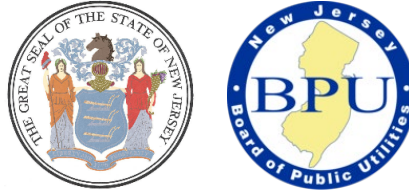


State of New Jersey
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Board of Public Utilities



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Joseph L. Fiordaliso
President

Mary-Anna Holden
Dr. Zenon Christodoulou
Christine Guhl-Sadovy
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Commissioners

NOTICE OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 317 REQUIRING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL GAS UTILITY EMISSION REDUCTION PLANS

DOCKET NO. [GO23020099](#)

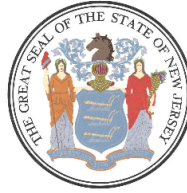
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on February 15, 2023, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order 317, directing the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) to develop recommendations regarding how the natural gas industry can reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Governor’s goal of 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2006 levels by 2030.¹ Executive Order 317 further directs the Board to engage with stakeholders regarding the development of natural gas utility plans consistent with the Governor’s directive.

Pursuant to Executive Order 317, on March 6, 2023, the Board initiated the above docketed proceeding, and directed Board Staff (“Staff”) to engage with stakeholders to investigate and recommend how the natural gas industry can best meet the State’s 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2006 levels by 2030. As part of the proceeding, the Board directed Staff to consider the following:

1. Competitive market mechanisms to drive the lowest cost methods for reducing total greenhouse gas emissions associated with the natural gas sector.
2. Ensuring reliable operation and long-term financial viability of natural gas public utilities and the business model needed to keep the gas system intact while accounting for a shrinking customer base.
3. Alternative programs and investments that could provide natural gas utilities with new revenue streams and promote good-paying jobs.
4. Elimination of subsidies that encourage unnecessary investment in natural gas infrastructure that is likely to result in stranded costs to customers.
5. Long-term impacts on residential and industrial customers who fail to or are unable to switch away from natural gas.
6. Electric grid readiness to handle electrification of building heating and cooling, as well as transportation.

¹ See Executive Order No. 274 (2021); All Executive Orders signed by Governor Murphy are published in the New Jersey Register and are also available online at: https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/approved/eo_archive.shtml

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PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Governor's Office of Climate Action and a Green Economy and the Board's Executive Director's Office invite all interested parties and members of the public to participate in the following Technical Conference concerning Executive Order 317, which shall take place on the designated dates and times specified below:

EXECUTIVE ORDER 317 TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

DATE: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 and Thursday, August 3, 2023
TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.
LOCATION: Trenton War Memorial (1 Memorial Dr, Trenton, NJ 08608)
REGISTER: [Registration Form](#)

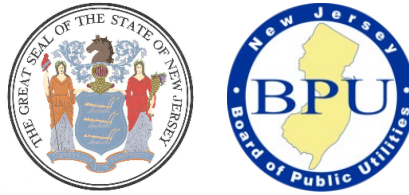
This Technical Conference concerns the implementation of Executive Order 317, and begins the process of reducing emissions in the natural gas sector. As such, the purpose of the Technical Conference is to learn about the Executive Order 317, reimagine natural gas infrastructure, and explore other topics integral to the State's reduction of emissions from the natural gas sector. Through the Technical Conference, Staff will begin the formal stakeholder engagement in the Future of the Natural Gas Utility Proceeding, as well as frame the policy and technical considerations that underpin this planning process.

The Technical Conference will be held in-person. You must register for the conference before attending in-person by completing and submitting this [Registration Form](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about attending the conference. Parking is available on the corner of West Lafayette Street and Warren Street. There are limited visitor parking spaces available in the State House parking garage on a first come, first served basis. In order to encourage full participation, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters and/or listening assistance, at least two (2) days prior to the conference to Stacy Peterson at stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov.

If you are unable to attend in-person, the Technical Conference will also be available to stream online on [August 2, 2023 at this link](#) and on [August 3, 2023 at this link](#).

