



New Jersey Society for Environmental,  
Economic Development

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## ENERGY – TOP POLICY ISSUES

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### Electric Transmission System Upgrades

Upgrades will add additional electric transmission capacity to the existing transmission system and will help meet future demand. At the same time, the upgrades will address potential reliability issues that have been identified on the current system. Projects that focus on reliability improvements and replacement of aging infrastructure are needed.



### **NJ SEED supports the upgrade and expansion of**

**our electric transmission and local distribution networks**, such as the Bergen-Linden Transmission Corridor Upgrade, to meet the growing demand for electricity, to insure reliability and to provide the opportunity for new renewable sources of electric power to reach consumers.

### The Future of Our Electric Grid

The future electric grid must be in a position to meet all the various challenges: 1) Continue to be safe and reliable while maintaining greater resilience to hazards of all type – extreme weather events, cyber and physical security, 2) Increased sustainability through additional clean energy and energy-efficient resources, 3) Address aging infrastructure.

**NJ SEED urges New Jersey’s Congressional delegation to ensure that Congress, the administration and the FERC pursue policies consistent with these principles.** NJ SEED believes it is crucial that we begin working immediately on upgrading our energy infrastructure and developing clean, affordable sources of generation to replace Oyster Creek’s output so we are prepared when the facility closes in four years. NJ SEED believes that strong federal policy is needed to insure that inter/intrastate transmission lines are planned, sited and upgraded to meet the increasing demand for electricity in the years ahead.

### Expanded Pipeline Infrastructure

Pipelines are the safest and most environmentally friendly way to move energy according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Industry data shows that energy products transported through pipelines reach their destination more than 99.9% of the time. In New Jersey, over 2,200 miles of major natural gas and petroleum product pipelines crisscross New Jersey, in addition to over 68,000 miles of additional pipelines that deliver energy to homes and businesses. In fact, between 2007-2016, the extremely rare event of a fatal lightning strike was twice as likely than any serious incident related to a pipeline. Seventy four percent of New Jersey households utilize gas utility service and pipeline infrastructure, according to the US Census.

Marcellus Shale gas in Pennsylvania is slated to be over 30% cheaper over the next three years than gas supplies traditionally moved to New Jersey from the Gulf of Mexico. New Jersey would benefit by directly accessing this supply, which is the most affordable and abundant energy supply in the country,

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just over 100 miles from our state’s border. **Expanding our natural gas pipeline infrastructure proposed throughout the state will benefit electric power generation, as power plants run on the cleaner and less polluting natural gas, which has half the carbon emissions of coal and a 24/7 reliability factor with baseload energy supply.** As of 2015, New Jersey still had the 10th highest electricity costs in the nation according the EIA, which makes New Jersey less attractive for business growth and retention. Delivering more natural gas supply through pipeline infrastructure will lower costs, increase reliability, and support a cleaner environment.

Additionally, **NJ SEED urges timely consideration by the US Senate of the President’s May 2017 nominees to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).** The Commission lacks a quorum and requires 3 members in order to execute their statutory responsibilities overseeing billions of dollars in interstate pipeline, electric transmission and other energy projects that support reliability and our economy.

**New Alternative Generation:** NJ SEED supports the federal government’s action in developing new, cleaner forms of energy. Off-shore wind while providing additional revenue for the state will also provide New Jersey with an industry of innovation as well as a model of future growth across the country.



**NJ SEED urges the congressional delegation to ensure that Congress, the administration, and the EPA provide regulatory certainty, long-term tax incentives and a streamlined review process for any federal permitting of new alternative and renewable energy in New Jersey, particularly in regards to the proposed offshore wind projects.**

**Environmental Regulations – Reducing Air Emissions**

From 2001-2012 New Jersey reduced CO2 emissions from its power sector by 33%, more than the 30% reduction EPA has set as the 2030 goal for the entire nation. New Jersey’s stationary sources have reduced emissions while trying to remain competitive with dirty facilities to the west of us. Prevailing west-to-east winds carry air pollution from neighboring states into New Jersey, complicating state efforts to comply with federal air quality standards. Modeling by EPA suggests that transported air pollution accounts for much of New Jersey’s air pollution.

**The Cost of Doing Business**

**NJ SEED supports a balanced energy policy that includes efficiency, conservation, diversity and expanded domestic energy supply.** Of paramount importance to New Jersey residents, businesses, and the state of U.S. economy as a whole, is access to a reliable, affordable supply of energy.

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