
James Austin Meehan, Esq.
(610) 921-6783
(330) 315-9165 (Fax)

October 31, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING ONLY

The Honorable Sherri L. Golden, Secretary
State of New Jersey
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
Board.Secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Re: *Jersey Central Power & Light Company's Notice of Intention to Discontinue the NJ PowerGuard Program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:4-3.6(w)*

Dear Secretary Golden:

On behalf of Jersey Central Power & Light Company ("JCP&L" or the "Company"), please find attached for filing with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (the "Board" or "BPU") JCP&L's letter in connection with the above-referenced matter. This letter serves as JCP&L's sixty (60) day notice to the Board pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:4-3.6(w) of JCP&L's intention to withdraw a competitive service from subscribers.

I. Background:

On April 2, 1992, JCP&L filed its Verified Petition for authorization to implement a Conditioned Power Service Program (“CPS”) and for approval and acceptance of its associated Tariff revisions with the Board under Docket No. ET9204380. The CPS consists of two (2) components:

1. the Consumer Electronics Protection Program (“CEP Program”); and
2. the Power Disturbance Protection Program (“PDP Program”).

Through the CEP Program, JCP&L sought Board approval to establish a competitive service by offering a multistage surge suppression service to protect sensitive electronic and/or other equipment from power surge damage. Subject to service entrance and equipment compatibility, the Company would include service installation of a Meter Socket Adapter (“MSA”) in tandem with individual surge suppressors at the customer’s electronic equipment sites, as well as provide warranty protection for equipment damage as offered by the manufacturer of the device, in exchange for a surcharge on the customer’s electric bill.

On April 22, 1993, JCP&L submitted a revised petition to the Board adding an updated CEP description and associated Tariff Sheets among other changes.

On October 19, 1993, the Board approved JCP&L’s CPS Program, consisting of the CEP and PDP programs, as an optional tariffed utility service as filed and modified.

Thereafter, the Company established its application of the CEP Program, the NJ PowerGuard Program (“NJ PowerGuard” or the “Program”), to provide customers with MSAs and surge protection equipment for standard and non-standard appliances, as well as all related services listed above in connection with CEP.

II. Notice under N.J.A.C. 14:4-3.6(w):

JCP&L now seeks Board approval to cease providing the services offered through NJ PowerGuard, including any warranty protection against damaging electric surges. N.J.A.C. 14:4-3.6(w) provides, in pertinent part, that the public utility intending to propose a substantive change in its offering, should submit to the Board, "...information sufficient to demonstrate that the change in offering will not adversely impact the ability of said electric and/or gas public utility to provide safe, adequate and proper electric service."

The Company asserts that as provided in JCP&L's Board-approved Tariff¹, NJ PowerGuard has not accepted any new applications since March 3, 1999. However, the Company still maintains a regulatory obligation to provide the service to customers enrolled before March 3, 1999. These customers continue to receive NJ PowerGuard service and warranty protection against damaging electrical surges. However, the only service currently being provided and billed to these customers' accounts is the MSA devices, which affects roughly six thousand (6,000) customers across the Company's service territory.

JCP&L further contends that due to the age of the Program and surge protection equipment, the Company no longer has equipment to replace or repair old equipment and viable repair and/or replacement options do not otherwise exist. Also, the Company does not carry any equipment to address potential issues with the outdated equipment.

Thus, due to the age of the Program and only serving approximately six thousand (6,000) customers, completely exiting the Program would lower risks for customers. Moreover, discontinuing the Program will not adversely impact the ability of the Company to provide safe, adequate, and proper electric service to its customers.

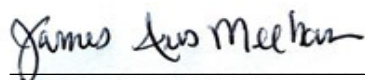
¹ Jersey Central Power & Light Company, Tariff for Service, Original Sheet No. 60 (Rider CEP – Consumer Electronics Protection Service) (approved on October 28, 2020 under Docket No. ER20020146)

To facilitate JCP&L's transition out of the CEP, the Company has begun preparing for the process of providing written notice to affected customers via a Notice Letter. The Notice Letter will contain the effective end date of NJ PowerGuard, an offer to remove the equipment at the customer's request, and a note explaining that all billing related to NJ PowerGuard will conclude on a date certain. Affected customers will receive notice 60 days in advance of the intended discontinuation date. A true and correct copy of the Notice Letter is attached hereto as Attachment "A".

III. Conclusion:

For the reasons set forth above, JCP&L intends to discontinue the Company's NJ PowerGuard Program and remove the Tariff Sheet as of March 31, 2024, unless otherwise instructed by the BPU.

Respectfully submitted,



James Austin Meehan
FIRSTENERGY SERVICE COMPANY
300 Madison Avenue
Morristown, New Jersey 07962
(330) 690-8329
jameehan@firstenergycorp.com

Counsel for Jersey Central Power & Light Company

[JCP&L logo]

[DATE]

[FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME]
[BILLING ADDRESS W/HOUSE NO]
[BILLING CITY], [BILLING STATE] [BILLING ZIP]

Re: Discontinuation of Jersey Central Power & Light PowerGuard Surge Protection Program

Account Number: [ACCOUNT NUMBER]
Service Address: [SERVICE ADDRESS W/HOUSE NO]
[SERVICE CITY], [SERVICE STATE] [SERVICE ZIP]

Dear <Name>,

Due to the unavailability of new equipment to repair or replace meter socket adapters, we will be discontinuing the PowerGuard Surge Protection Program as of 03/31/2023.

As a result, your PowerGuard Surge Protection Program will be cancelled on March 31, 2023, and you will no longer be charged monthly for the program. We will not be collecting your meter socket adapter unless you request it.

If you have questions regarding the PowerGuard Surge Protection Program, please call us at 1-800-505-7283.

Sincerely,
Jersey Central Power & Light Customer Service