The Board is also accepting written and/or electronic comments, in particular regarding future technical conferences and working sessions related to Executive Order 317. Please submit comments directly to Docket No. [GO23020099](#), using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's [Public Document Search tool](#). Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's [Public Document Search tool](#). Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board's e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board. Please include "Confidential Information" in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board's webpage, <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

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Written and/or electronic comments may also be submitted to:

Sherri L. Golden
Secretary of the Board
44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor
PO Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Phone: 609-913-6241
Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

The deadline for comments is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 6, 2023.

Please direct any questions concerning this Technical Conference to Stacy Peterson at
stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov.

Sherri L. Golden

Sherri L. Golden
Secretary of the Board

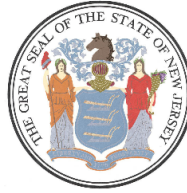
Dated:

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PRELIMINARY TECHNICAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

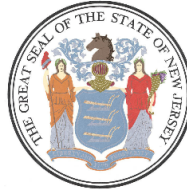
August 2, 2023	
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Opening Remarks/Welcome from NJBPU President Plenary 1 - Overall EO 317 Framing from Governor's Office of Climate Action and a Green Economy Overview of Conference Agenda and Overall Implementation of EO 317 from BPU Staff
10:30 am – 12 pm	Panel 1 – In depth on Clean Heat: EO 317 directs the Board to consider the suite of measures that could underpin a “clean heat” standard, including accelerated energy efficiency and peak demand reduction targets, enhanced building electrification targets, leak minimization, or other similar measures. • Introduction to “Clean Heat” • Examples from other states • Stakeholder Perspectives Panel
12:15 pm – 1 pm	<i>LUNCH</i> <i>BPU Overview of Ratepayer Impact Study</i>
1 pm – 2:45 pm	Panel 2 – Consumer Costs: As customers transition off of natural gas, volumetric natural gas rates will tend to increase, driving an increase in customer bills for those that continue to use natural gas for heating and cooling. How should the Board think about the impact of these changes on customer bills, particularly for households making less than 300 percent of the federal poverty limit? • Introduction to rate implications of decreased gas usage • Stakeholder Perspectives Panel
3 pm – 4:30 pm	Panel 3 - Financial Health of the Natural Gas Utilities: New Jersey's natural gas system and customer safety will need to be maintained, even during a transition away from natural gas. Doing so will require sustained investment in operations and maintenance of the natural gas system, even as new investment opportunities decrease. How should the Board ensure the reliable operation and long-term financial viability of natural gas utilities, while accounting for a shrinking customer base? • Independent Financial Analyst Perspective on utility investment thesis • Stakeholder Perspectives Panel

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PRELIMINARY TECHNICAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

August 3, 2023	
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks Plenary 2: Regulatory Levers
10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Panel 4 - Jobs Implications of a Decarbonizing Gas System: Implementation of EO 317 has the potential to profoundly reshape employment opportunities in New Jersey, both for people currently employed in the natural gas sector, as well as for those that may wish to join the green economy in the future. This panel is designed to explore future job opportunities, identify jobs that may be needed in the future, and discuss transition opportunities.
12:45 pm – 1:30 pm	<i>LUNCH</i> <i>Health Effects of Decarbonization</i>
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Panel 5 - Next-Generation Reimagining of Natural Gas Infrastructure • Education Session: Experience from Municipality or State in district heating and other alternatives for pipeline infrastructure • Stakeholder Perspective:
3:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Panel 6 - Identifying Natural Gas Subsidies & Revisiting End-Use Consumer Incentive Policies: There is a historic legacy of subsidies and policies designed to encourage expansion of natural gas infrastructure, both at the customer, distribution, and interstate level. What are those policies and incentives, and how should they be modified to support the State's greenhouse gas goals?
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Technical Conference Wrap up – BPU Staff Discussion of next steps
	<i>ADJOURN</i>