

OLEAN ENEDOV

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

		CLEAN ENERGY
IN THE MATTER OF THE CLEAN ENERGY ORDER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 4 <sup>th</sup> BUDGET REVISION	) ) )	ORDER  DOCKET NO. QO19050645
	,	20011211101 00100001

#### Parties of Record:

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel Philip J. Passanante, Esq., Atlantic City Electric Company Joshua R. Eckert, Esq., Jersey Central Power and Light Company Andrew K. Dembia, Esq., New Jersey Natural Gas Company Matthew M. Weissman, Esq., Public Service Electric and Gas Company Margaret Comes, Esq., Rockland Electric Company Deborah M. Franco, Esq., Elizabethtown Gas Company and South Jersey Gas Company Michael Ambrosio, TRC Energy Services

#### BY THE BOARD:

This Order memorializes action taken by the Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") at its September 9, 2020 public meeting, where the Board considered the fourth proposed revisions to the FY20 budget for New Jersey's Clean Energy Program ("NJCEP").

# **BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On February 9, 1999, the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act ("EDECA" or "Act"), N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 et seq., was signed into law, creating the societal benefits charge ("SBC") to fund programs for the advancement of energy efficiency ("EE") and renewable energy ("RE") in New Jersey. The Act also provided for the Board to initiate proceedings and undertake a comprehensive resource analysis ("CRA") of EE and RE programs in New Jersey every four years. The CRA would then be used to determine the appropriate level of funding over the next four years for EE and Class I RE programs, which are part of what is now known as NJCEP. Accordingly, in 1999, the Board initiated its first CRA proceeding, and in 2001, it issued an order setting funding levels, the programs to be funded, and the budgets for those programs, all for the years 2001 through 2003. Since then, the Board has issued numerous Orders setting the funding levels, related programs, and program budgets for the years 2004 – FY20.1

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In the early years, the budgets and programs were based on calendar years, but in 2012, the Board determined to begin basing the budgets and programs on fiscal years in order to align with the overall State budget cycle.

The Board originally established FY20 programs and program budgets through a Board Order dated June 21, 2019, trued up and revised them through a Board Order dated January 8, 2020, revised them for a second time through an April 6, 2020 Board Order, extended them through a July 2, 2020 Board Order, extended them for a second time through a July 15, 2020 Board Order, and extended the fiscal year and made third budget reallocations through a July 29, 2020 Board Order.

Additionally, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on April 14, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law a bill that extended the State's current FY20 to September 30, 2020.

## PROPOSED FY20 FOURTH BUDGET REALLOCATIONS

# REALLOCATIONS AND RATIONALE FOR PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CLEAN ENERGY

#### Microgrids:

The next phase for the Microgrid program, previously anticipated for award in FY20, will not issue before September 30, 2020; therefore, the budget will not be utilized during this fiscal year and will be reduced by \$4,000,000.

#### **Sponsorships:**

In order to continue to fund yearly memberships that are due each July, Board Staff ("Staff") recommends increasing this budget item by \$60,000 to cover these costs.

# Storage:

Staff is still in the process of developing recommendations for an energy storage program, and funds of \$4,105,000 will not be needed in FY20. Therefore, Staff recommends reallocating these funds to be used elsewhere.

#### **Electric Vehicles:**

Robust participation in this program has exceeded prior forecasts. Given ongoing application trends, Staff recommends adding \$1,700,000 to ensure that the program can continue to process applications.

#### **R&D Energy Tech Hub:**

Staff recommends reallocating funds of \$250,000, which are not needed for the Tech Hub, out of the total \$1,500,000 FY20 budget to be used for programs that are currently offering incentives for energy efficiency measures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>I/M/O the Clean Energy Programs and Budget for FY20</u>, BPU Docket No. QO19050645 (June 21, 2019); <u>I/M/O the Clean Energy Programs and Budget for FY20</u>, BPU Docket No. QO19050645 (January 8, 2020); <u>I/M/O the Clean Energy Programs and Budget for FY20</u>, BPU Docket No. QO19050645 (April 6, 2020); <u>I/M/O the Fiscal Year 2020 Clean Energy Budget - Extension</u>, BPU Docket No. QO19050645 (July 2, 2020); <u>I/M/O the Fiscal Year 2020 Clean Energy Budget - Extension</u>, BPU Docket No. QO19050645 (July 15, 2020).

