

RESOLUTION 2026-172

REQUESTING NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY ENFORCEMENT OF THE 2025 STAFFING MANDATE AND RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE EQUITY AGAINST JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT (JCP&L)

WHEREAS, residents of Colts Neck Township have experienced numerous power outages and substantial delays in having power restored by Jersey Central Power & Light (“JCP&L”); and

WHEREAS, most of the homes in Colts Neck Township have well and septic systems and as such, when there is a power failure, the residents not only experience a loss in power but also have no water or sewer system. As a result, they are the hardest impacted by loss of power; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of Colts Neck Township submits this Resolution in support of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“NJBP”) to demand an immediate end to the regulatory delays surrounding **NJBPU Docket No. E02507053 (Order to Show Cause Regarding JCP&L Reliability Levels and Staffing)**; and

WHEREAS, JCP&L is legally mandated under **N.J.S.A. § 48:2-23** to provide “safe, adequate and proper service” to all New Jersey consumers on a non-discriminatory basis under **N.J.A.C. 14:3-3.1**; and

WHEREAS, JCP&L has systematically downsized its internal, full-time local road crews over the last decade, choosing to outsource critical restoration and maintenance infrastructure to out-of-state contractors to maximize corporate profits for FirstEnergy Corp; and

WHEREAS, this severe staffing deficit forces rural, low-density municipalities like Colts Neck Township to suffer discriminatory, multi-day delays in emergency power restoration because crews prioritize high-density urban areas; and

WHEREAS, a multi-day power outage represents an immediate, localized public health and sanitation emergency for Colts Neck Township residents due to our universal reliance on electrical infrastructure to power private water wells and septic systems; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of Colts Neck Township that it requests the Board of Public Utilities to demand an immediate end to the regulatory delays surrounding NJBP, including but not limited to:

1. **REJECT WEAK SETTLEMENTS:** We demand that the NJBP reject any backdoor settlement or consent order that does not legally mandate JCP&L to permanently increase its full-time internal, localized field crew headcount in Monmouth County.
2. **ENFORCE THE \$44 MILLION PENALTY:** We demand that the State aggressively enforce the recommended administrative fines against JCP&L and forbid the utility from passing these legal or penalty costs onto consumers.
3. **MANDATE ROE COMPRESSION:** We demand that the Division of Rate Counsel petition to strip JCP&L of its allowed corporate profit margins (Return on Equity) until the automated “looping” upgrades for the Cream Ridge and Hornerstown Substation circuits are 100% complete.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be submitted to the Board of Public Utilities and the Monmouth County Clerk and be posted on the Township’s website.

I, Kathleen Capristo, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of a Resolution passed by the Township Committee of Colts Neck Township during the regular meeting held on the 9th day of September 2026.

Kathleen Capristo

Kathleen Capristo, Municipal Clerk

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Viola		X			
Deputy Mayor Buzzetta	S	X			
Rizzuto		X			
Torchia Buss	M	X			
Tobia		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					