

A FirstEnergy Company

James Austin Meehan, Esq. (610) 921-6783 (330) 315-9263 (Fax)

January 23, 2024

#### **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY**

Sherri L. Golden, Secretary New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 Board.Secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Re: Jersey Central Power & Light Company's Notice of Intention to Discontinue the NJ

PowerGuard Program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:4-3.6(w)

**Stipulation of Settlement** Docket No. EO23110792

Dear Secretary Golden:

Attached please find for filing a fully executed Stipulation of Settlement in the above-referenced matter. This Stipulation of Settlement fully resolves this matter. Copies of this filing are being provided by electronic mail only. No physical copies will follow. Please kindly confirm your receipt and acceptance of this filing by electronic mail at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

James Lus Meeter

James Austin Meehan

Counsel for Jersey Central Power & Light Company

cc: Service List

#### STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Jersey Central Power & Light Company's Notice of Intention to Discontinue the NJ PowerGuard Program Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:4-3.6(w)

: BPU Docket No. EO23110792

· :

: Stipulation of Settlement

James Austin Meehan, Esq. (FirstEnergy Service Company), on behalf of Jersey Central Power & Light Company

T. David Wand, Esq., Managing Attorney – Electric, Bethany Rocque-Romaine. Esq., Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel, and Robert M. Glover, Esq., Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel, on behalf of the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director)

**Steven A.** Chaplar, Deputy Attorney General, for the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Matthew J. Platkin, Attorney General of New Jersey)

#### TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

This Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") is hereby made and executed as of the dates indicated below by and among Jersey Central Power & Light Company ("JCP&L" or "Company"), the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board Staff"), and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") (collectively, "Parties").

The Parties do hereby join in recommending that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") issue an Order approving the Stipulation, without modification.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On October 19, 1993, the Board approved JCP&L's Conditioned Power Service Program ("CPS"), consisting of JCP&L's Consumer Electronics Protection Program ("CEP") and its Power Disturbance Protection Program, as optional tariffed utility services as filed and modified.

Thereafter, the Company established its application of the CEP Program, NJ PowerGuard ("NJ PowerGuard Program"). Under the NJ PowerGuard Program, JCP&L offered, as a competitive service, a multistage surge suppression service to protect sensitive electronic and/or other equipment from power surge damage. Subject to certain conditions, the Company installed a meter socket adapter ("MSA") in tandem with individual surge suppressors, and provided the manufactures' warranty protection for equipment damage in exchange for a surcharge on the customer's electric bill.

On October 31, 2023, JCP&L filed a petition and supporting documentation seeking Board approval to cease providing the NJ PowerGuard Program by withdrawing this competitive service and any warranty protection pertaining thereto ("2023 NJ PowerGuard Petition"). In the 2023 NJ PowerGuard Petition, JCP&L explained that discontinuing the NJ PowerGuard Program would not adversely impact the ability of the Company to provide safe, adequate, and proper electric service to its customers. In addition, to facilitate JCP&L's transition out of the NJ PowerGuard Program, the Company would provide written notice to affected customers 60 days in advance of the intended discontinuation date. *See* Attachment A. Following the filing of the 2023 NJ PowerGuard Petition, the Parties engaged in discovery.

#### **STIPULATION**

The undersigned Parties DO HEREBY STIPULATE AND AGREE as follows:

1. JCP&L shall cease providing the NJ PowerGuard Program service, including the warranty protection against damaged electric surges provided therein, and remove the JCP&L's Rider CEP Tariff Sheet. *See* Attachments B and C.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jersey Central Power & Light Company, Tariff for Service, Original Sheet No. 60 (Rider CEP – Consumer Electronics Protection Service), approved October 28, 2020, Docket No. ER20020146.