## REALLOCATIONS AND RATIONALE FOR PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY TRC

# **Residential Existing Homes:**

As a result of current applications and spending trends, Staff recommends increasing the budget by \$2,700,000 in order to ensure that the program will continue accepting and processing applications through September 2020.

#### **Residential New Construction:**

Staff has continued to review new and current applications and proposes increasing the budget by \$700,000.

#### **Energy Efficiency Products:**

Due to the Appliance Recycling program and the Retail Lighting initiative being on hold for a period of time due to COVID-19 related issues, Staff recommends reducing the budget by \$500,000 so that funding can be used for the continuation of other programs.

#### **Commercial and Industrial Buildings:**

In order to support unexpected rebound and increase in new applications, Staff recommends increasing the budget by \$5,010,000.

# **Local Government Energy Audits:**

Due to an increase in applications, Staff recommends adding an additional \$550,000 to continue the program through September.

## **Direct Install:**

Trends indicate that the Direct Install program will have excess funds; therefore, Staff recommends reducing the budget by \$1,250,000.

# **Renewable Storage:**

The FY20 budget had reserved \$140,000 for one remaining project that has since expired; Staff recommends adding this funding to allow for continuation of other programs.

#### Outreach, Website, Other:

Due to reductions in Outreach staff participating in conferences and other events, the remaining funds of \$475,000 will not be utilized in FY20, and Staff recommends reallocating these funds for the continuation of other programs through September 2020.

# **REVISED BUDGET TABLE:**

The following tables show the FY20 fourth budget revisions:

FY 2020 Budget Re	allocation	Cost Category Budgets					
Program/Budget Line	Total Budget	Administration	Sales, Marketing, Website	Training	Rebates, Grants and Other Direct Incentives	Rebate Processing and QA	Evaluation
Total -NJCEP + State Initiatives	560,087,029.42	30,094,524.53	12,415,959.90	7,971,665.63	482,997,336.64	15,110,898.14	11,496,644.58
State Energy Initiatives	102,328,074.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	102,328,074.42	0.00	0.00
Total NJCEP	457,758,955.00	30,094,524.53	12,415,959.90	7,971,665.63	380,669,262.22	15,110,898.14	11,496,644.58
EE Programs	380,237,257.27	19,161,887.96	1,901,091.90	1,484,165.63	344,172,623.03	13,450,842.61	66,646.14
Res EE Programs	83,454,228.70	6,844,074.38	217,534.50	510,000.00	68,414,675.34	7,467,944.48	0.00
Residential Retrofit	36,389,970.96	3,626,810.34	108,767.25	501,000.00	29,582,973.70	2,570,419.67	0.00
RNC	17,384,371.82	1,958,825.95	54,383.55	9,000.00	14,327,321.30	1,034,841.02	0.00
EE Products	29,679,885.92	1,258,438.09	54,383.70	0.00	24,504,380.34	3,862,683.79	0.00
Res Low Income	45,500,000.00	2,870,758.50	1,248,488.10	886,665.63	38,786,019.66	1,641,421.97	66,646.14
Comfort Partners	45,500,000.00	2,870,758.50	1,248,488.10	886,665.63	38,786,019.66	1,641,421.97	66,646.14
C&I EE Programs	194,694,155.13	9,447,055.08	435,069.30	87,500.00	180,383,054.59	4,341,476.16	0.00
C&I Buildings	145,833,490.07	7,090,450.92	326,301.90	37,500.00	134,757,420.94	3,621,816.31	0.00
LGEA	4,838,266.97	1,128,645.02	54,383.70	25,000.00	3,134,312.47	495,925.78	0.00
DI	44,022,398.09	1,227,959.14	54,383.70	25,000.00	42,491,321.18	223,734.07	0.00
Multi-family EE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Multi-family	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
State Facilities Initiative	56,588,873.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	56,588,873.44	0.00	0.00
State Facilities Initiative	56,588,873.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	56,588,873.44	0.00	0.00
Distributed Energy Resources	22,953,909.11	814,031.29	54,383.70	12,500.00	21,785,970.79	287,023.33	0.00
CHP - FC	22,953,909.11	814,031.29	54,383.70	12,500.00	21,785,970.79	287,023.33	0.00
RE Storage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Microgrids	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RE Programs	6,834,010.46	1,011,619.08	54,383.70	25,000.00	0.00	1,373,032.20	4,369,975.48
Offshore Wind	4,369,975.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,369,975.48
Community Solar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SREC Registration	2 464 024 09	1 011 610 09	E4 202 70	35 000 00	0.00	1 272 022 20	0.00
EDA Programs	2,464,034.98 <b>113,236.20</b>	1,011,619.08 <b>113,236.20</b>	54,383.70 <b>0.00</b>	25,000.00 <b>0.00</b>	0.00	1,373,032.20 <b>0.00</b>	0.00
Planning and Administration	23,570,541.96	4,443,750.00	10,406,100.60	0.00	1,660,668.40	0.00	7,060,022.96
BPU Program Administration	4,443,750.00	4,443,750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BPU Program Administration	4,443,750.00	4,443,750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program/Budget Line	Total Budget	Administration	Sales, Marketing, Website	Training	Rebates, Grants and Other Direct Incentives	Rebate Processing and QA	Evaluation
Marketing	4,000,000.00	0.00	4,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Marketing Contract	4,000,000.00	0.00	4,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CEP Website	400,000.00	0.00	400,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Evaluation/Analysis	7,060,022.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,060,022.96
Program Evaluation	6,895,942.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,895,942.96
Research and Analysis	164,080.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	164,080.00
Outreach and Education	7,564,769.00	0.00	6,006,100.60	0.00	1,558,668.40	0.00	0.00
Sustainable Jersey	867,085.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	867,085.00	0.00	0.00
NJIT Learning Center	691,583.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	691,583.40	0.00	0.00
Conference	750,000.00	0.00	750,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outreach, Website, Other	5,256,100.60	0.00	5,256,100.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sponsorships	102,000.00	0.00		0.00	102,000.00	0.00	0.00
Sponsorships	102,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	102,000.00	0.00	0.00
New Initiatives	24,050,000.00	4,550,000.00	0.00	6,450,000.00	13,050,000.00	0.00	0.00
Community Energy Grants	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00
Storage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Electric Vehicles	15,700,000.00	3,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	12,700,000.00	0.00	0.00
Charge Up New Jersey Program	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Plug In EV Incentive Fund	12,700,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,700,000.00	0.00	0.00
NJ Wind	4,500,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	4,450,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
R&D Energy Tech Hub	1,250,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,250,000.00	0.00	0.00
Workforce Development	2,500,000.00	500,000.00	0.00	2,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Curriculum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

# SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

On August 21, 2020, Staff posted on the NJCEP website and distributed to the listserv a request for comments regarding the proposed FY20 fourth budget revisions. Staff accepted comments through August 27, 2020. Written comments submitted by EAM Associates ("EAM"), ReVireo, New Jersey Builders Association ("NJBA"), MaGrann Associates ("MaGrann"), New Jersey Public Interest Resource Group ("NJPIRG"), Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council ("NJSBC"), Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey ("EEA-NJ"), the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy ("ACEEE"), NJ Work Environment Council ("WEC"), Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. ("Isles") are summarized below, along with Staff's responses.

#### **General**

**Comments:** NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, NJSBC, EEA-NJ, ACEEE, WEC, Jersey Renews, and Isles expressed concern about the amount of funding in NJCEP's FY20 budget going towards State Energy Initiatives. Further, they supported reallocation of funds towards the Comfort Partners (\$45,500,000) and Workforce Development (\$2,500,000) programs. Specifically, they called for an increased focus on investments based on the whole-home approach, which includes efforts to address the health, safety, and energy security for all residents of New Jersey. The commenters supported the proposed reallocation of \$2,700,000 for Residential Existing Homes and \$1,700,000 for Electric Vehicle rebates.

Response: Staff appreciates the comments and seeks to clarify that the COVID-19 pandemic created an environment of significant financial uncertainty throughout the State. However, the proposed FY20 fourth budget revisions ensure that NJCEP's programs remain operational through the remainder of this fiscal year. NJCEP's budget is continually reassessed to best allocate funding where it is most needed, including in the Comfort Partners and Workforce Development programs. Also, Staff works closely with those administering the programs that support residential energy efficiency for all residents in order to ensure that the proper level of funding exists to successfully achieve the goals of the programs. Staff agrees with the call for addressing health and safety barriers to energy efficiency investments, including through the whole-home approach, and is exploring ways and means to do so.

