

State of New Jersey
Governor Philip D. Murphy
Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver



Joseph L. Fiordaliso
President

Board of Public Utilities



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Mary-Anna Holden
Dianne Solomon
Upendra Chivukula
Bob Gordon
Commissioners

NOTICE¹

STAKEHOLDER MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF NEW JERSEY GRID MODERNIZATION / INTERCONNECTION PROCESS

[Docket No. QO21010085](#)

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU or Board) gives notice of a series of public meetings to collect stakeholder input on the current distribution grid interconnection policies and processes and potential improvements to those policies and processes that will enable faster grid modernization and higher levels of distributed energy resource (“DER”) absorption.

All meetings in the series will start with a brief presentation by NJBPU Staff recapping the [State of New Jersey Grid Modernization](#) (“GridMod”) initiative and activities to date, with an emphasis on their relation to strategies outlined in the 2019 NJ Energy Master Plan. The sessions will then feature specific presentations and a facilitated comment period on that session’s topic. The goal of these sessions is to facilitate a guided discussion on recognition of existing barriers, estimate of economic impacts of alternative reform paths, and ultimately build the broadest consensus on aligned measures that can remove or reduce the biggest barriers to grid modernization.

Public meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and manner. Members of the public are invited to participate and present their views as time permits. These online meetings will be recorded for later review and will be available at <https://njcleanenergy.com/gridmod>. The first three meetings are designed to establish the scope and set the context for relevant Interconnection policies and procedures and will culminate in a Draft Report of findings and recommendations. The Draft Report will be available at <https://njcleanenergy.com/gridmod> prior to the fourth meeting, where it will be presented to the public and open to public comment. The fifth meeting will present the Final Report to the public.

Meeting Date	Agenda Focus	Registration Link
Oct 26, 2021 (9 a.m. – 12 p.m. EDT)	Grid Modernization Context	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9011827517045624589 This meeting will present research findings and best practices on state rules, regulations, and processes that govern the grid interconnection application, review, and approval workflow.
Nov 16, 2021 (9 a.m. - 12 p.m. EST)	Stakeholder Data/Receive Comments	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4398363588331495439 This meeting will facilitate direct feedback from stakeholders on their experiences with current processes, ideas for improvement and innovation, success stories, and other relevant input.
Jan 14, 2022 (9 a.m. – 1 p.m. EST)	EDC Readout - Collaborative Alignment	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3639667579817395983 This meeting will open with a perspective on New Jersey’s Electric Distribution Companies (“EDCs”) current baseline processes and historical data and then proceed to a structured conversation on any priority topics raised from previous sessions.

¹ Not a paid legal advertisement.

Mar 1, 2022 (9 a.m. – 12 p.m. EST)	Draft Report Review and Comment	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/915595479975020878 This meeting will present the Draft Report of findings and recommendations that will be made public prior to the meeting. This session is designed to elicit comments that will inform the Final Report production.
May 2, 2022 (9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. EDT)	Final Report Presentation	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4544766860105005071 This meeting will present the Final Report of findings and recommendations.

Please note that in the interest of public health and safety, these meetings will be conducted via webinar. You must register for the meeting before attending. Please register for any or all of the sessions at least **48 hours prior to the scheduled date.**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar and information about checking your system requirements in advance of the meeting. Stakeholders should check their access devices in advance of the meeting to ensure that they will properly connect to the meeting.

Background/Procedural History

Executive Order 28, signed by Governor Murphy on May 23, 2018, directed the Energy Master Plan Committee, chaired by the NJBPU, to complete an Energy Master Plan (“2019 EMP”) that would provide a comprehensive blueprint to achieve 100% clean energy by 2050.² The resulting 2019 EMP identifies several strategies to achieve New Jersey’s clean energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. The 2019 EMP includes seven key strategies aimed at meeting those goals; chief among them is accelerated procurement of renewable energy and distributed energy resources and the electrification of the transportation and building sectors.³ These strategies were further supported in the 2020 Global Warming Response Act 80x50 Report published by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.⁴

To enable clean energy to be generated at an accelerated pace and as effectively and efficiently as possible, New Jersey’s interconnection rules and processes require updating. The 2019 EMP Strategy 5: Decarbonize and Modernize New Jersey’s Energy System outlines specific strategies to modernize the state’s grid including requiring utilities to establish Integrated Distribution Plans and to modernize interconnection standards.

Necessary updates to the state’s interconnection rules include but are not limited to: updates to the interconnection process; modernization of utility processes for studying interconnection requests; updates to technical interconnection study standards; updates necessary to coordinate interconnection requests with the regional transmission system; incorporation of updated Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (“IEEE”) 1547-2018 - IEEE Standard for Interconnection and Interoperability of Distributed Energy Resources with Associated Electric Power Systems Interfaces, all subsequent amendments or other relevant standards; and other changes that will facilitate New Jersey meeting its ambitious clean energy targets.

Next Steps

Members of the public may file written comments after any of the meetings regardless of whether they participate in the public meeting process. Please submit comments directly to the specific docket listed above using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s [Public Document Search](#) tool. Comments are

² Exec. Order No. 28 (May 23, 2018), 50 N.J.R. 1394(b) (June 18, 2018).

³ See Strategies 2 and 5, New Jersey Energy Master Plan (2019).

⁴ New Jersey’s Global Warming Response Act 80x50 Report: Evaluating Our Progress and Identifying Pathways to Reduce Emissions 80% by 2050, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (2020).

considered “public documents” for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act and any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3.

Written comments may also be submitted to:

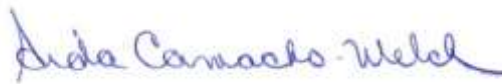
Aida Camacho-Welch

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The deadline for comments on this matter is 5:00 p.m. EDT on March 22, 2022.

Please direct all questions regarding the stakeholder process to Board.Secretary@bpu.nj.gov. Thank you for your interest in the Grid Modernization process for New Jersey.

The Board intends to make this opportunity for public comment accessible to all interested parties. Please submit any requests for needed accommodations for disabled citizens to the Office of the Secretary of the Board at Board.Secretary@bpu.nj.gov or (609) 777-3300 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.



Aida Camacho-Welch
Secretary of the Board

Dated: October 15, 2021