



## Board of Chosen Freeholders

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Hunterdon Freeholder Director: BPU Now Responsible For Follow Through On Storm Report

## County Concerns Addressed In Report

Hunterdon County's recommendations regarding utility power outage communications have been included in the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Major Storm Events of March 2018 report and recommendations, issued on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Freeholder Board Director Matt Holt stated, "The report is a good step by the BPU. We are appreciative that the issue surrounding utility company communication to residents during the March storms, which the County brought to the BPU's attention, is addressed."

Holt added, "The report calls for improved infrastructure investment and allocation of resources during storms by utility companies, which is an absolute necessity. Now the BPU is responsible for ensuring compliance by the utility companies."

Hunterdon County Public Safety Director George Wagner, who oversaw the Hunterdon County emergency and public safety response during the March storms, testified on behalf of the County at the NJBPU's May 4th public hearing in Hunterdon County.

At that time Wagner noted that engagement with the public by Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L) was inaccurate, that the span of control for area managers appeared too unwieldy, and previous recommendations for establishing localized strike teams had not been implemented, among other issues.

In reviewing the BPU report, Wagner said, "I am pleased to see the recently released BPU Report listed recommendations that included concerns expressed in regard to storm response, span of control, and communications with customers.

Additionally, my hope is that these recommendations become action items and are swiftly implemented by utility companies, as we enter into the 2018 Hurricane Season."

The BPU report can be reviewed by copying and pasting the following into your web browser:  
<http://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/pdf/boardorders/2018/20180725/7-25-18-6A.pdf>.