# **Residential New Construction**

**Comment**: EAM expressed its support for the budget revisions, including the increase to the RNC program.

**Response**: Staff appreciates EAM's support.

**Comment**: ReVireo strongly expressed its support for the proposed additional reallocation of \$700,000 to the RNC program, saying that the program's suspension would have a severe negative impact on participation.

**Response**: Staff appreciates ReVireo's support.

**Comment**: NJBA stated its support for the proposed additional reallocation of \$700,000 to the RNC program based on its belief that reliability and predictability of funding is key to the long-term success of the homebuilding community's participation.

**Response**: Staff appreciates NJBA's support.

**Comment**: MaGrann supported the proposed additional reallocation of \$700,000 to the RNC program in order to avoid any interruption and loss of confidence by participants.

**Response:** Staff appreciates MaGrann's support.

# **BOARD STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Consistent with the Board's contracts with its program administrators, Staff has coordinated with TRC regarding the proposed budget revisions. The FY20 fourth budget revisions include the reallocations and detailed budgets presented here.

Having reviewed and considered the comments, Staff recommends that the Board adopt and approve the proposed FY20 fourth budget revisions and program changes.

#### **DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

Staff distributed the proposed FY20 fourth budget revisions to the listserv, posted them on the NJCEP website, and solicited written comments about them from stakeholders and the public. Staff and the Board considered those comments. Accordingly, the Board <u>FINDS</u> that the processes utilized in developing these proposed revisions were appropriate and provided stakeholders and interested members of the public with adequate notice and opportunity to comment.

The Board has reviewed Staff's recommendations on the FY20 fourth budget revisions and written and oral comments submitted by stakeholders. The Board <u>FINDS</u> that the budget revisions will benefit customers and are consistent with the goals of reducing energy usage and associated emissions. Therefore, the Board <u>HEREBY APPROVES</u> the FY20 fourth budget revisions.

The Board <u>HEREBY DIRECTS</u> Staff, with assistance from TRC, to update relevant program documents (i.e., applications, program manuals, etc.) and take the necessary steps to implement the programs and changes ordered herein, including, without limit, the provision of adequate notice of such changes.

This Order shall be effective on September 9, 2020.

DATED: September 9, 2020

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** 

BY:

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

**PRESIDENT** 

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

**DIANNE SOLOMON** 

UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. GORDON COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH

**SECRETARY** 

# IN THE MATTER OF THE CLEAN ENERGY ORDER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 4th BUDGET REVISION - DOCKET NO. QO19050645

## SERVICE LIST

# New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

140 East Front Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor P.O. Box 003 Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director sbrand@rpa.nj.gov

# TRC Energy Solutions

317 George Street, Suite 520 New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Michael Ambrosio mambrosio@trcsolutions.com

Thomas A. Kowalczyk tkowalczyk@trcsolutions.com

Janja Lupse @clearesult.com

## **New Jersey Division of Law**

Department of Law and Public Safety Division of Law 25 Market Street P.O. Box 112 Trenton, NJ 08625-0112

David Apy, Assistant Attorney General david.apy@law.njoag.gov

Daren Eppley, Section Chief, DAG daren.eppley@law.njoag.gov

Pamela Owen, Assistant Section Chief, DAG pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov

Michael Beck, DAG michael.beck@law.njoag.gov

Matko Ilic, DAG matko.ilic@law.njoag.gov

#### **New Jersey Board of Public Utilities**

44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary of the Board aida.camacho@bpu.nj.gov

Paul Flanagan, Esq., Executive Director paul.flanagan@bpu.nj.gov

Bob Brabston, Esq.
Deputy Executive Director
robert.brabston@bpu.nj.gov

Jonathan Wallace Acting Chief Fiscal Officer jonathan.wallace@bpu.nj.gov

# Division of Clean Energy

Kelly Mooij, Director kelly.mooij@bpu.nj.gov

Stacy Ho Richardson, Deputy Director stacy.richardson@bpu.nj.gov

Sherri Jones, Assistant Director sherri.jones@bpu.ni.gov

#### Counsel's Office

Abe Silverman, Esq., General Counsel abe.silverman@bpu.nj.gov

## **Atlantic City Electric Company**

500 N. Wakefield Drive Newark, DE 19714

Philip J. Passanante, Esq. Assistant General Counsel philip.passanante@pepcoholdings.com

