



## THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

P.O. BOX 6300 / 700 GARRETSON ROAD  
BRIDGEWATER, N.J. 08807-2447  
908/725-6300 EXT. 200 / FAX # 908/707-1235  
e-mail: mayor@bridgewaternj.gov

**PATRICIA FLANNERY**  
Mayor

September 6, 2007

Jeanne Fox  
President  
Board of Public Utilities  
Two Gateway Center  
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Ms. Fox:


Thank you for the opportunity to present suggested changes to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Vegetation Management rules and regulations. The impact of tree clearing along the transmission lines has had a detrimental effect upon property owners within Bridgewater Township and throughout New Jersey who border these facilities. The safety of maintaining transmission right of ways goes without question and we support the utility companies in their efforts in this regard.

Our objection and subsequent work in drafting proposed rule changes, stems from the disagreement we have with the wholesale tree clearing of the entire right of way and the resultant decline in both property value and quality of life our residents have experienced due to this change in established practice.

Over the last few months our residents have met weekly to craft changes to the proposed rules that would maintain the safety of the transmission of electricity and natural gas while also maintaining an environmentally sound buffer area where vegetation could remain without jeopardizing safety or reliability.

Please review our report and suggested rule revisions and give all possible consideration to implementing these changes for the continued benefit and protection of our residents. I welcome your comments and the opportunity to appear before your Board.

Sincerely,

  
Patricia Flannery  
Mayor

C: NJLOM  
Residents