

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

Release:

November 15, 2005

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NJBPU REQUESTS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO STATE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARDS

Changes Would More than Double RPS, Requiring 20 Percent Renewables by 2020

(NEWARK, NJ) - The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) currently is considering modifications to the state's existing Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS).

The proposed amendments would increase the state's RPS percentage of Class 1 (solar, wind, sustainable biomass) to 20 percent by the year 2020 from the current requirement of 4 percent by 2008. The proposal also would require that 2 percent of this amount come from solar electric systems.

The economic impact of this proposed increase was evaluated by the Center for Energy, Economic and Environmental Policy (CEEPP) - at Rutgers' Bloustein School - that determined it would have "a negligible impact on the growth of our economy and will result in a less than 2 percent increase in electric rates over 20 years." They further reported that "This proposal would keep New Jersey as a national leader in the development of renewable energy."

The RPS proposal is part of the readoption of Chapter 4 (Energy) of the NJBPU's regulations. The proposed rule change can be found on the BPU website at <http://www.state.nj.us/bpu/home/secDiv.shtml>. After being published in the New Jersey Register on October 17, a 60-day public comment period that extends through December 16th is provided.

A public hearing on the proposed rule changes will be held on December 6 at 10 am.:

Board Hearing Room
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Eighth Floor
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102

Written comments must be submitted by December 16, 2006 to the following address:

Kristi Izzo, Secretary
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

Attn: BPU Docket Number EX05080733
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102

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About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate, and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBPU include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents. To find out more about the NJBPU, visit our web site at www.bpu.state.nj.us.

About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program

New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, established on January 22, 2003 in accordance with the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act (EDECA), provides financial and other incentives to the State's residential customers, businesses and schools that install high-efficiency or renewable energy technologies, thereby reducing energy usage, lowering customers' energy bills and reducing environmental impacts. The program is authorized and overseen by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU), and its website is www.njcleanenergy.com.