



Hon. Sherri L. Golden, Secretary
NJ Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
PO Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

September 24, 2024

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SEP 30 2024

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
TRENTON, NJ

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE OPENING OF A SOLICITATION
FOR A TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT TO
SUPPORT NEW JERSEY'S OFFSHORE WIND PUBLIC POLICY
Docket No. QO23100719**

Dear Madam Secretary:

Based on discussions with BPU staff, we understand the award of any contract for the Larabee Pre-Built Infrastructure (PBI) pursuant to the subject solicitation has been postponed until the fourth quarter or later. We believe that cost and other feasibility issues may be causing delays in the ability to reach decisions on the proposed bids.

We are also aware that the BPU has petitioned the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to reduce the approved Return on Equity (ROE) on the initial phase of the Larabee infrastructure project due to concerns with the cost impact of this project on transmission rates. The same concern would apply to any PBI award which can be expected to cost multiples of the \$1.2 billion already approved for this Larabee project.

Furthermore, the Leading Light Wind project, which was to use two of the proposed PBI circuits, has requested a stay of its approved BPU order and may not be able to proceed due to lack of a viable wind turbine supplier. This project and the Attentive Energy project, which would also use the PBI corridor, are also being challenged in a ratepayer appeal.

Our communities are along the likely route of the PBI project and we and our residents have grave concerns regarding the safety and health hazards of routing up to 6400 MW of high voltage cables through our neighborhoods, not to mention the disruption and interference with municipal and public activities this project will cause during construction and operation.

In view of these uncertainties regarding the need for and timing of the PBI project, we call upon the Board to indefinitely defer any award of contracts for this work until the economic, safety, environmental and other issues are resolved and can clearly support moving forward.

We will be glad to discuss these issues further during the stakeholder meeting currently scheduled for October 1, 2024. In the meantime, we would welcome a response to this request.

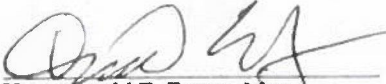
Sincerely,



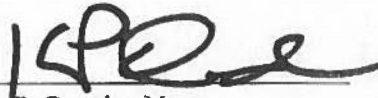
Theresa Berger, Mayor
Township of Howell



Michael W. Mangan, Mayor
Borough of Manasquan



Hon. Donald E. Fetzer, Mayor
Borough of Sea Girt



Kevin P. Orender, Mayor
Township of Wall
korender@wallnj.gov

CC Via Email

board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Christine.guhl-sadovy@bpu.nj.gov

Marian.abdou@bpu.nj.gov

Michael.bange@bpu.nj.gov

taryn.boland@bpu.nj.gov

robert.brabston@bpu.nj.gov

Benjamin.Witherell@bpu.nj.gov

veronique.oomen@bpu.nj.gov

blipman@rpa.nj.gov

kira.lawrence@bpu.nj.gov