- 2. If any customer affected by discontinuance of NJ PowerGuard Program requests removal of the MSA equipment, JCP&L will remove the MSA equipment at no charge to the customer. JCP&L may not collect any costs of removal in rates.
- 3. JCP&L will provide affected customers written notice, at least 60 days in advance of the intended discontinuation date, containing the following: 1) the effective end date of the NJ PowerGuard Program, 2) an offer to remove the equipment at the customer's request at no charge to the customer, 3) an explanation that all billing related to the NJ PowerGuard Program will conclude on a date certain, and 4) a phone number to contact JCP&L with any questions regarding this change.
- 4. Discontinuance of the NJ PowerGuard Program will not adversely affect the ability of the Company to provide safe, adequate, and proper electric service to its customers.
- 5. The Parties agree that, if this Stipulation obtains Board approval, JCP&L shall submit a compliance filing with updated Rider CEP tariff sheets reflecting removal of Rider CEP consistent with this Stipulation, which shall be in clean and marked forms and consistent with Attachments B and C, respectively.
- 6. Upon the execution of any stipulation resolving this matter, JCP&L agrees no costs to ratepayers will result from the winding down of the PowerGuard Program and any costs incurred subsequent to the execution of this stipulation will be the sole responsibility of JCP&L, not its ratepayers.
- 7. If approved by the Board, the Parties agree that upon the effective date of an Order memorializing such Board approval, 1) all issues related to JCP&L's 2023 NJ PowerGuard Petition are deemed resolved, 2) the Company's costs shall remain subject to audit by the Board

and 3) nothing in this Stipulation shall preclude, nor prohibit, the Board from taking any actions determined to be appropriate as a result of any such audit.

#### **CONCLUSION**

- 8. The Parties agree that this Stipulation contains mutual balancing and interdependent clauses and is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety. In the event any particular provision of this Stipulation is not accepted and approved in its entirety by the Board, or is modified by a court of competent jurisdiction, then any Party aggrieved thereby shall not be bound to proceed with this Stipulation and shall have the right, upon written notice to all other Parties within ten (10) days after receipt of any such adverse decision, to litigate all issues addressed herein to a conclusion. More particularly, in the event this Stipulation is not adopted in its entirety by the Board in an appropriate Order, or is modified by a court of competent jurisdiction, then any Party hereto is free, upon the timely provision of such written notice, to pursue its then available legal remedies with respect to all issues addressed in this Stipulation, as though this Stipulation had not been signed. The Parties agree that this Stipulation shall be binding on them for all purposes herein.
- 9. It is specifically understood and agreed that this Stipulation represents a negotiated agreement and, except as otherwise expressly provided herein:
  - a. By executing this Stipulation, no Party waives any rights it possesses under any prior Stipulation, except where the terms of this Stipulation supersede such prior Stipulation; and
  - b. The contents of this Stipulation shall not be considered, cited, or used by any of the undersigned Parties as an indication of any Party's position on

any related or other issue litigated in any other proceeding or forum, except to enforce the terms of this Stipulation.

9. This Stipulation may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be considered one and the same agreement and shall become effective when one or more counterparts have been signed by each of the Parties.

WHEREFORE, the Parties hereto have duly executed and do respectfully submit this Stipulation to the Board and recommend that the Board issue a Final Decision and Order adopting and approving this Stipulation in its entirety in accordance with the terms hereof.

[SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE]

By: Yamus Lus Melhan
J
James Austin Meehan, Esq.
Counsel for Jersey Central Power & Light Company
Dated: <u>January 18, 2024</u>
DDIANO AMBRAN EGO
BRIAN O. LIPMAN, ESQ.
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL
By: Robert Glove
Robert Glover
Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel
Dated: _January 23, 2024
MATTHEW J. PLATKIN
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
ATTORNEY FOR STAFF OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
By:
Steven A. Chaplar
Deputy Attorney General

By: James Lus Melhon
James Austin Meehan, Esq.
Counsel for Jersey Central Power & Light Company
Dated: <u>January 18, 2024</u>
BRIAN O. LIPMAN, ESQ. DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL
By:
Robert Glover
Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel
Dated:
MATTHEW J. PLATKIN ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY ATTORNEY FOR STAFF OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
By: the first state of the stat
Steven A. Chaplar
Deputy Attorney General
Dated: <u>January 19, 2024</u>



