



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

CLEAN ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE BOARD AND THE NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGARDING FUNDING FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION ECONOMY IN NEW JERSEY)	ORDER AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY
)	
)	DOCKET NO. QO20080562

Party of Record:

Pallavi Madakasira, New Jersey Economic Development Authority

BY THE BOARD:

By this Order, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”) approves the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the Board and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (“NJEDA”) regarding funding for the expansion of the clean energy innovation economy in New Jersey.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Governor Murphy released the state’s 2019 Energy Master Plan on January 27, 2020, which set a goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2050 and outlined a strategy to expand the Clean Energy Innovation Economy in New Jersey through workforce training, investments in developing clean energy knowledge, and the growth of world-class research and development (“New Jersey’s Clean Energy and Clean Tech Ecosystem”).

The 2019 Energy Master Plan recognizes that supporting clean energy and clean tech innovation aligns with two of the Administration’s top priorities:

- i. Ensuring that New Jersey achieves 100% carbon free electricity and an 80% carbon footprint reduction by 2050, while simultaneously addressing long-standing environmental justice issues; and
- ii. Restoring New Jersey’s leadership as the most diverse and inclusive innovation ecosystem in the United States.

The BPU has agreed to provide the NJEDA with \$1.250 million in the BPU's Clean Energy funding to execute programs that strengthen the State's Clean Energy and Clean Tech Ecosystem and encourage the continued development and growth of the green workforce and economy focusing on innovation. To that end, the BPU and the EDA have agreed to a MOU, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14-1 et seq., regarding how the funds will be used.

II. MOU

The MOU establishes that the NJEDA will utilize this funding to execute programs, in conjunction with the New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology ("NJ CSIT"), that support the growth and development of New Jersey's Clean Energy and Clean Tech Ecosystem. Specifically, the funds will support the following initiatives ("Proposed Programs"):

1. A seed grant program to support research and development ("R&D") activities for very early-stage, NJ-based clean tech companies. These grants will aim to enable businesses to continue their work into the proof of concept and prototyping stages, at which point they can more readily attract outside investors and, in some cases, begin to generate revenue. Given the early-stage nature of this ecosystem building activity, NJEDA will execute this program in conjunction with the NJ CSIT. While the NJEDA will work to launch this initiative at the earliest, NJEDA anticipates the seed grant program to launch by December 1, 2020, target awards by March 31, 2021 and be disbursed by June 30, 2021. A clean tech R&D asset mapping and voucher initiative to increase awareness, access, and utilization of the State's physical clean tech innovation-related assets such as testing equipment and specialized fabrication equipment. This initiative would launch an effort to inventory the relevant R&D assets and help facilitate greater third-party access by encouraging more standardized approaches to pricing, certifications/training, and usage agreements. Additionally, the initiative will develop a platform to make relevant asset-sharing information readily accessible to interested individuals and businesses in order to increase access to technology such as testing equipment and specialized fabrication equipment. NJEDA would help stimulate the asset-sharing marketplace by subsidizing the cost of a third party's access to specific R&D assets through a voucher program. NJEDA may partner with the NJ CSIT on this initiative. NJEDA may partner with the NJ CSIT on this initiative. While the NJEDA will work to launch this initiative at the earliest, NJEDA anticipates the asset mapping and voucher initiative to launch by January 31, 2021 and be disbursed by June 30, 2021.

NJEDA will provide to NJBPU quarterly updates on the use of funds. NJEDA will target to launch the programs and utilize the funds no later than June 30, 2021.

NJEDA has not proposed detailed parameters or specifications for any of the Proposed Programs. Accordingly, if NJEDA chooses to not undertake the Proposed Programs by its target date of June 30, 2021, NJEDA shall notify the NJBPU and may propose amendments to this MOU.

NJEDA may undertake the Proposed Programs with the assistance of consultants or contractors retained by NJEDA.

The term of the MOU shall be for five (5) years from the date it is fully executed by both BPU and EDA.

The funding that NJBPU will provide under this MOU is subject to appropriations and the availability of funds.

III. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

In support of achieving New Jersey's clean energy goals, the Board now considers entering into the MOU. This MOU will allow activities essential to restoring New Jersey's leadership as the most diverse and inclusive innovation ecosystem in the United States.

Having thoroughly reviewed the MOU, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** that the MOU sets the proper terms and conditions for EDA's use of BPU funding.


IV. CONCLUSION

The Board, **HEREBY APPROVES** the terms and conditions of the MOU and **HEREBY AUTHORIZES** the execution of the MOU by the President.


The effective date of this Order is September 19, 2020.

DATED: September 9, 2020

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



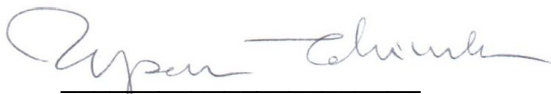
JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER



DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER



UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

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SERVICE LIST

Division of Rate Counsel

Post Office Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director
sbrand@rpa.nj.gov

Brian Lipman, Esq., Litigation Manager
blipman@rpa.nj.gov

Felicia Thomas-Friel, Esq.
ftomas@rpa.nj.gov

Henry Ogden, Esq.
hogden@rpa.nj.gov

New Jersey Economic Development Authority

36 West State Street
PO Box 990
Trenton, NJ 08625

Pallavi Madakasira
Director, Clean Energy – Sector Lead
PMadakasira@njeda.com

Division of Law

Public Utilities Section
R.J. Hughes Justice Complex, 7th Floor West
25 Market Street, P.O. Box 112
Trenton, N.J. 08625

Daren Eppley, Deputy Attorney General
Section Chief
daren.eppley@law.njoag.gov

Pamela L. Owen, Deputy Attorney General
Assistant Section Chief
pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov

Alex Moreau, Deputy Attorney General
alex.moreau@law.njoag.gov

Board of Public Utilities

Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Aida Camacho-Welch
Secretary of the Board
board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Paul Flanagan, Executive Director
paul.flanagan@bpu.nj.gov

Abe Silverman, Chief Counsel
abe.silverman@bpu.nj.gov

Kelly Mooij, Director of Clean Energy
kelly.mooij@bpu.nj.gov

Jim Ferris, Director of New Technology
jim.ferris@bpu.nj.gov

Cynthia Holland, Esq.
cynthia.holland@bpu.nj.gov

Joe DeLosa
joseph.delosa@bpu.nj.gov

Andrea Hart, Esq.
andrea.hart@bpu.nj.gov