

CASE MANAGEMENT

NOV 23 2018

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
TRENTON, NJ

*Handwritten:* JCP  
11/28/18

RECEIVED  
MAIL ROOM

NOV 23 2018

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
TRENTON, NJ

November 19, 2018

Board of Public Utilities  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314  
PO Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

re: JCP&L "Reliability Plus" Docket #EO18070728

Dear Board of Public Utilities member,

On 11/13/19 I went to the JCP&L Public Meeting at 5:00pm at 10 Court St. on 5<sup>th</sup> floor. Morristown, NJ, regarding JCP&L's \$400 MILLION project, "Reliability Plus".

I printed out the entire 428 pages of that project, and found NOTHING in it about putting wires underground. But, in it, they will use \$109 MILLION to cut thousands and thousands of our healthy trees down.

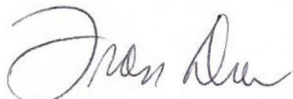
It cost Jersey Central Power & Light Over \$900 MILLION to recover from Hurricane Sandy. During the storm, it deployed 13,000 workers, including employees and contractors, who removed 65,000 trees; replaced 6,700 utility poles, 3,600 transformers, and 400 miles of wire.

For 4 years we have asked JCP&L the cost of putting wires underground in Chatham, NJ. And three weeks ago, we provided Tom Haynes, their Customer Service Specialist with Chatham's account numbers---that they said they needed to get us the information. We never got an answer. We've also asked Rob Walton the same question... in Chatham --- no response.

JCP&L isn't even a NJ company, it is a part of Ohio's FIRST ENERGY. They do NOTHING for us residents in New Jersey, but kill our trees and increase their rates.

Many electric companies in the USA know the cost of putting wires underground. They do it successfully... see attached FACT SHEET. **I am urging you to deny JCP&L "Reliability Plus" program and to instruct them to put wires underground.**

Thank you for listening,



Fran Drew  
32 Inwood Rd.  
Chatham, NJ 07928

*AMS*  
*A. Hard, Esq.*  
*A. Moreau, Esq.*  
*S. Peterson*

P.S. More very important facts that you should know:

1. Just yesterday I saw the attached letter from JCP&L, in which it states it will cut down our beautiful, mature, healthy ash trees because they are infected and cannot be saved. THIS IS FALSE. They can be saved and are being saved right now. We love our ash trees, and two years

ago, Chatham hired Honor Tree Service to treat our ash trees to prevent EAB from infecting them. They are safe, and they are healthy, and will continue to be saved and healthy.

2. At 2:00am, early on Saturday, 10/20/18, JCP&L came and cut the branches off of two beautiful trees, on PRIVATE PROPERTY, at 42 Garden Avenue, Chatham, without permission. They claimed that the branches of the trees were interfering with their transformer. That was nonsense. The distance from the telephone pole to the trunk of the FIRST tree, that was butchered, is 45 feet. The longest branch is at least 40 feet away from the telephone pole. The distance from the telephone pole to the trunk of the SECOND tree, that was butchered, is 63 feet. THERE WAS NO WAY THAT ANY BRANCH FROM EITHER OF THESE TWO TREES COULD INTERFERE WITH THEIR TRANSFORMER.

3. Wharton, NJ asked JCP&L for a quote to put the wires underground. Wharton was told that they had to pay \$20,000 to learn the cost of that project.

4. In my hometown of Manasquan, NJ, a few weeks ago, the DPW was working to improve a street, and they asked JCP&L to move 2 telephone poles. JCP&L moved the 2 poles and charged Manasquan \$29,000!!!! just to move 2 poles.

5. As New Jersey's Governor Phil Murphy said recently: "You know we're going to challenge that myth, that it's too expensive to put these wires underground. I've got anecdotal evidence that the technology has come a long way, and that it's not as expensive as it used to be. And I'm sick of seeing the same movie, as I know many folks out there are who are perennially losing their power. We're going to look at everything, including that."

**Fort Collins, Colorado**

Janet McTague, Electric Project Engineering Manager, (970) 224-6154, [jmctague@fcgov.com](mailto:jmctague@fcgov.com)  
Fort Collins Utilities, 700 Wood St., PO Box 580, Fort Collins, CO 80522

Several years ago, Fort Collins Utilities spent \$23million to put underground wiring in for 7,300 homes, shops, offices, etc. And at that time the cost was \$3,500/service. Now the cost is \$5,000/service. The Utility paid for the underground wiring by deducting 1% of its budget for 10 years, and coordinated with the street department so that when there was new paving to be done, you didn't have to re-open the streets for the underground wiring... saving money. The new underground wiring system has cut way down on outages... none in the past 7-8 years.

Janet McTague has offered to talk with anyone about the project, and about what worked for them, and what didn't work for them.

As she said **“We are certainly fortunate in Fort Collins to have over 99% of our lines underground. In addition to aesthetic benefits, our reliability is extremely high as well.”**

**Pawley's Island, South Carolina**

Ryan Fabbri, Town Administrator, Town of Pawleys Island, T: (843) 237-1698, C: (843) 424-5065, F: (843) 237-7083, E: [rfabbri@townofpi.com](mailto:rfabbri@townofpi.com), W: [www.townofpawleysisland.com](http://www.townofpawleysisland.com)

Town Administrator Ryan Fabbri (843-237-1698) put all wires underground at a cost of \$350/year for 10 years, to each homeowner, and \$350/year which the town pays for each homeowner for 10 years. Therefore, the cost was \$7,000/service. Santee Cooper, their electric company, did all the work. Ryan prepared a brochure to educate the residents and elicit their support. He sent it to me to share with you. (attached)

**Anaheim, California**

Tom Bass, Principal Electrical Engineer, 714-765-4287.

Anaheim is 50 square miles and has a population of 350,000. Their goal is to put the wiring underground on all their main streets. Their program started in 1990, and they are half way through their 50 year program. To date, they have completed 130 circuit miles at a cost of \$5 million/mile. Every resident loves the program and is very happy with it. The program is paid for by a 4% surcharge on electric costs.



1758227 14:1  
FirstEnergy / JCP&L  
Attn: Joe Lopatka, Gillette to Traynor  
300 Madison Ave.  
Morristown, NJ 07960

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NOV 23 2018



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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
MORRISTOWN, NJ



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00062

Borough of Chatham  
Municipal Building  
Chatham, NJ 07928

## Re: Notification of Planned Transmission Line Work

Dear Borough of Chatham:

You have been identified as a property owner with a JCP&L, A FirstEnergy company transmission line right-of-way crossing your property. These transmission lines provide power to thousands of electric customers and are vital reliability links with other utilities. Maintaining transmission line rights-of-way that are free of incompatible vegetation is necessary to provide safe and reliable electric service.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that vegetation management work is planned for your property in 2019. A professional tree company has been contracted to perform the vegetation management work. Your cooperation in accomplishing this important task will be greatly appreciated.

Federal and state regulations require FirstEnergy companies and other operators to properly maintain transmission lines in order to provide for the safe and reliable operation of the transmission system. This requires reliability inspections and routine vegetation maintenance. Vegetation maintenance practices involve identifying tall-growing, woody stemmed vegetation and trees located within the transmission rights-of-way and removing those that interfere or may potentially interfere with the operation of the transmission facilities. Trees adjacent to the right-of-way that are unhealthy, leaning, or significantly encroaching the corridor also could be targeted for removal.

FirstEnergy company's comprehensive vegetation management program involves multiple widely used forestry procedures and techniques to safely and effectively maintain the transmission line rights-of-way.

**Part of the focus of this work will include targeting Ash trees that are dead or alive due to their possible threat to the reliability of the transmission system.** Ash trees are under attack from an infestation of the "Emerald Ash Borer", an introduced pest that bores into and kills all species of Ash (*Fraxinus*). Ash trees and other dead or dying trees to be affected will be identified using special symbols by a FirstEnergy representative to ensure reliable service to the electrical system. For example, trees to be removed are marked with an "X"; and trees to be pruned are identified with a vertical line "I." For additional information on the "Emerald Ash Borer" visit FirstEnergy's website <https://www.firstenergycorp.com/help/safety/trees/why-we-prune-trees.html>

This work will be accomplished manually by tree crews or mechanically, using a helicopter equipped with a specialized saw suspended on a boom to mitigate trees that are in remote areas or pose a threat to tree worker's safety due to Ash trees failure characteristics. Branches and trees that fall onto access roads, maintained yard areas, agricultural fields or in streams during the manual or aerial tree operation will be cleaned up, or moved to adjacent wooded areas by ground crews shortly after the work is performed.

The stumps/stubble of the cleared vegetation will be treated with an EPA-registered herbicide to minimize re-sprouting and root suckering that typically follows mechanical removal. Nearly 60 years of university and industry research has shown that herbicide use on rights-of-way can create optimum plant and wildlife habitats. Ultimately, using herbicides to target specific vegetation results in power line corridors that are clear of tall, fast-growing vegetation, with no effect on adjacent or nearby properties.

Herbicides also may be applied directly to the leaves or stems of smaller woody-stemmed vegetation. This control method may be applied in several ways. A ground application where personnel use either backpack sprayers, or ATV's and truck-mounted equipment can be used to apply herbicides along fence rows, tower bases, and other light density brush areas.

All applications will be performed within the FirstEnergy company's transmission line right-of-way and only where woody-stemmed brush exists. All herbicides used on ROW's are applied by state-certified applicators or under the supervision of a certified applicator.

As part of our inspection, compatible shrubs that do not interfere with transmission facilities are not disturbed. The ideal transmission line right-of-way includes a diverse mixture of grasses, low growing shrubs and other ground cover preferred by birds, deer and small animals to promote a thriving wildlife habitat. In this way, well-managed transmission rights-of-way provide food and cover wildlife need to survive.

Below is a general time line for this year's vegetation maintenance activities:

- Landowner notification – (Receipt of this letter is your notification)
- Work Planners marking trees (Between November 2018 – June 2019 - approximately 1 week to 45 days of receiving letter)
- Tree Work – Tree Removal, Tree Pruning, and Brush Mowing (January – December)
- Herbicide Application (June – September)

While this letter provides important information about FirstEnergy company's vegetation management program, its contents and the work performed shall not in any way limit or change the rights or privileges granted by any easements attached to or conveyed to this property and recorded in the County Recorder's office.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in our ongoing efforts to provide safe and reliable electric service to our customers. If you have any questions, concerns or special conditions, please contact: Zach Batren, (732) 253-2703.

Sincerely,

Zach Batren  
ACRT  
Contracted Utility Forester  
Gillette to Traynor

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TRENTON, NJ

Aida Camacho-Welch, Office of the Secretary  
Board of Public Utilities  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314  
PO Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Dear Aida,

Please give copies of the enclosed letter, and the attached documents to each of the following:  
PBU President Joseph Fiordaliso, PBU Commissioners: Mary-Anna Holden, Diane Solomon,  
Upendra Chivukula, and Bob Gordon. Also, kindly give it to Stacy Peterson, Director of  
Division of Energy.

Thank you,

Fran

P.S. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND YOUR PATIENCE WITH ME.