[JCP&L logo]

[DATE]

[FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME]
[BILLING ADDRESS W/HOUSE NO]
[BILLING CITY], [BILLING STATE] [BILLING ZIP]

Re: Discontinuation of Jersey Central Power & Light PowerGuard Surge Protection Program

Account Number: [ACCOUNT NUMBER]

Service Address: [SERVICE ADDRESS W/HOUSE NO]

[SERVICE CITY], [SERVICE STATE] [SERVICE ZIP]

Dear < Name>,

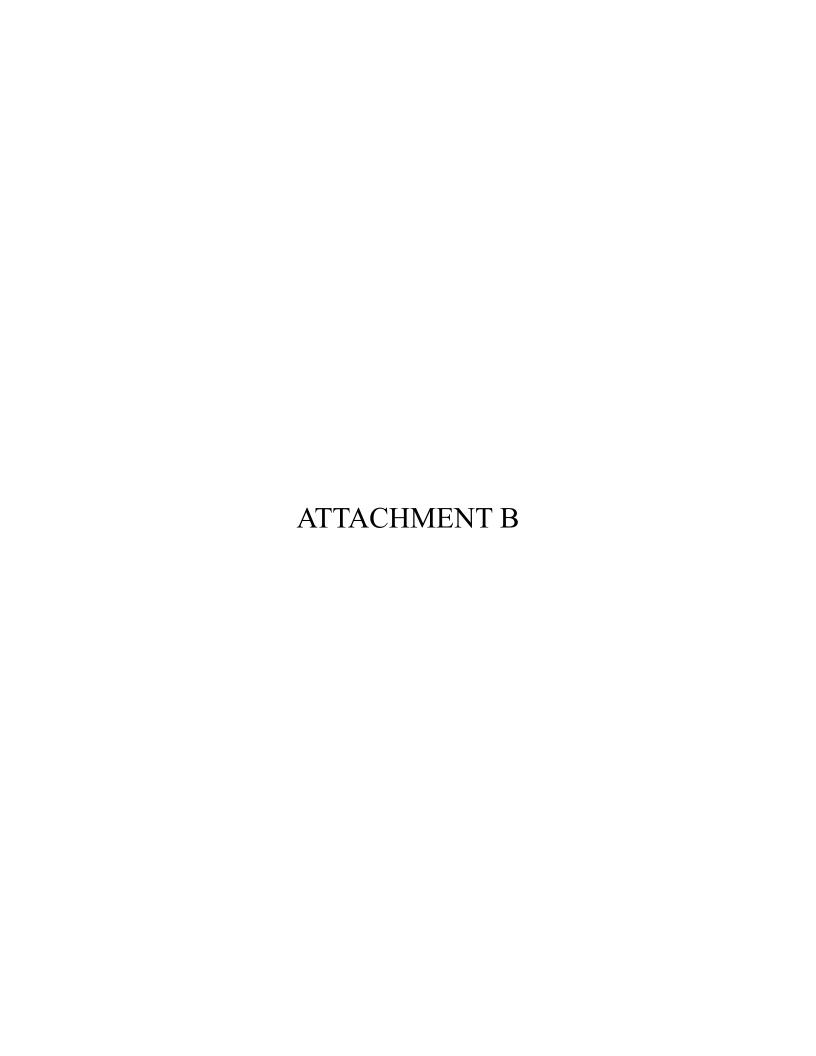
Due to the unavailability of new equipment to repair or replace meter socket adapters, we will be discontinuing the PowerGuard Surge Protection Program as of 03/31/2023.

As a result, your PowerGuard Surge Protection Program will be cancelled on March 31, 2023, and you will no longer be charged monthly for the program. We will not be collecting your meter socket adapter unless you request it.

If you have questions regarding the PowerGuard Surge Protection Program, please call us at 1-800-505-7283.

