

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seeking Transparency – Lawsuit Filed by ELEC 825 Blasts NJ BPU for Stonewalling Public Records Request

Springfield, NJ — Local 825 Labor Management Fund (ELEC825, the Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative) is taking the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to court over its deliberate refusal to comply with basic transparency obligations under New Jersey’s Open Public Records Act (OPRA). ELEC825, a founding member of Affordable Energy for New Jersey (AENJ) has filed a verified complaint and secured an Order to Show Cause in the Superior Court of Mercer County, demanding that the BPU release key public records it has unjustifiably withheld.

“For an agency tasked with regulating the utilities that every New Jersey resident depends on, the BPU’s defiance of transparency in an attempt to hide the truth about the Energy Master Plan is a disgrace,” said Michael Makarski of ELEC825 and a spokesman for the Affordable Energy for NJ coalition. “When a public body continues to make reckless decisions and then attempts to hide behind red tape to avoid scrutiny, it raises serious questions about what they’re trying to conceal—and who they’re protecting.”

The legal action targets the BPU’s failure to release full records regarding the 2024 Energy Mater Plan scope that was approved by the board on January 16, 2025. The wrongly redacted items included the modeling scope and where the board’s consultant is getting their modeling information and the energy scenarios they are studying. This information is critical for the public to understand why their energy prices are trending in the direction they are.

New Jersey Energy Master Plan Continued Research

Work Scope

November 2024

1 Energy Master Plan Continued Research

1.0 Motivation

The New Jersey BPU and Governor’s Office seek to model additional electric supply side resource scenarios that explore a broader range of possible future outcomes for electric generation in the state.

The new model scenarios will offer a range of options for New Jersey to explore while striving to reach 80% reduction in emissions by 2050.

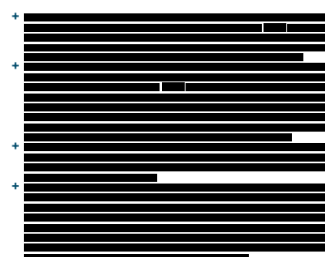
The 2024 Energy Master Plan is expected to be released publicly in March 2025. This work scope describes continued research that E3 will perform between December 2024 and March 2025.

1.1 Task 1: Update New Jersey EMP Progress Report to Reflect Progress through End of 2024

E3 will complete a desk review of policy and programmatic progress made since the first round of research was completed in Summer 2024. This will ensure the EMP modeling includes any additional progress made through the end of 2024. Based upon the findings of the desk review, E3 will refresh the progress memo and the progress report chapter of the EMP report.

1.2 Task 2: Model Additional Supply Side Resource Scenarios

The additional modeling will involve making the following updates to assumptions and quantifying the impact relative to existing scenario results from Current Policy, High Electrification, Hybrid Electrification, and Demand Management:



1.3 Task 3: Determine Workforce Impacts of New Scenarios

The State team has expressed interest in better understanding the benefit-cost dynamics of in-state infrastructure investment, resulting in thousands of in-state jobs, versus out-of-state energy procurement, resulting in a smaller in-state green economy. To this end, E3 and the BW team will run two additional scenarios from Task 2 to develop a wider range of workforce impact results. The findings from these additional runs will be included in the EMP report.

1.4 Task 4: Update Customer Cost, Revenue Requirement Models and Cost Models with New Scenarios

E3 will update the customer cost, revenue requirement model, and societal cost models with the additional three scenarios discussed above.

(Redacted Scope: https://njaffordableenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2.5.25-New-Jersey-Energy-Master-Plan-Continued-Research-Work-Scope-November-2024-REDACTED_Redacted.pdf)

ELEC 825 is also seeking a judicial order preventing the BPU from destroying or altering any relevant documents or metadata. "The Superior Court has scheduled a hearing for June 3, 2025, at which time the BPU will need to appear and explain why the Court should not compel the production of an unredacted Work Scope and impose both penalties and an award of legal fees."

AENJ and ELEC825 urges New Jersey residents, media, and public watchdogs to monitor this case closely. Since 2020, AENJ has repeatedly asked the question "how much will the Energy Master Plan cost NJ residents?" It has been 2,093 days since the release of the first EMP and the BPU continues to stonewall this basic question.

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About ELEC 825:

The Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative (ELEC 825) is the labor-management fund of IUOE Local 825. ELEC promotes economic development, quality infrastructure, and fair public policy in New Jersey and the surrounding region.

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