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TRENTON, NJ

Holy Name Medical Center 

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December 14, 2018

Secretary of the Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue
3rd Floor, Suite 314
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
ATTN: Secretary Aida Camacho-Welch

Re: In the Matter of the Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company
for Approval of The Second Energy Strong Program (Energy Strong II)
BPU Docket Nos.: EO18060629 and GO18060630

Dear Secretary Camacho-Welch:

The businesses and organizations we represent are all large users of energy in the state of New Jersey. We are writing to express our support for PSE&G's Energy Strong II proposal.

A highly dependable electric and gas distribution system is fundamentally important to the health of New Jersey's economy and the ability of enterprises such as ours to effectively operate and serve our customers every day. We appreciate the emphasis that PSE&G has long placed on reliability, as evidenced by numerous industry awards that PSE&G has won for superior electric system reliability. However, in light of the increased frequency of severe storms such as Hurricane Irene, the October 2011 snowstorm and Sandy, there is a pressing need for a more resilient energy infrastructure to reduce storm-induced outages and keep New Jersey open for business.

PSE&G's Energy Strong II plan includes a robust, yet prudent combination of measures to modernize and fortify its electric and gas distribution systems to better withstand the next Sandy. The plan is specifically designed to address vulnerabilities revealed by the severe weather of recent years. It includes a range of improvements to harden infrastructure, making it less susceptible to damage from extreme wind, flying debris and water – and quicker to repair when damage is done.

CMS
A. Had, Esq.
B. Rocque-Romaine, Esq.
M. A. [unclear], Esq.
B. Kolar

D. Brown
P. K. [unclear], Esq.
E. [unclear], Esq.
P. [unclear], Esq.

Investing in an energy infrastructure that is not only reliable, but resilient will help support the attractiveness, predictability and competitiveness of New Jersey's business climate. It would be shortsighted to focus solely on the costs of these improvements without adequately considering the substantial, long-term benefits that New Jersey's residents and businesses will reap from a reinforced energy infrastructure that supports the ability of the state's economy to grow unimpeded far into the future. A survivable infrastructure is not a luxury, but a necessity in an energy-dependent, high-tech economy – and just as essential from the standpoint of protecting public health and safety.

No one wants to experience again what happened during Sandy, when many businesses and institutions across New Jersey were forced to shut down for lack of power, thousands of families had to leave their homes, and transportation nearly ground to a halt. We cannot afford to delay necessary infrastructure improvements. The cost of inaction is too high.

We urge the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to reach a timely decision that will allow PSE&G to proceed with the implementation of its Energy Strong II infrastructure improvement plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Mosser', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven Mosser
VP Facilities Management