Sincerely,

Jersey Central Power & Light Customer Service



BPU No. 13 ELECTRIC - PART III	Original Sheet No. 60
Reserved for Future Use	

Issued: Effective:

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BPU No. 13 ELECTRIC - PART III	Original Sheet No. 61
Reserved for Future Use	

Filed pursuant to Order of Board of Public Utilities

Docket No. dated

Effective:

Issued:



#### **BPU No. 13 ELECTRIC - PART III**

Original Sheet No. 60

# Rider CEP Consumer Electronics Protection ServiceReserved for Future Use

**RESTRICTION:** This Rider is closed to new enrollment as of March 3, 1999.

**AVAILABILITY:** Rider CEP had been available for customers which desire that the Company provide protection from power fluctuations, surges and other power disturbances. Service under this Rider is restricted to service entrance and equipment compatibility.

A single meter socket surge suppression device is necessary on the service entrance supplying power to the premises to protect internal wiring against major power line spikes and surges. Electrical receptacle outlet surge suppressors are available for receptacles within the customer's premise. Such receptacle outlet suppressors provide protection against surges to more sensitive electronics, and are only available when a meter socket surge suppression device is installed. Uninterruptible power supply units are available for use with individual electronic equipment.

	Including	– Excluding
MONTHLY CHARGES:	SUT	SUT
Meter socket surge suppression device - single phase:	\$2.93	\$2.75
Meter socket surge suppression device - three phase:	<del>\$5.33</del>	\$5.00
Electrical receptacle outlet surge suppressor - 2 outlet:	<del>\$0.64</del>	\$0.60
Electrical receptacle outlet surge suppressor - 4 outlet:	\$0.80	<del>\$0.75</del>
Uninterruptible power supply unit - 0.75 KVA:	\$21.33	\$20.00
Uninterruptible power supply unit - 1.00 KVA:	\$26.66	\$25.00
Uninterruptible power supply unit - 1.50 KVA:	\$31.99	\$30.00

#### **TERM OF CONTRACT:**

A one-year term of contract is required, renewable thereafter on a month-to-month basis.

#### **TERMS OF PAYMENT:**

Charges applicable under this Rider will be rendered on the customer's bill for electric service. Such bills are due when rendered and become overdue when payment is not received by the Company on or before the due date specified on the bill. Overdue bills thereafter may become subject to a late payment charge as described in Section 3.19, Part II.

Issued: October 30, 2020 Effective: December 1, 2020

#### **BPU No. 13 ELECTRIC - PART III**

Original Sheet No. 61

# Rider CEP Consumer Electronics Protection Service Reserved for Future Use

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- The Company will install and remove the meter socket surge suppressor device and deliver the electrical receptacle outlet surge suppressors and/or Uninterruptible power supply equipment to the customer.
- Customers utilizing CEP service provided under this Rider shall contact the Company in order to arrange the return of such equipment to the Company, upon termination of this Service, in the manner specified by the Company. Customers failing to arrange to return such equipment to the Company, shall be required to pay a charge equivalent to the Company's current replacement cost for such equipment.
- The Company shall not be liable for any damage or injury arising from the improper use of equipment supplied under this Rider or for any costs or damages attributable to the loss of the customer's business, production or facilities resulting from the failure of such equipment.
- 4) The Company will provide the applicable manufacturer's warranty associated with the meter socket surge suppressor device and/or electrical receptacle outlet surge suppressor.
- 5) Disconnection and subsequent reconnection of Consumer Electronics Protection Service at the same location shall be unavailable as of March 3, 1999. However, if a customer transfers service from one location to another location within the Company's service areas, the customer may transfer the CEP service to the new location.

Issued: October 30, 2020 Effective: December 1, 2020

# Jersey Central Power & Light Company's Notice of Intention to Discontinue the NJ PowerGuard Program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:4-3.6(w) BPU Docket No. EO23110792

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#### **Division of Law**

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## JCP&L (continued)

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