

## **NJBPU Hearing On Utility Storm Response Coming To Hunterdon County**

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU), the agency that regulates power companies, including JCP&L, has announced that several hearings will be held around the state regarding the company's response to winter storms Quinn and Riley. One of those hearings is to be scheduled in Hunterdon County.

Freeholder Board Director Matt Holt stated at Tuesday's Freeholder meeting, "We welcome that news. And have to think that the public attention that was drawn to the response issues in our County had something to do with the BPU's decision to come here.

As soon as we are aware of the date of the hearing, we will advise the public."

Holt pointed out, "Following Hurricane Irene in 2011, the BPU made 38 recommendations for JCP&L to implement with regard to infrastructure improvements, training, preparedness, communication, and restoration. I believe the public will be interested in learning how many of those recommendations have been implemented over the last nearly 7 years."

The Freeholder Director added, "As most know, I have been critical of the company's storm response. Among other things, I think communication with the public should have been much better than it was.

However, I join my fellow Freeholders, and the people of Hunterdon County, in our admiration and appreciation for the men and women who were part of the over 6,000 line workers, hazard responders and assessors, forestry crews, job dispatchers and electrical contractors who were all part of the JCP&L crews working to restore power in the field, during and after the storms.

Many working under the most adverse conditions and very long, continuous hours. Those workers were not part of the problem and they were very much part of the solution. They have our thanks."