

Exhibit A

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED )  
PETITION OF THE COLLEGE OF )  
NEW JERSEY FOR RELIEF FROM A ) DOCKET NO. GC19111234  
PENALTY ASSESSED BY PUBLIC )  
SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS )  
COMPANY )

Certification of Richard Schweigert in Support of Motion for  
Summary Decision By Petitioner The College Of New Jersey and in  
Opposition to the Motions for Summary Decision By The Division of  
Rate Counsel and PSE&G

I, Richard Schweigert, of full age, certify the following:

1. I am the interim Treasurer at Petitioner The College of New Jersey ("TCNJ"). I make this certification in support of the motion for partial summary decision brought by TCNJ and in opposition to the motions for partial summary decision brought by the Division of Rate Counsel and PSE&G.

2. Like other public institutions of higher education, TCNJ is facing major financial challenges requiring significant restructuring due to the COVID pandemic and the severe inflation of the last couple of years.

3. TCNJ ran a significant operating deficit during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, which deficit was funded out of reserves, thereby dropping the reserves to a point that is about \$13-\$15 million below the institution's desired level of six months of operating expenses.

4. TCNJ reduced its budget for fiscal 2024 by approximately \$15 million to address this situation, and a comparable cut is anticipated for next year's budget as well. The effort to

restore the reserves to a reasonable level has already required tuition increases plus reductions in scholarship money made available to students.

5. Any penalty payment assessed against TCNJ in this matter will need to be paid from these already depleted reserves, thereby exacerbating what is already a serious financial crunch.

6. Due to its financial situation, TCNJ is also considering programmatic cuts, i.e., curtailment or elimination of various academic programs.

7. State aid to TCNJ, on an inflation-adjusted basis, is now less than it was 10 years ago. While the state appropriation to TCNJ for fiscal 2024 is almost \$2 million higher than it was last year, that increase will be more than eaten up by an increase in payroll expenses of approximately \$2.5 million mandated by union contracts that are negotiated by the State outside the purview of TCNJ.

I hereby certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.



Richard Schweigert

Dated: October 5, 2023