BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE
RESOLUTION 12216

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES (BPU) AND NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES OF NEW JERSEY PUBLIC UTILITIES, SPECIFICALLY PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS (PSE&G), AND MAKING CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS IN THAT REGARD

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2012, due to Hurricane Sandy, the Northeast experienced an historic and crippling loss of power, leaving 4.5 million people in the Northeast and almost all residents and businesses within the Borough of Hillsdale without power and causing billions in damage and devastation statewide; and

WHEREAS, almost all residents within the Borough were without power for up to thirteen days, a situation which severely impacted many economically and compromised their physical and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, neither those without power nor government officials were able to consistently obtain reliable information regarding the status or timeframes for restoration; and

WHEREAS, many local officials and other elected and political leaders have made public their individual but unified frustration with the above-mentioned concerns; and

WHEREAS, the BPU should require utilities to provide authoritative, informed spokespeople to take complaints from customers and provide information in the municipal building of any municipality where more than 5% of customers are without services for more than one day; and

WHEREAS, BPU should set and enforce stronger standards for accuracy and timeliness of the information, specially online information, utilities provide about outages and projected restoration timelines; and

Council member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
DeRosa, Anthony		x	x			
Frank, Douglas	x		x			
Giancarlo, Michael			x			
Hanlon, Marie			x			
Kelley, Thomas				x		
Looes, Chrisoula			x			

Adopted: December 11, 2012

Susan Witkowski
Municipal Clerk

Max Arnowitz
Mayor

WHEREAS, the BPU should re-evaluate and improve the process by which utilities collect, manage and assign repairs during extreme weather events, including for out-of-state workers; and

WHEREAS, BPU should require utilities to issue pre-scheduled twice-daily detailed reports to officials in municipalities experiencing service interruptions, which would include an update to previously reported status of restoration as well as a schedule of intended repairs for a minimum the next twelve hours; and

WHEREAS, all state utility companies, including PSE&G, should be required to have its climate change preparedness plan and emergency preparedness and response plan approved by the State of New Jersey; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, on behalf of Borough residents and businesses, recommends that the BPU and New Jersey Legislature conduct an investigation of how PSE&G manages information, communicates and prepares and responds to extreme power outages, and for the New Jersey Legislature to compel PSE&G and all public utility companies through legislative action to adopt the recommendations resulting from this investigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be sent to all municipalities which experienced a prolonged loss of power for consideration of passage of sister resolutions and be sent to Hillsdale's county, state and federal legislators and officials as well as the Office of the Governor, the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Public Service Electric & Gas, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.