

October 15, 2024

Ms. Sherry L. Golden  
Secretary of the Board  
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities  
44 South Clinton Ave.  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Re: In the Matter of the Opening of a Solicitation for Transmission Infrastructure Project To Support New Jersey's Offshore Wind Public Policy  
Docket No. QO23100719

Dear Ms. Golden, NJBPU Commissioners and Staff,

Please accept my comments on NJBPU PBI Solicitation Docket No. QO23100719 as a ratepayer, concerned citizen and resident of Monmouth County New Jersey. These comments supplement my October 1, 2024 testimony at the IBEW Hall in Wall Twp. For the following reasons, the PBI Solicitation process must be halted in the best interest of residents and New Jersey Ratepayers.

**I. PBI Solicitation Process is out of Order**

- Announced in November 2023, this PBI Solicitation SGD came in a new order, with a new docket number.
- According to the SGD Applications and bids were due 4/3/24 and awards were expected 3Q.
- An October 1 hearing was announced 9/17 and a public comment period opened.
- Until that announcement, the general Public was kept in dark and not given opportunity to participate in this secretive process that directly impacts our homes and communities.
- October 1<sup>st</sup> public hearing was held after final applications and bids and were submitted.

**II. Administrative Procedure Violations**

- This inordinate process raises procedural questions. Notably:

- i. How are public comments and concerns now being incorporated into the applicant plans and bids already submitted?
- ii. Will applicants now have an opportunity to resubmit plans and bids now that the public has been given an opportunity to raise legitimate concerns?
- iii. Can the NJBPU consider these public comments independently with BAFOs already in hand?
- iv. Has Rate Counsel submitted an analysis of the bids, applications? If so, where can public access that analysis? And why was it not available during the comment period?
- v. Has BPU Staff held meetings with Board and/or made recommendation on Award prior to Public Comment period?
- vi. Will public be given another opportunity to comment once the awarded applicant's cable routes and other details are made public?

In conclusion, it is recommended that in addition to bringing this PBI Solicitation process back in order and restoring the Public's rights, NJBPU needs to stop exceeding its authority by attempting to advance and subsidize the Governor's "green energy" agenda with public ratepayer dollars.

Instead, the Board should re-focus on its stated authority and mission which is – to provide SAFE and RELIABLE utility services to the people of New Jersey at AFFORDABLE rates. And STOP destroying our Ocean and coastal communities. We are a proud coastal state and we treasure our NJ Shore. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  
MD

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