

NEW JERSEY I.B.E.W.

Representing 35,000 Members

Construction Locals

102, 164, 269, 351, 400, 456

Utility Locals

94, 210, 327, 1289, 1293
1298, 1303, 1309, 1820, SC U-3



Manufacturing Locals

1158, 1940, 1992, 2066

Telephone Local

827

Railroad Locals

454, 604, 864, 1684, S.C. #7



219 Franklin St. • Hightstown, New Jersey 08520 • (609) 426-9702 - Fax (609) 426-9709 - Web Site: www.njibew.org

July 23, 2008

Lance Miller
Office of Policy and Planning
Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Re: Energy Master Plan

Dear Mr. Miller:

On behalf of the 35,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in New Jersey, I am writing in support of two key provisions of the draft Energy Master Plan.

The Master Plan has a bold goal to reduce energy use in the state by 20% by 2020. Although building code changes and modern appliances will mean greater efficiency in new construction, by far the bigger part of the reduction in energy use will have to come from efficiency upgrades and retrofits to existing buildings. To meet the 2020 goal, the Master Plan estimates a need for improvements to 300,000 buildings a year between now and then.

To get the job done, the Master Plan calls for a Green Collar Jobs Initiative to expand the skilled labor force needed to evaluate, design and install energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The state's electrical workers – the members of the IBEW who work at the electric utilities and in construction – are key to this effort.

New Jersey IBEW has already begun working with the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development on a pilot program to train energy auditors in Trenton and Newark. Many other skills will be needed, such as plumbing and pipefitting, ironwork, carpentry and insulation, and the apprenticeship programs

with IBEW locals and with other construction trades can help to provide the necessary training.

We agree with the Master Plan's authors that increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy resources not only can save money for homeowners and improve business's bottom line – helping to keep jobs in New Jersey – but will also create new jobs and new careers.

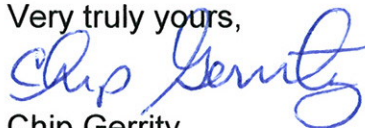
As important as improvements in energy efficiency and increased use of renewable power will be, however, the Master Plan recognizes that New Jersey will continue to need clean, reliable, round-the-clock conventional power. And when looking at the state's (and, ultimately, the federal government's) mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Master Plan also recognizes that that new generation may well be nuclear.

In fact, more than 50% of New Jersey's energy production today is from nuclear power. Even with extensions to their operating licenses, New Jersey will need to replace the state's nuclear fleet in order to meet the 2050 goals for greenhouse gas emissions.

Governor Corzine gets it, and he also knows that to meet the challenge, we must begin now to plan for the next generation of nuclear generation. We support that effort. And we support the Master Plan's recommendation for an energy council to coordinate the siting and permitting of new generation and transmission facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views.

Very truly yours,



Chip Gerrity
President
New Jersey IBEW