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NEWS RELEASE

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Christie Administration Releases Draft Update to 2011 New Jersey Energy Master Plan

– State Continues on Course of Lowering Energy Costs, Protecting the Environment and Improving the Resiliency of Energy Infrastructure –

Trenton, N.J. - President Richard S. Mroz of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and Commissioner Bob Martin of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection today released for public comment a draft update to the 2011 New Jersey Energy Master Plan (EMP). The draft update measures the progress made toward meeting the goals set in the 2011 EMP and makes recommendations for building on that progress. It also includes a new section that sets goals and makes specific recommendations to improve the resiliency of the New Jersey's energy infrastructure along with its emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

“This update shows that Governor Christie’s strategies in the 2011 State Energy Master Plan are producing strong results and moving the State towards the goal of reducing energy costs from being among the nation's highest and making them competitive to costs in other regions and states. This is consistent with the recommendations of the State Strategic Plan for facilitating economic growth and lowering the cost of living for New Jersey residents,” said President Mroz. “Energy is a vital tool of economic growth and job creation.”

“This update also reflects New Jersey’s national leadership in reducing emissions from power plants,” Commissioner Martin said. “The 2011 Energy Master Plan helped accelerate New Jersey’s transition to cleaner burning, less expensive natural gas. As a result, New Jersey’s sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions are amongst the three lowest in the nation and nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are amongst the six lowest in the nation. This update shows that the Christie Administration’s energy policy has been good for both the environment and the economy.”

The draft EMP Update documents New Jersey's significant progress towards the EMP's five overarching goals:

- Driving down the cost of energy for all customers;
- Promoting a diverse portfolio of new, clean in-state generation;
- Rewarding energy efficiency, energy conservation and reduce peak demand;
- Capitalizing on emerging technologies for transportation and power production; and
- Maintaining support for the renewable energy portfolio standard of 22.5% of energy from renewable sources by 2021.

Since the release of the EMP in December 2011, New Jersey has fallen from a high energy cost state to a range that falls within the national average for total energy costs (electricity, natural gas, fuel oil and gasoline). Prior to the release of the EMP in December 2011, the cost of natural gas in New Jersey was ranked approximately 17th highest in the nation. Today, New Jersey's natural gas prices are among the lowest in the country.

This huge decrease was anticipated in the EMP and has been critical to successfully reducing the State's total energy costs, the cost of electricity and improving the environmental performance of New Jersey's electric generation. The current vibrant and robust natural gas infrastructure in New Jersey has allowed New Jersey to take advantage of low natural gas prices, enabling residents and businesses to benefit from low energy costs.

New Jersey's in-state electric energy resources are diverse and amongst the cleanest in the nation, despite being the 22nd largest electricity generating state. This is a direct result of the state's current resource mix of nuclear (which accounts for about half of all in-state generation), natural gas and renewables.

New Jersey continues to meet its renewable energy portfolio standards as nearly 15% of electricity supplied in the state is attributed to renewable sources; with solar accounting for nearly 3% of the state's generation mix this energy year. New Jersey has also seen success in reducing energy usage through its support for demand reduction and energy efficiency technologies. New and changing challenges need to be met to continue growth in the implementation of energy efficiency technologies in a market that is still growing, but reaching maturity.

Since the release of the 2011 EMP, New Jersey suffered devastating damage from the impacts of Superstorm Sandy and other major storms and weather events. The Christie Administration has made it a priority to improve energy resiliency and emergency preparedness and response.

Therefore, the draft EMP Update consists of a new section to address these high priority areas. Policy recommendations contained in this new section of the draft EMP Update are based on New Jersey's Plan for Action in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy and include protecting

critical energy infrastructure, improving the electric companies' emergency preparedness and response, increasing the use of microgrid technologies and applications for distributed energy resources (DER) and creating long-term financing for resiliency measures.

In developing draft EMP Update, the N.J. Board of Public Utilities held three public hearings last August at locations in Newark, Trenton and Galloway Township. In addition, written comments were received over a 30-day period ending August 24, 2015. A total of 82 individuals offered comments at the public hearings and 1093 written comments were received and reviewed. In preparing the draft EMP Update, all comments offered on all relevant topics in the public hearings and submitted in writing were considered. The 2011 EMP, the draft EMP Update and all written comments are posted on New Jersey's Energy Master Plan website at:

<http://nj.gov/emp>

The draft EMP Update is now open for a 14-day written public comment period. The written comment period commences immediately and will end at the close of business on Friday, December 4, 2015.

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