



THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

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PATRICIA FLANNERY
Mayor

February 12, 2008

Jeanne Fox
President
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center, 8th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

David K. Richter, Esquire
Office of Environmental Counsel
PSE&G
80 Park Plaza, TC5
Newark, NJ 07102-4194

Re: Vegetation Management Regulations/N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.1

Commission President Fox:

On behalf of the residents of the Township of Bridgewater, I wish to thank you for visiting Bridgewater Township February 11, 2008 in order to gain a first-hand perspective of the impact of the vegetation management rules that have been proposed for adoption by BPU.

During the meeting and the site inspection to the PSE&G right-of-way on Van Holten Road, discussions regarding vegetation management in the buffer zones, adoption and implementation of the proposed regulations for vegetation management, and tree species, which are not subject to cutting and pruning in the "border zone", took place.

As a supplement to these discussions on February 11, 2008, we would appreciate if you could provide us with written comments, responses and confirmation to the following:

1. PSE&G agrees to suspend all vegetation management activities in Bridgewater until the BPU can complete the three month review of rules and regulations. Emergency work would be allowed on an as-needed basis.

2. PSE&G had relayed during the visit that they maintain an eight (8) foot buffer zone on either side of the one hundred and fifty (150) foot easement right-of-way with trimming of existing growth.

3. Within the buffer zone, tree species, which grow to no more than fifteen (15) feet in height, will not be cut and removed from the buffer zone.

4. Identification of the types/species of trees, which may remain undisturbed in the border zone. It was my understanding that fruit trees, including peach, pear and apple trees, may remain in the border zone.

5. Review of the process going forward in connection with the adoption and implementation of the vegetation management regulations as found in N.J.A.C. 14:5-9.1, et seq.

In addition to the above, it would be appreciated if copies of the photographs and other documentation, including schematics and drawings, which were utilized by PSE&G representative, David Howarth, be provided.

Thank you for your cooperation and personal attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you to adopt rules that will maintain electric distribution reliability and continue to allow vegetative growth in the border zone to remain.

Sincerely,



Patricia Flannery
Mayor

C: Senator Kip Bateman
Assemblywoman Marcia Karrow
Ralph LaRosa, President PSE&G
Joseph Fiordaliso, Commissioner BPU