



### Meeting Record

- Michael Egenton made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes; Richard Opiekun seconded the motion; Allen Weston abstained. Minutes were otherwise approved with a unanimous vote.
- The 2021 hearing report was presented to the Commissioner.
- The hearing report and any additional information will be posted on the Council's website for the public.
- Hearing topics for 2022 were discussed; the hearing is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2022. More information will be given when it's available.
- There will be no August 2021 meeting; meetings will resume in September. Possible in-person meetings will be decided upon within the upcoming month and will have online capabilities also. Website will be updated with more information becomes available.
- Leonard Bielory made a motion to adjourn; Michael Egenton seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 10:56am.

### Administrative Report

*Presented by Francis Steitz, Director of Air Quality*

- 1. NJ PACT CPR Greenhouse Gas Monitoring and Reporting rule** – The proposal was published in the June 21, 2021, New Jersey Register.

This proposed rulemaking is part of a comprehensive strategy to address greenhouse gas emissions statewide. The proposed rules have three major components to require sources to monitor and report their emissions of methane and halogenated gases.

- a. Facilities that emit 100 tons or greater per year of methane will be required to report their methane emissions as part of the Emission Statement program, N.J.A.C. 7:27-21.
- b. Facilities that use 50 pounds or more of high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants in refrigeration systems will be required to register and report their equipment and use of refrigerants.
- c. Natural gas public utilities with local distribution lines in the State will be required to report information regarding their lines, advanced leak detection, and blowdown events.
- d. The proposed rules also include penalty provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:27A.

A public hearing will be conducted virtually via the Department's video conferencing software on July 22, 2021, at 1:00 P.M. **The meeting may be accessed from computer, tablet, or smartphone.** [Click here to join the meeting.](#) Alternately, **dial in using your phone.**

(856) 338-7074

Phone Conference ID: 776 466 453#

A copy of the proposal is available on the Department's webpage at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/notices.html>, and LexisNexis free public access to the New Jersey Register (<https://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/njoal>).

Written comments are due by August 20, 2021. The Department encourages electronic submittal of comments. Written comments may be submitted electronically at [www.nj.gov/dep/rules/comments](http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/comments).

- 2. 2021/2022 Drive Change, Drive Electric Campaign** – This month, Drive Change. Drive Electric., a Northeast public-private partnership campaign to raise public awareness about, and promote and increase sales of, EVs, will begin its next phase. Participating states, including NJ, and automakers contributed almost \$1 million to the next phase's budget. Results from the campaign's annual

consumer survey fielded in April show that consideration for EVs has risen significantly since the last survey in fall 2019, and respondents identified environmental benefits as a key reason for EV purchases. The survey also showed that consumers continue to have concerns about making the switch to an EV, including the availability of public charging stations.

- 3. EV charging station tool development** -- Atlas Public Policy recently showcased a new modeling tool, INSITE, developed to better understand gaps and costs in EV charging infrastructure. Atlas plans to publish a free public version of its INSITE tool, which includes data from nationwide, state-by-state, and regional analyses, later this summer. Atlas is currently conducting infrastructure gap and cost analysis for medium-and heavy-duty trucks that will be the subject of a follow-up presentation. Air Quality will evaluate the public tool to see if it can help determine the number of additional charging stations needed to meet the State's goal of 100% EV sales by 2035.
- 4. Transportation Decarbonization Workshops** -- The US Climate Alliance, a bipartisan state coalition committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the Paris Agreement, is planning a series of workshops over the next few months to help participating states explore short- and long-term policy pathways for transportation decarbonization. The workshops are designed to provide individualized technical and policy support to states, and a forum to brainstorm and iterate with peer states. The Division of Air Quality is an active participant on the US Climate Alliance's Transportation workgroup and has invited NJBPU & NJEDA representatives to participate in the workshops.
- 5. NJ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Offshore Wind Capacity Award** – On June 30, 2021, NJBPU awarded two offshore wind projects expected to generate a combined 2.6-gigawatts (enough electricity to power 1.15 million homes) to Ørsted's Ocean Wind 2 and Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind (a joint venture of the Environmental Defense Fund and Shell New Energies). The projects are scheduled to come online between 2027 and 2029. The Atlantic Shores project includes a pilot hydrogen production facility while the new Ørsted project includes a pilot drayage truck project at the Port of Newark. Ørsted will partner with Zeem Solutions to roll out 50 Class 8 electric drayage trucks, associated vehicle infrastructure and mobility training programs for area residents. The pilot project includes the construction of a state-of-the-art truck depot near Port Newark capable of housing, charging, and servicing 200 trucks, including the 50 electric drayage trucks.
- 6. NJBPU Truck Electrification Proposal** -- On June 30, 2021, NJBPU released a straw proposal outlining potential roles for utilities in building out the charging infrastructure needed for medium- and heavy-duty electric trucks. In 2020, NJBPU took a similar action to establish minimum filing requirements for utilities to rate base light-duty publicly accessible charging infrastructure. NJBPU will host a series of stakeholder meetings on the medium- and heavy-duty proposal over the summer with comments due October 5, 2021.
- 7. NJ Transit receives award for electric buses** - On Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced \$182 million in grants to local transit agencies for the deployment of zero- or low-emission transit buses and supporting equipment and facilities through the Federal Transit Authority's Low or No Emission Program (Low-No Program). NJ Transit was awarded \$5.15 million to purchase articulated battery electric buses to replace older diesel buses on a route between Newark and Irvington. [View infographic](#)
- 8. BPU announces Phase 2 of EV rebate program** - BPU announced this week that they have reopened the EV rebate program, Charge Up New Jersey. There are two important changes to the program:

- a. It is now a point-of-sale program. The dealer (not the car buyer) will submit the application at the car dealership or showroom, and the rebate will instantly be applied to the cost of the new vehicle.
- b. The rebate is still \$25 per mile of all-electric range with a \$5,000 cap. However, there is now a two-tiered cap, depending on the cost of the car:
  - \$5,000 cap for vehicles with a MSRP under \$45,000
  - \$2,000 cap for vehicles with a MSRP between \$45,000 and \$55,000

BPU lowered the rebate for higher-cost cars to stretch the budget and make more rebates available to middle-income people.

**9. Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) Operating Permit Application for a Standby Power Generation Facility (SPGF)** On July 2, 2021, PVSC submitted a revised operating permit application for a proposed SPGF to be installed at the PVSC’s Wastewater Treatment Plant in Newark (EJ area). The SPGF consists of three 28-megawatt combustion gas turbines that would provide the facility electrical needs in event of a power outage, such as the one caused by Superstorm Sandy. This application supersedes the initial SPGF application (January 14, 2021), which has been withdrawn. In this revised application, PVSC proposes to operate the SPGF only for emergencies, maintenance activities, storm preparation, and demand response. PVSC has removed the proposal to operate the turbines for peak load management, which was part of the initial SPGF application. This change has resulted in an 40% decrease in proposed operating hours, from 2,100 hours/year to 1,284 hours/year in total for the three turbines.

**2021 MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS (tentative)**

**Meeting will be 9:30am – 12pm, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.**

January 20	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
February 17	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
March 17	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
April 21	Public Hearing - Microsoft Teams Meeting.
May 19	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
June 16	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
July 21	Microsoft Teams Meeting. - present report to commissioner (tentative).
August 18	<b>No meeting.</b> (Microsoft Teams Meeting, only if needed)
September 15	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
October 20	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
November 17	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
December 15	Microsoft Teams Meeting.