



October 12, 2011

Municipal Offices
1070 Route 202/31
Ringoes, NJ 08551-1051
(908) 782-8536
Fax (908) 782-1967


President Lee Solomon
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
2 Gateway Center, 8th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear President Solomon:

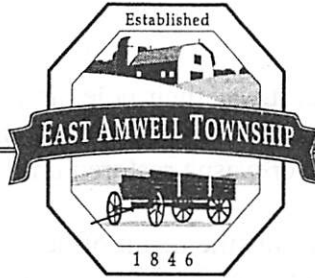
Enclosed you will find an MP3 disc from the October 5, 2011, Township Committee meeting in East Amwell Township. John Anderson, Hunterdon County Area Manager for Jersey Central Power & Light, was present to hear feedback from the residents. Our Mayor, C. Larry Tatsch, suggested that a copy of the disc be sent to you for your records. I'm also enclosing the draft minutes of the meeting for your perusal.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide community comments to the BPU.

Sincerely,


Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Enclosures
CC: Township Committee



September 28, 2011

Municipal Offices
1070 Route 202/31
Ringoes, NJ 08551-1051
(908) 782-8536
Fax (908) 782-1967

Hon. Lee Solomon, President
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Dear Mr. Solomon:

We spoke briefly after the JCP&L Summit in Morristown, NJ, last Friday, September 23. I mentioned that I wrote to Eric Hartsfield regarding issues that I gave testimony on at the meeting, and you asked me to send you a letter, too. I have not heard back from Eric yet.

The first issue that I stated at the meeting regards JCP&L's priorities for restoring power. Basically, they prioritize higher density population centers over more rural areas. This generally makes sense, except for one problem: higher density areas usually have city water and city sewers, whereas rural areas depend on wells and septic systems. Well pumps need electricity and many modern septic systems also have pumps. Since a residence without water and septic disposal quickly becomes uninhabitable, consideration should be given to these areas so that they are not at the bottom of the priority list.

The second complaint is not directly related to Tropical Storm Irene, except that a pole failure occurred just after the storm. A pole on the west side of Rileyville Road (a county road) near the corner of Saddle Shop Road had been leaning precariously toward the road for several years. Over a year ago, the resident nearest the pole called JCP&L to warn them of the leaning pole and request a replacement. JCP&L sent out a crew but stated that the pole belonged to Verizon and they were not responsible for it. The resident then called Verizon and they also inspected the pole but declined to do anything. An identification band on the pole begins with "BT," which I am told stands for "Bell Tel." The pole continued to lean at an increasing angle, pulled sideways by the power lines and phone cables. If needed, I will likely be able to obtain corroborating information from the resident.

The pole survived Irene but several hours after all winds ceased early in the morning of August 29, the pole broke about a third of the way up from the ground. The pole had already been showing signs of failure before the break. The pole fell into the road, breaking open the attached transformer and spilling its oil contents on the road and in a ditch. I made numerous calls to JCP&L during the days following the pole break. Rileyville Road was closed for traffic, with wires, the pole top, and oil on the road. Finally a hazmat crew began the oil cleanup but JCP&L

couldn't seem to convince Verizon that it was their pole. It wasn't until Sunday September 4 that the pole was finally replaced by Verizon. Replacement of the transformer and re-attaching the wires took several more hours and power wasn't restored until Sept. 5.

I strongly believe that this pole failure was the result of negligence on the part of Verizon and to a lesser extent, JCP&L. When I made this claim to our Verizon Director of External Affairs, she provided the excuse that Verizon couldn't replace the pole without JCP&L removing the wires first. That, I reminded her, was called "coordination," and it should be an integral part of any pole leasing agreement.

Because of the negligence, primarily on Verizon's part, I believe that they should reimburse all residents affected by that broken pole for expenses incurred during that part of the power failure due to the pole failure – about two days. If that is not within the BPU's ability to enforce, at a minimum, Verizon should send a letter of apology to the affected residents. I believe that represents less than fifty homes. Thank you for your help.

Regards,



C. Larry Tatsch
Mayor, East Amwell Township

CC: Township Committee
Township Administrator Matheny

Donald M. Lynch
President

September 27, 2011



Mayor Larry Tatsch
East Amwell Township
1070 Route 202/31
Ringoos, NJ 08551-1051

Dear Mayor Tatsch:

Thank you for attending the forum hosted last Friday by the League of Municipalities. It was an important opportunity for us to hear firsthand some of the steps we can take to improve communications with local officials during emergency situations.

With the input we received at the forum, we will work toward improvements that will help ensure information is shared in a more timely and effective manner in the future. We will keep you informed as those plans are finalized.

Once again, we appreciate your cooperation – and please don't hesitate to call if we can provide any assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Lynch
President
Jersey Central Power & Light

100-100000-100000



100-100000-100000

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100-100000-100000

Terri Stahl

From: Larry Tatsch [ltatsch@eastamwelltownship.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2011 9:21 PM
To: eric.hartsfield@bpu.state.nj.us
Cc: Terri Stahl; Timothy L. Matheny; Tim Mathews; Patricia Cregar; Peter Kneski; lenox, Linda
Subject: Power Outages - JCP&L and Verizon

Eric Hartsfield
Director of Consumer Complaints
NJ Board of Public Utilities

Dear Eric,

I would like to file a complaint regarding the inordinate time it took to restore power in East Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, after Tropical Storm Irene resulted in only modest winds in our area. We observed NO JCP&L trucks in our township until Friday morning, Sept. 2, and then almost all were out-of-state contract crews. Some power was restored on Friday, six days after power loss, but many homes did not get their power back until Monday, September 5.

This second complaint is not directly related to Irene, except that a pole failure occurred just after the storm. A pole on the west side of Rileyville Road (a county road) near the corner of Saddle Shop Road had been leaning precariously toward the road for several years. Over a year ago, the resident nearest the pole called JCP&L to warn them of the leaning pole and request a replacement. JCP&L sent out a crew but stated that the pole belonged to Verizon and they were not responsible for it. The resident then called Verizon and they also inspected the pole but declined to do anything. An identification band on the pole begins with "BT," which I am told stands for "Bell Tel." The pole continued to lean at an increasing angle, pulled sidewise by the power lines and phone cables. If needed, I will likely be able to obtain corroborating information from the resident.

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Because of the negligence, primarily on Verizon's part, I believe that they should reimburse all residents affected by that broken pole for expenses incurred during the power failure. Kindly respond that you have received this request and let me know if there are any further steps that I should take. Thank you for your help.

Regards,
Larry Tatsch
Mayor, East Amwell Township