**State of New Jersey** Governor Philip D. Murphy Lt. Governor Tahesha L. Way

**Board of Public Utilities** 





Christine Guhl-Sadovy President

Dr. Zenon Christodoulou Marian Abdou Michael Bange **Commissioners** 

# NOTICE

## IN THE MATTER OF THE 2024 NEW JERSEY ENERGY MASTER PLAN

## Docket No. QO24020126

## PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT

The Staff ("Board Staff" or "Staff") of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("BPU" or "Board") hereby gives notice of a virtual public stakeholder meeting to discuss the 2024 update to the State's Energy Master Plan ("EMP") in which all interested parties and members of the public are invited to participate.

## See below for registration information. Pre-registration is required.

#### **Background and Procedural History**

In 2018, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 28, which directed the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "NJBPU") to develop an EMP to serve as the State's blueprint to achieve 100% clean energy by 2050.<sup>1</sup> Released in January 2020, the 2019 EMP establishes a set of goals to put New Jersey on a pathway to achieve the State's clean energy goals, and expands upon previous EMPs to account for the complete energy system in the State, including electricity generation, transportation, and usage in commercial buildings.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, the 2019 EMP incorporates mandates from the Clean Energy Act of 2018, the Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding, and the Global Warming Response Act of 2009 to reduce greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions 80% by 2050, relative to 2006 levels.<sup>3</sup>

This year, the EMP will undergo an update as required by the EMP Statute.<sup>4</sup> The 2024 EMP will serve as a whole-of-government progress report on the goals and strategies in the 2019 EMP, outline the changing landscape of State and federal support for climate action, and determine the basis for the development of actionable next steps to reduce GHG emissions and maximize clean energy uptake economy-wide. The 2024 EMP will be a public-facing document that incorporates progress information acquired through inter-agency collaboration and stakeholder feedback to build upon the 2019 EMP and will help New Jersey reach its goal of 100% clean energy by 2035, amongst other key clean energy and climate goals and benchmarks including health impact analyses and data center growth assessments.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Exec. Order No. 28 (May 23, 2018), 50 N.J.R. 1394(b) (June 18, 2018).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, <u>2019 New Jersey Energy Master Plan:</u> Pathway to 2050, <u>https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/NJBPU\_EMP.pdf</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> <u>Id. See also L.</u> 2018, <u>c.</u>17 (N.J.S.A. 48:3-87, <u>et seq.</u>) ("Clean Energy Act of 2018"); Governor Murphy signed the Multi-State Medium-and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding on June 30, 2020 ("Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding"), <u>https://nj.gov/dep/aqes/docs/mhdv-zev-mou-</u>20200714.pdf.; <u>L.</u> 2007, <u>c.</u>112 (N.J.S.A. 26:2C-37, <u>et seq.</u>) ("Global Warming Response Act of 2009").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>L.</u> 1977, <u>c.</u>146, <u>amended</u> 1987, <u>c.</u> 365 § 14 (N.J.S.A. 52:27F-14(b)).

Specifically, the 2024 EMP will examine the progress that has been made toward the seven (7) strategies enumerated in the 2019 EMP, as well as provide an overview of the State's progress toward achieving 100% clean energy by 2035, and an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions, by 2050:<sup>5</sup>

- 1. Reducing Energy Consumption and Emissions from the Transportation Sector;
- 2. Accelerating Deployment of Renewable Energy and Distributed Energy Resources;
- 3. Maximizing Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Reducing Peak Demand;
- 4. Reducing Energy Consumption and Emissions from the Building Sector;
- 5. Decarbonizing and Modernizing New Jersey's Energy System;
- 6. Supporting Community Energy Planning and Action in Underserved Communities; and
- 7. Expanding the Clean Energy Innovation Economy.<sup>6</sup>

Board Staff held a series of virtual public hearings to solicit input from stakeholders and members of the general public that will help inform Staff's drafting of the 2024 EMP. Four (4) public hearings were held on May 20, 2024; May 22, 2024; May 29, 2024; and June 3, 2024. Additionally, five (5) small-group stakeholder workshops were organized in July and August of 2024 to confirm modeling assumptions and allow additional stakeholder input into the EMP. These workshops convened key stakeholder groups to gather input and facilitate intentional dialogue on the opportunities and challenges with the EMP.

This virtual public stakeholder meeting is the next step in soliciting feedback.

The virtual public stakeholder meeting will be conducted on the following day and time so that members of the public may present their views:

| Public<br>Stakeholder<br>Meeting Date<br>and Start<br>Time | Agenda  | Virtual Link or Call-in Information to Join the Public Stakeholder Meeting   |
|--|---|--|
| March 13,<br>2025<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Eastern Time            | Overview of<br>the draft<br>2024 Energy<br>Master Plan. | Zoom Virtual Public Stakeholder Meeting Registration:<br><u>https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN 8TtP1rEt</u><br><u>R4KTQPI CdHK3Q</u><br>( <u>Note</u> : If you are typing the URL, please use<br>UPPERCASE for all capitalized letters.)<br>Stakeholders and members of the general public will be<br>invited to comment on strategy, progress, and current<br>actions, either orally at the time of the public hearing or in<br>writing. |

Representatives from Board Staff and other State agencies will participate in the virtual public stakeholder meeting. Members of the public are invited to express their views by utilizing the registration link set forth above. If you wish to reserve a speaking opportunity, please designate this during the online registration process. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. In order to encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>Exec. Order No. 315</u> (Feb. 15, 2023), 55 N.J.R. 509(A)-11(A) (Mar. 20, 2023); Global Warming Response Act of 2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, <u>2019 New Jersey Energy Master Plan: Pathway to 2050,</u> <u>https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/NJBPU\_EMP.pdf</u>.

any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters and/or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearings to the Board Secretary at <u>board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov</u>.

#### **Comments**

The Board is also accepting written and/or electronic comments.

#### The deadline for comments on this matter is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on March 27, 2025.

While all comments will be given equal consideration and will be made part of the final record of this proceeding, the preferred method of transmittal is via the Board's <u>Public Document Search</u> tool. Search for the docket number listed above, and post by utilizing the "Post Comments" button. Emailed comments may also be filed with the Secretary of the Board, in pdf or Word format, to <u>board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov</u>.

Written comments may also be submitted to the Board Secretary, Sherri L. Golden, at the Board of Public Utilities, 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor, P.O. Box 350, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350. All emailed or mailed comments should include reference to Docket Number QO24020126.

All comments are considered "public documents" for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Commenters may identify information that they seek to keep confidential by submitting them in accordance with the confidentiality procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3.

#### Please direct all questions about this matter to: <u>EMPupdate@bpu.nj.gov</u>.

Board Staff looks forward to receiving and reviewing your comments. Thank you for your interest in the 2024 EMP.

Sherri Q. Qewis

Sherri L. Lewis Secretary of the Board

Dated: February 28, 2025