

BPU Energy Master Plan; Docket No. QO24020126
Re: Energy Master Plan Program Management

June 12, 2024

Dear NJ Board of Public Utilities Commissioners, BPU Leadership and supporting contractors;

Back in 2019, I submitted a comment to the NJBPU recommending that NJBPU create a Program Management Office (PMO), responsible for project managing the overall energy master plan, each strategy focus, communications and monthly dashboards for the plan overall and for each strategy progress.

During all of the public hearings, the NJBPU staff and contracted staff all stated the 2024 EMP is an all of NJ government effort. This further stresses the critical need for a Program Management Office that orchestrates, measures progress and provides monthly dashboard updates to the public, Governor Murphy and all NJ agencies.

There should be at least one project manager for each of the seven strategies. Each PM would facilitate meetings between agencies, track updates and progress measures, and provide monthly dashboard updates. The project management team would meet monthly to review risks, gaps, wins and resource needs in order to ensure that an all of government approach is effectively producing results.

The updates in 2024 from 2019 were for only a select few goals within several strategies. It isn't clear how much progress has been made since 2019. Further, some goals, such as the offshore win, have been shifted or changed because those goals were not met. As a program management office, there would be a strict change control on strategies and goals to keep the pressure and progress on deliverables instead of just changing the dates. Referring to https://climatereanalyzer.org/clim/sst_daily/, there are already environmental measures that have gone outside the boundaries of past average temperatures and continues to set new records every day. We are in uncharted territory as to what, when and how much changes will occur this year, let alone 2035 (ten years out).

Then only way for the New Jersey all of government approach to stay on track is to have a dedicated PMO driving each strategy forward.

Energy Master Plan Seven Strategies

1. Reducing consumption;
2. Accelerate renewable energy and distributed energy resources;
3. Maximize energy efficiency and conservation and reduce peak demand;
4. Reduce energy use and emissions from the building sector;
5. Decarbonize and Modernize New Jersey's Energy System;
6. Support energy planning for environmental just communities; and
7. Expand the clean energy innovation economy.

I urge NJBPU to consider putting together a PMO and to issue at least quarterly updates to the public on progress. We can't wait another 5 years to find out what was missed and what was accomplished. This is too critical.

Sincerely,

Kirk Frost