



14TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SENATOR LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

Assistant Majority Leader
Vice-Chair, Senate Environment & Energy Cmte
Vice-Chair, Senate Law & Public Safety Committee
Senate Budget & Appropriations Committee
SenGreenstein@njleg.org

ASSEMBLYMAN WAYNE P. DEANGELO

Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore
Vice-chair, Assembly Telecommunications & Utilities Cmte.
Assembly Labor Committee
AsmDeAngelo@njleg.org

ASSEMBLYMAN DANIEL R. BENSON

Vice-chair, Assembly Health & Senior Services Cmte.
Assembly Law & Public Safety Committee
AsmBenson@njleg.org

December 12, 2012

Mr. Donald M. Lynch
President
Jersey Central Power & Light
331 Newman Springs Road, Building 3
Suite 325
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Dear Mr. Lynch:

As the state continues to recover from the devastation of Superstorm Sandy, there is no time like the present to begin to gather and analyze storm response and challenges faced during the days following its impact. For many residents in our district, multi-day power outages have become a regular occurrence during menacing weather at least once per year.

With each outage, frustration is mounting over the perception of an energy system that cannot meet their needs. Residents see little improvement to the energy infrastructure to prevent outages or methods used in order to communicate with them during these extended outages. Yet, customers have been asked once again to pay higher energy.

As such, we call upon Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP & L) to hold a town hall forum in Monroe Township (Middlesex County) with the central Jersey residents to answer questions regarding the cause for increasing outages, power restoration, communication with customers as well as ways the company plans to address system shortfalls. Holding the forum in Monroe Township -- while allowing access to all customers in the surrounding areas -- would be crucial given the large population of senior citizen residents who are unable to travel long distances.

Far too many residents were unable to obtain any information about restoration or seek alternative shelter as the outages stretched past the initial seven to 10 day estimates surrounding Superstorm Sandy. Given the growing frequency with which power outages are occurring, an open and two-way conversation with customers about the stability of their energy service is long overdue. There needs to be a frank discussion regarding the reasonable expectations of customers as well as a true understanding of what steps their energy provider is taking to maintain a system capable of meeting these goals.

1249 SOUTH RIVER RD, SUITE 105
CRANBURY, NJ 08512
P: (609) 395-9911 F: (609) 395-9032

4621A NOTTINGHAM WAY
HAMILTON TWP., NJ 08690
P: (609) 631-7501 F: (609) 631-7531

3691A NOTTINGHAM WAY
HAMILTON SQUARE., NJ 08690
P: (609) 631-0198 F: (609) 631-0324

We are confident in the ability of policy and industry experts to provide analytical data however, the public must be directly engaged by the energy providers to ensure that their direct experiences are captured. Many residents who contacted our offices simply could not get answers as they faced an automated phone system or an indifferent JCP&L representative when asking for information regarding their precarious situations as temperatures in their homes became unbearable.

We ask that JCP & L schedule a town hall in Monroe Township in the immediate future and make all efforts to communicate with residents of the surrounding communities it serves to notify them of the forum.

We look forward to your prompt response on this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Linda Greenstein



Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo



Assemblyman Daniel Benson

cc: Julie Holman
State Governmental Affairs Director