



## NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES PRESS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release:**  
March 27, 2018

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### **NJBPU President Announces First Two Public Hearings to Investigate Utilities' Storm Response**

Joseph L. Fiordaliso, President of the New Jersey State Board of Public Utilities has scheduled the first two of five public hearings as part of BPU staff's investigation into the response of the state's four electric companies to the most recent storms.

"We are moving aggressively forward with our investigation into the utilities' storm response to the major storms we experienced earlier this month," said BPU President Joseph L. Fiordaliso. "Public input is an integral part of this investigation and I invite New Jersey residents affected by the recent outages to attend a hearing in their area."

The first hearing will be held on Thursday, April 5 from 4-7 p.m. at the Byram Intermediate School located at 12 Mansfield Drive, in Byram Township, Sussex County. The second hearing will take place on Thursday April 12 from 4-7 p.m. at Parsippany Town Hall 1001 Parsippany Blvd., Parsippany, Morris County.

Each of these locations is part of the JCPL service area which experienced the most outages for the longest period of time. One additional hearing will be held in this service area, in Hunterdon County.

The remaining two hearings are planned for Bergen County and southern New Jersey, areas which also were significantly impacted by the storms.

Written comments may also be submitted via email to [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov) or in writing to Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary of the Board, Board of Public Utilities, 44 South Clinton, Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314, Post Office Box 350, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625-0350.

Those filing written comments should reference March 2018 Winter Storm Events comments Docket Number EO18030255 in the subject field for emails and in the heading of any written correspondence. Comments will be accepted until May 31, 2018 pertaining to these hearings.

Winter storms Quinn and Riley, one on March 2, the second one less than a week later, left hundreds of thousands of the state's residents without power, some for more than ten days. The third Nor'easter, winter storm Toby, which occurred last week, caused significant outages in southern New Jersey, though not for the length of time of the earlier outages.

In addition to holding public hearings, President Fiordaliso directed Board staff to closely review the more than 100 utility storm protocols ordered by the BPU following Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Irene to ensure that those protocols were followed and to recommend changes as needed.

Board staff is reviewing preparedness, mutual assistance agreements, vegetation management, communication, and the potential for underground lines, among other items.

*About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)*

*The NJBPU is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBPU include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight and responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents. To find out more about the NJBPU, visit our web site at [www.nj.gov/bpu](http://www.nj.gov/bpu).*

*About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (NJCEP)*

*NJCEP, established on January 22, 2003, in accordance with the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act (EDECA), provides financial and other incentives to the State's residential customers, businesses and schools that install high-efficiency or renewable energy technologies, thereby reducing energy usage, lowering customers' energy bills and reducing environmental impacts. The program is authorized and overseen by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU), and its website is [www.NJCleanEnergy.com](http://www.NJCleanEnergy.com).*