

State of New Jersey
DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

STEFANIE A. BRAND Director

KIM GUADAGNO Lt. Governor

June 15, 2016

## VIA HAND DELIVERY AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Hon. Irene Kim Asbury, Secretary New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor P.O. Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re:

Comments of the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel CEP—Proposed Modifications to the FY16 CEP Budget I/M/O CEP FY2016 Programs and Budget

BPU Dkt. No. OO15040477

Dear Secretary Asbury:

The Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") would like to thank the Board of Public Utilities ("BPU" or "Board") for the opportunity to present the following comments on the proposed reallocations between budget categories within the FY16 Clean Energy Program ("CEP") budget which was submitted to stakeholders for comment by the Office of Clean Energy ("OCE") on May 31, 2016.

Enclosed please find original and ten copies of comments submitted on behalf of Rate Counsel in connection with the above-captioned matter. We are enclosing one additional copy

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of the comments. <u>Please stamp and date the extra copy as 'filed" and return it in our self-</u> addressed stamped envelope.

The OCE does not propose any change in the overall FY16 CEP budget, which amounts to \$372,959,019.29. However, the OCE proposes the following transfers in the FY16 CEP budget:

- Add \$1.5 million to the HVAC program to provide sufficient funding for the HVAC rebate program to remain open through the remainder of FY16;
- Transfer \$7.5 million to the new State Facilities Initiative to fund energy efficiency and energy savings projects for State owned and operated buildings and grounds; and
- Transfer \$3.291 million to the Temporary Relief for Utility Expenses ('TRUE') grant account to meet the requirements of the legislation to provide financial assistance to needy utility customers.

The funding for the above listed programs will come from funding reductions in other CEP program budgets. The OCE notes that sufficient funds remain in those programs "to meet all anticipated programs activities through the remainder of the FY."

Based on the OCE's representation, Rate Counsel does not oppose the proposed transfers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OCE notice dated May 31, 2016.

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Thank you for your consideration of the within comments.

Respectfully submitted,

STEFANIE A. BRAND Director, Division of Rate Counsel

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