



Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Shaun C. Van Doren, Freeholder Director

Shaun.vandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Susan J. Soloway, Freeholder Deputy Director

Susan.soloway@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Hunterdon Freeholders: JCP&L Failures Are NJBPU's Responsibility

Hunterdon County's Freeholders have released a letter sent today to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) calling for accountability equally from both Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) and the BPU for the utility's failure to live up to the BPU's 2018 Order on Reliability and Security, and the state agency's failure to monitor JCP&L's performance.

Freeholder Board Director Shaun C. Van Doren stated, "Our residents are angry and frustrated. JCP&L's communications performance, with residents and businesses, and most particularly with county and local emergency response personnel, failed to meet the standards established by the BPU's July 2018 Order, which was entered in response to the March 2018 windstorm."

Freeholder Board Deputy Director Sue Soloway added, "It has been eight years since Hurricane Sandy and over two years since the July 2018 BPU Order and in this latest storm Hunterdon County residents have seen very little in reliability or security from JCP&L, and the BPU must own up to its' responsibility for this failure."

The Hunterdon Freeholders' letter called attention to the breakdown of JCP&L's online reporting mechanism that hindered the county's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and 9-1-1 communications center's ability to coordinate with the utility on downed power lines, blocked roadways, and outages.

"When it came right down to it, JCP&L's system did not work as it was supposed to," Soloway said.



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The Freeholder added, “Our residents could not be more appreciative of the long hours of hard work being put in by power company crews from New Jersey, those who have come here from many other states, and the private contractors, all of whom are making a great effort, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, to help restore power. They are the heroes, not the problem.”

Van Doren and Soloway wrote in the letter to BPU President Joseph L. Fiordaliso, ‘The BPU has a responsibility to ensure that the utility improvements that have been ordered, and for which ratepayers are charged, are followed through on. That apparently has not happened. The public demands accountability equally from both JCP&L and the BPU.’