

Agenda Date: 12/16/20

Agenda Item: 8F

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 THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROGRAM COMPLIANCE FILING))	ORDER DELAYING THE START OF STAGE TWO OF THE CHARGE UP NEW JERSEY PROGRAM
)	DOCKET NO. QO20030262

Party of Record:

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

This Order changes the start date of Stage Two of the Charge Up New Jersey Program, approved under the Compliance Filing on September 23, 2020.

BACKGROUND:

On April 6, 2020, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") approved revisions to the Fiscal Year 2020 ("FY20") budget for New Jersey's Clean Energy Program ("NJCEP"), as well as the program guidelines for the Charge Up New Jersey electric vehicle ("EV") incentive program ("Program"). The Fiscal Year 2021 ("FY21") Compliance Filing was approved by the Board on September 23, 2020. The intent of the Charge Up New Jersey program is to encourage the purchase or lease of new light-duty plug-in electric vehicles in the State, and assist New Jersey residents with making the switch to driving electric, consistent with the Electric Vehicle Act of 2020 ("EV Act"), N.J.S.A. 48:25-1 et seq.

The Board implemented the Program in two stages – a post-purchase program ("Stage One") and a point-of-sale program ("Stage Two"). Eligibility began on the date of the EV Act signing on January 17, 2020, and Stage One of the Program began on May 27, 2020. Stage One allowed applicants to apply for post-purchase or post-lease EV incentives directly to the program administrator, the Center for Sustainable Energy ("CSE"), on the official program website. Incentives were processed on a first-come, first-serve basis by the program administrator and eligible applicants were issued their incentive in a single payment via check.

Stage Two of the Program seeks to simplify the process for applicants, occurring at the time of the vehicle transaction at a New Jersey car dealership or showroom. The Stage Two incentive will be applied directly to the transaction (point-of-sale) in full, and all paperwork will be facilitated by the EV salesperson or representative.

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The EV Act called for the Board to deposit \$30 million each calendar year towards both stages of the Program respectively. N.J.S.A. 48:25-7(b). In FY20, the Board issued over \$11 million in five months. In the FY21 budget, the Board approved \$23.4 million to fund the incentives and administrative costs of the Program. Due to the success of Stage One, available funds are anticipated to be depleted by the end of 2020, successfully fulfilling the legislative directive of the Program.

The Compliance Filing stated that Stage Two will launch in the fall of 2020; however, due to the success of Stage One of the Program in 2020, funds for Stage Two will not be available until July 1, 2021, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. As such, Staff recommends delaying the start of Stage Two until funds are replenished in Summer 2021.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

In order to achieve the goals set forth in the EV Act and the Compliance Filing, the Board HEREBY FINDS Staff's recommendations to delay the start of Stage Two of the Program reasonable. As such, the Board **HEREBY ORDERS** that Stage Two of the Charge Up New Jersey Program will commence in Summer 2021, and will be based on availability of funds.

The effective date of this Order is December 26, 2020.

DATED: December 16, 2020

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SERVICE LIST

<u>BPU</u>

44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Trenton NJ 08625-0350

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

Christine Sadovy
Chief of Staff
Christine.sadovy@bpu.nj.gov

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

Counsel's Office

Abe Silverman, Esq. General Counsel abe.silverman@bpu.nj.gov

Carol Artale, Esq. carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov

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

Charles Gurkas, Paralegal Charles.Gurkas@bpu.nj.gov

Division of Clean Energy

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

Cathleen Lewis @bpu.nj.gov

Rate Counsel

Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Floor Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

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

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

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

Brian Weeks, Esq. bweeks@rpa.nj.gov

Kurt Lewandowski, Esq. klewando@rpa.nj.gov

Shelly Massey, Paralegal smassey@rpa.nj.gov

Karen Forbes, Secretary kforbes@rpa.nj.gov

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Division of Law

NJ Department of Law and Public Safety Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex Public Utilities Section 25 Market Street, Post Office Box 112 Trenton, NJ 08625

Matko Ilic, Esq. Deputy Attorney General matko.ilic@law.njoag.gov

Michael Beck, Esq.
Deputy Attorney General
michael.beck@law.njoag.gov

Daren Eppley, Esq. Section Chief daren.eppley@law.njoag.gov

Pamela Owen, Esq. Assistant Section Chief pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov