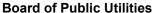
# **State of New Jersey** Governor Philip D. Murphy

Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver









#### Joseph L. Fiordaliso **President**

Mary-Anna Holden Dianne Solomon Bob Gordon Dr. Zenon Christodoulou Commissioners

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS<sup>1</sup>

# IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL GRID RESILIENCE FUNDING PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C.S. § 18711(d)

## BPU Docket No. EO22110687

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") intends to apply for a 5year grant from the US Department of Energy ("DOE") ("Resilience Grant") in the amount of approximately \$32,000,000 to improve and maintain the resilience of existing electric grid services throughout the State of New Jersey via the use of clean technology.

The State of New Jersey ("State") experienced various weather events resulting in numerous power disruptions, such as Tropical Storm Isaias, Hurricane Irene, and Super Storm Sandy. Such weather events continue today. Multiple facilities throughout the State rely upon diesel generation to sustain electric service during such events. However, maintaining resilience with clean technology is now possible. The Resilience Grant will assist the State in achieving this goal by maintaining resilience during disruptive weather events while allowing responsive and interactive capabilities that offer valuable grid flexibility services during normal operation.

The Board intends to apply for the Resilience Grant, on behalf of the State, to invest in battery energy storage system(s) ("BESS") as an alternative to the high carbon emitting diesel backup generators currently in use. The Board, in coordination with other State agencies, will identify facilities that meet the criteria identified in the Resilience Grant, and replace diesel generation with BESS as the first source of electricity back up.

BESS is consistent with the goals of New Jersey Energy Master Plan to achieve 100 percent clean energy by the year 2050. Diesel generation produces high levels of carbon dioxide, and high levels of noise, specifically 85 dB(A) which can cause hearing damage. BESS produces no carbon dioxide and no noise, rendering BESS ideal for facilities that house patients and operate around the clock, as well as other such facilities throughout the State.

If awarded the Resilience Grant, the State must match 15% of the awarded amount, and the project developer must match 100% of the awarded amount. In the event the State acts as the project developer, the State must match 115% of the awarded amount.

The deadline to submit the Resilience Grant application to the DOE is March 31, 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Not a paid legal advertisement.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual public hearings are scheduled on the following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Board's application to the DOE for consideration for the Resilience Grant. Information provided at the public hearings will become part of the record and considered by the Board.

### **VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**DATE:** March 8, 2023 **TIMES:** 4:30 p.m. and

5:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Zoom Virtual Public Hearing

Please click the link below to join the webinar: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81799016490

-or-

Join by phone

Dial-In: +1(301) 715-8592 Meeting ID: 817 9901 6490

Representatives from the Board's Staff will participate in the virtual public hearings. Members of the public may participate by utilizing the link or Dial-In number set forth above, and express their views regarding the Resilience Grant. To encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters and/or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearings to the Acting Secretary at <a href="mailto:board.secretary@bpu.ni.gov">board.secretary@bpu.ni.gov</a>.

The deadline for comments on this matter is 5 p.m. on March 15, 2023. Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket listed above using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's Public Document Search. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's Public Document Search tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certain rules requiring paper submissions have been temporarily waived. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board's e-filing system or by email to the Acting Secretary of the Board, Please include "Confidential Information" in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found the Board's webpage. on https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/. Emailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:

#### Carmen D. Diaz

Acting Secretary of the Board 44 South Clinton Ave., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor PO Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Phone: 609-913-6241

Email: <u>board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov</u>

Carmen Diaz
Acting Secretary

Dated: February 9, 2023