Report

(a) Each EDC shall submit to the Board an Annual System Performance Report by May 31 of each year **and shall include a public and confidential version**. The EDC shall also submit a copy of the report to Rate Counsel at the same time, which may be submitted electronically, at the discretion of [the EDC] **Rate Counsel**.

(b)-(h) (No change.)

#### Section 14:5-8.9 - Major event report

(a) The EDC shall, within 15 business days after the end of a major event, submit a report to the Board, which shall include the following:

1.-2. (No change)

3. The number of trouble locations and classifications, **poles down, broken cross arms, damaged transformers and miles of wire replaced;**
4. The time at which the mutual aid (**FTEs**) and non-company contractor (**FTEs**) crews were requested, arrived for duty and were released, and the mutual aid and non-contractor response(s) to the request(s) for assistance;
5. A timeline profile of the number of company line crews (**FTEs**), mutual aid crews (**FTEs**), non-company contractor line (**FTEs**) and tree crews (**FTEs**) working on restoration activities during the duration of the major event; and
6. A timeline profile of the number of company crews (**FTEs**) sent to an affected operating area to assist in the restoration effort.
7. **A list of Emergency Management contacts made by the EDC over the course of the outages including County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) coordinators, Municipal OEM coordinators, Mayors, Business Administrators, Police Chiefs and Fire Chiefs. Indicate the method of contact (phone, fax, text, email, in-person), the date and time of the contact, the employee who made the contact and who was contacted.**
8. **A list of any public communications made by the EDC before and during the course of the outages including radio, newspapers, television, social media and the EDC's website , including the date, time and content of those communications.**
9. **A list in sequential restoration order of all trouble locations that were restored, the number of customers restored associated with these locations and the time at which they were restored.**

**10. A list segregating all trouble locations by municipality, county and number of customers affected.**

**11. A list of any time when high winds prevented restoration personnel from performing their job functions including the affected areas and duration of the suspension of work activities.**

**12. A list detailing the time and date of all requests made by the EDC to other utilities, including parent companies, subsidiaries and/or "sister" companies, and/or outside contractors or subcontractors for mutual assistance. The nature of each request should also be specified.**

**13. A list detailing where those mutual aid crews were directed to work by number and county over four hour intervals during the course of the restoration effort.**

**14. The number of roads cleared of utility infrastructure.**

**15. The number of roads cleared of utility infrastructure that was damaged by overhanging tree branches.**

**16. The number of downed trees and the number of downed trees previously identified as hazard trees pursuant to Subchapter 14:5-9.**

**17. Telecommunications sector issues that hampered restoration.**

**18. A daily accounting of the Estimated Times of Restoration (ETR) issued to customers throughout the restoration.**

(b) (No change.)

Section 14:5-8.10 - Establishment of reliability service performance level

(a) For each of an EDC's operating areas, the reliability performance level is established as follows:

1. The operating area's CAIDI benchmark standard is set at the five-year average CAIDI for the **previous 5** years[ 2010-2014];
2. The operating area's SAIFI benchmark standard is set at the five-year average SAIFI for the **previous 5** years[2010-2014];
3. (No change.)

(b)-(c) (No change.)

Section 14:5-8.11 - Prompt restoration standards

(a)-(d) (No change.)

**(e) An EDC shall give priority to an assisted living facility; hospital, chronic or acute renal dialysis facility; clinical or research laboratory or institute that stores human blood, other human tissue, or human Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA); or nursing home for power restoration after an extended interruption following a Major Event except when those power restoration efforts divert resources from power restoration efforts needed to maintain overall public safety. An EDC may exercise its discretion to prioritize power restoration to an assisted living facility; hospital; chronic or acute renal dialysis facility; research laboratory or institute that stores human blood, other human tissue or human DNA; or nursing home after an extended interruption in accordance with the facility's needs and with the characteristics of the geographic area in which power is being restored.**

Section 14:5-8.12 - **Advanced Distribution Management Systems (ADMS) and** Outage management systems (OMS)

(a) Each EDC shall maintain an **ADMS or OMS** as described in this section.

(b) The **ADMS or OMS** shall consist at a minimum of a fully integrated geographic information system (GIS), a sophisticated voice response unit (VRU), a software driven outage assessment tool and an energy management system/supervisory control and data acquisition (EMS/SCADA).

(c) The **ADMS or OMS** shall be able to digitally map the entire electric distribution system, group customers who are out of service to the most probable interrupting device that operated, associate customers with distribution facilities, generate street-map indicating EDC outage locations, improve the management of resources during a storm, improve the accuracy of identifying the number of customers without electric service, accurately communicate the number of customers without electric service and improve the ability to estimate their expected restoration time, accurately communicate the number and when customers were restored and dispatch crews and/or troubleshooters via computer (mobile data terminals).

(d) As part of the **advanced distribution management system or** outage management system, each EDC shall use appropriate cost benefit analysis for the purpose of adopting smart grid technology to improve reliability. The implementation of smart grid technology shall be reported in the Annual System Performance Report.

#### Section 14:5-8.13 - Penalties

(a)-(d) (No change.)

### Subchapter 9 - ELECTRIC UTILITY LINE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

#### Section 14:5-9.1 - Purpose and scope

(No change.)

Section 14:5-9.3 - General provisions

(a)-(i) (No change.)

Section 14:5-9.4 - Maintenance cycle

(a)-(d) No change)

Section 14:5-9.5 - Hazard trees

(a)-(c) (No change.)

Section 14:5-9.6 - Technical standards for vegetation management

(a) Each EDC shall ensure that vegetation management conducted on its energized conductors is performed in accordance with the standards and accepted procedures set forth in the following publications, which are incorporated herein by reference, as amended and supplemented:

1.-3. (No change.)

4. Best Management Practices, Utility Pruning of Trees, 2004. This title is published by the International Society of Arboriculture and may be obtained at [<http://www.isaarbor.com/store/product.aspx?ProductID=65>]**www.isaarbor.com/store/product/65/;**

5.-9. (No change.)

(b)-(g) (No change.)

Section 14:5-9.7 - Transmission line vegetation management

(a)-(i) (No change.)

Section 14:5-9.8 - Distribution line vegetation management

(a)-(b) (No change.)

Section 14:5-9.9 - Training, recordkeeping, and reporting

(a)-(e) (No change.)

Section 14:5-9.10 - Public notice of planned vegetation management activity

(a)-(h) (No change.)

Section 14:5-9.11 - Outreach programs

(a)-(d) (No change.)

Section 14:5-9.12 - Penalties

(a)-(d) (No change.)