

November 27, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary of the Board
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 10th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

RE: NJBPU's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic; BPU Docket No.: AO20060471

Dear Secretary Camacho-Welch:

The National Utility Contractors Association is the nation's oldest and largest association for the utility and excavation construction industry. NUCA represents nearly 2,000 companies in 48 states that provide the materials and workforce to build and maintain our nation's underground water, sewer, gas, electric, and telecommunications systems, as well as water treatment plants. As the Executive Director of the New Jersey chapter, and on behalf of our Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to provide our comments on the Board's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During these unprecedented times and the economic challenges that have resulted, it is critical now more than ever that our State continue to protect and expand job opportunities, ensure reliable utility service for all New Jerseyans, and increase security through improved infrastructure. With that in mind, you can imagine our shock and dismay in learning about proposals that have been offered to impose a moratorium on rate cases and infrastructure filings. Dangerous ideas like these would have a detrimental impact on everyone's quality of life and only serve to worsen the condition of our citizens at a time when they can least afford it.

Halting the ability to repair and expand utility service, and the ability for utility companies to seek reimbursement for the money spent on badly needed infrastructure investments, is counterintuitive, especially during these times. Considering such action would also run afoul of the Murphy Administration's clearly stated goals and policies. We should be focused as a State on creating jobs, not killing them. We should be focused as a State on helping the New Jersey contractors that employ thousands of our struggling citizens, and the New Jersey businesses that provide them with materials, equipment, and professional services, not putting them out of business.

NUCA NJ, therefore, strongly supports the continuation of rate cases and infrastructure filings. We appreciate the efforts of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to address the issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and for the ability to provide our industry's comments.



Evan Piscitelli
Executive Director
NUCA New Jersey



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NEW JERSEY

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(732) 403-5638



P.O. BOX 253
COLTS NECK, NJ
07722



NUCAofNJ@gmail.com
www.NUCANJ.org