

CHAPTER 14
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Authority

N.J.S.A. 52:14F-5(e), (f) and (g).

Source and Effective Date

R.2001 d.264, effective July 3, 2001.
See: 33 N.J.R. 1491(a), 33 N.J.R. 2639(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

Chapter 14, Board of Public Utilities, expires on July 3, 2006.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 14, Board of Regulatory Commissioners, was adopted as R.1991 d.361, effective July 15, 1991. See: 23 N.J.R. 640(a), 23 N.J.R. 2120(a).

Subchapter 10, Discovery, was adopted as R.1994 d.451, effective September 6, 1994. See: 26 N.J.R. 2513(a), 26 N.J.R. 3705(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 14, Board of Public Utilities, was readopted as R.1996 d.362, effective July 12, 1996. See: 28 N.J.R. 2105(a), 28 N.J.R. 3779(b).

Chapter 14, Board of Public Utilities, was readopted as R.2001 d.264, effective July 3, 2001. See: Source and Effective Date.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1:14-1.1 Applicability

The special rules in this chapter shall apply to contested case hearings arising before the Board of Public Utilities (BPU). Any aspect of the hearing not covered by these special hearing rules shall be governed by the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules (U.A.P.R.) contained in N.J.A.C. 1:1. To the extent that these special rules are inconsistent with the U.A.P.R., these rules shall apply.

Administrative Change.
See: 23 N.J.R. 3647(a).

SUBCHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS

1:14-2.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, as used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“Judge” means an administrative law judge, the BPU or a single Commissioner of the BPU who presides over a contested case under N.J.S.A. 48:2-32.

“Public hearing” means a hearing conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4(g) because the law requires the hearing in conjunction with the contested case. It is not an “evidentiary hearing” or “plenary hearing” as defined in N.J.A.C. 1:1-2.1. It is a hearing to which the public is specifically invited to attend and express views, to provide comments or to raise objections to the subject matter being considered.

Administrative Change.
See: 23 N.J.R. 3647(a).

SUBCHAPTERS 3 THROUGH 4. (RESERVED)

SUBCHAPTER 5. REPRESENTATION

1:14-5.1 Appearance by the BPU

The BPU may be represented by a deputy attorney general or a non-lawyer agency employee pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-5.4(a).

Administrative Change.
Sec: 23 N.J.R. 3647(a).

SUBCHAPTERS 6 THROUGH 7. (RESERVED)

SUBCHAPTER 8. TRANSMISSION OF
CONTESTED CASES TO THE OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

1:14-8.1 Transmittal to the OAL

In the transmittal form, as required by N.J.A.C. 1:1-8.2, the BPU shall indicate whether it will be a party to the proceeding and whether it will be represented by an agency employee pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-5.4(a) or a deputy attorney general.

Administrative Change.
Sec: 23 N.J.R. 3647(a).

SUBCHAPTER 9. SCHEDULING; NOTICES

1:14-9.1 Notice of hearing

(a) Upon receiving notice of the time, date and place of hearing from the Clerk, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:3-17.7 a petitioner who has filed for authority to exercise the power of eminent domain shall give each respondent whose name and address is known at least 20 days notice of the hearing. At least five days prior to the hearing date, the petitioner shall file with the judge proof of such notice pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-7.2.

(b) In any proceeding, the judge may require a party to give notice of the hearing and its scope to persons who may be affected by the proceeding, which may include publication and posting of notice of hearing, at such party's expense, in such manner and for such time and in such newspapers as the judge may designate.

1:14-9.2 Public hearings

(a) Whenever a public hearing is required by statute or rule the judge may instruct the utility to secure an appropriate location for the hearing and to accomplish whatever public notice may be required by statute or rule.

(b) Unless a statute requires otherwise or the judge directs otherwise for good cause shown, public hearings shall be conducted during the evening after regular business hours or at some other time which would be convenient to those persons interested in the subject matter of the public hearing.

(c) The Clerk shall notify the parties to the proceeding of any public hearing and shall ensure that the proceeding is stenographically transcribed.

(d) Persons opposing or supporting petitions or tariff schedules may testify at public hearings. The judge may permit the utility or other parties to cross-examine these persons. Persons who testify at public hearings shall not be entitled to notice of any subsequent proceedings unless they qualify as a participant or intervenor under N.J.A.C. 1:1-16.

SUBCHAPTER 10. DISCOVERY

1:14-10.1 Depositions

In addition to the discovery methods specified in N.J.A.C. 1:1-10.2(a), depositions upon oral examination or written questions of experts and other designated witnesses whose written testimony has been prefiled in the case shall be available upon written notice by a party in a ratemaking proceeding.

SUBCHAPTERS 11 THROUGH 13. (RESERVED)

SUBCHAPTER 14. CONDUCT OF CASES

1:14-14.1 Prefiled testimony

(a) The judge may require that all parties prefile their direct testimony in writing, certified, verified or sworn to under oath. The schedule for the submission of this testimony shall be established by the judge to ensure a fair and expeditious hearing.

(b) The judge shall adjust the discovery schedule to facilitate the timely filing of prefiled direct testimony.

New Rule, R.1991 d.501, effective October 7, 1991.
See: 23 N.J.R. 2083(c), 23 N.J.R. 2998(c).

1:14-14.2 Cross-examination

The judge may restrict any cross-examination whose purpose appears to be primarily for discovery.

1:14-14.3 Transcripts

(a) In cases involving an order to show cause or an investigative order initiated by the BPU, respondents shall purchase an original and one copy of the transcript and shall provide the judge with a copy of the hearing transcript within 15 working days of the date of hearing. In all other cases, the petitioner shall provide the judge with a copy of the hearing transcript within 15 days of the hearing date.