Marisa Slaten, Esq. marisa.slaten@exeloncorp.com

Heather Hall heather.hall@pepcoholdings.com

# Elizabethtown Gas Company and South Jersey Gas Company

Deborah M. Franco, Esq. Regulatory Affairs Counsel SJI Utilities 520 Green Lane Union, NJ 07083 dfranco@sjindustries.com

Steven R. Cocchi, Esq. SJI Utilities
1 South Jersey Place
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
socchi@sjindustries.com

## **Elizabethtown Gas Company**

Thomas Kaufmann 520 Green Lane Union, NJ 07083 tkaufmann@sjindustries.com

Susan Potanovich 520 Green Lane Union, NJ 07083 spotanovich@sjindustries.com

Gina O'Donnell 520 Green Lane Union, NJ 07083 godonnell@sjindustries.com

# Elizabethtown Gas Company, cont'd

Stefany M. Graham, Director Rates and Regulatory Affairs SJI Utilities 1 South Jersey Place Atlantic City, NJ 08401

# Jersey Central Power and Light Company

300 Madison Avenue Morristown, NJ 07962

Joshua R. Eckert, Esq. jeckert@firstenergycorp.com

Mark Mader
Director, Rates and Regulatory Affairs – NJ
mamader@firstenergycorp.com

Tom Donadio tdonadio@firstenergycorp.com

James O'Toole jotoole@firstenergycorp.com

Kurt Turosky kturosky@firstenergycorp.com

Kent Hatt khatt@firstenergycorp.com

Lori Brightbill @firstenergycorp.com

Lauren Lepkoski, Esq. <a href="mailto:lepkoski@firstenergycorp.com">llepkoski@firstenergycorp.com</a>

# **Public Service Electric and Gas Company**

PSEG Services Corporation 80 Park Plaza, T5 PO Box 570 Newark, NJ 07102

Matthew M. Weissman, Esq. General State Regulatory Counsel PSEG Services Corporation 80 Park Plaza, T5G Newark, NJ 07102 matthew.weissman@pseg.com

Joseph F. Accardo, Jr., Esq. Vice President – Regulatory and Deputy General Counsel joseph.accardo@pseg.com

Danielle Lopez, Esq. danielle.lopez@pseg.com

Tim Fagan
Manager, Planning and Evaluation
PSE&G – Renewables and Energy Solutions
tim.fagan@pseg.com

Karen Reif karen.reif@pseg.com

Todd Van Aken <a href="mailto:todd.vanaken@pseg.com">todd.vanaken@pseg.com</a>

Caitlyn White Regulatory Case Coordinator caitlyn.white@pseg.com

# **New Jersey Natural Gas Company**

1415 Wyckoff Road PO Box 1464 Wall, NJ 07719

Andrew Dembia, Esq.
Regulatory Affairs Counsel
adembia@ning.com

Anne-Marie Peracchio Director, Conservation and Clean Energy Policy aperacchio@njng.com

# Rockland Electric Company

Margaret Comes, Esq. Associate Counsel 4 Irving Place Room 1815-S New York, New York 10003 comesm@coned.com

John Carley, Esq. Associate General Counsel 4 Irving Place Room 1815-S New York, New York 10003 carleyj@coned.com

Charmaine Cigiliano, Section Manager Customer Energy Services Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. 390 West Route 59 Spring Valley, NY 10977 ciglianoc@oru.com

Donald Kennedy, Director Customer Energy Services Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. 390 West Route 59 Spring Valley, NY 10977 kennedyd@oru.com

# **South Jersey Gas Company**

Maureen Minkel, General Manager Energy Efficiency and Conservation 1 South Jersey Place Atlantic City, NJ 08401 mminkel@sjindustries.com

Stefany M. Graham, Director Rates and Regulatory Affairs SJI Utilities 1 South Jersey Place Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Kenneth Sheppard, Project Manager South Jersey Gas Company 1001 S. Grand Street Hammonton, NJ 08037 ksheppard@sjindustries.com

Karen J. Crispin, Senior Rate Analyst South Jersey Gas Company 1 South Jersey Place Atlantic City, NJ 08401 kcrispin@sjindustries.com

Carolyn A. Jacobs
Regulatory Compliance Specialist
SJI Utilities
1 South Jersey Place
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
cjacobs@sjindustries.com