

40 Years



**New Jersey
Meadowlands
Commission**

1969-2009

NJMC NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brian Aberback, Public Information Officer
Phone: 201-460-4619 • Cell: 201-615-8570
brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 20, 2009

NJMC Awarded Nearly \$10 Million for Solar Landfill Project

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) has been awarded \$8.5 million in federal funding by the state Board of Public Utilities (BPU) for use toward the development of a solar power facility on a closed landfill in Kearny. The landfill project ranked the highest among the seven state-sponsored projects the Board selected to share \$20.6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act monies awarded through the BPU’s Innovation in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy – Public Entities program at the Board’s Aug. 19 meeting.

“This is great news that shows the importance of investing in alternative energy and the Meadowlands’ new green economy,” said Charles Richman, Acting Chairman of the NJMC and Acting Commissioner of the state Department of Community Affairs. “We thank the BPU for their support and look forward to creating a solar facility that will help reduce global warming while boosting business by creating new jobs for the region.”

The NJMC plans to lease space on parts of the 35-acre 1-A landfill to a company that would design, finance, own and operate the solar facility. The company would generate revenue by selling electricity to the power grid, and through financial incentives offered to solar energy producers by the state and federal governments. The project has received a positive response, and proposals are due in September. The project site is large enough to support enough panels to generate nearly 5 megawatts of power, which would make it the largest such facility in the state

“With today’s infusion of federal funding, this important renewable energy project takes a significant step forward,” said Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the NJMC. “This solar facility is a creative use of a

former landfill that will help us generate new, clean energy, and will also produce good-paying green-collar jobs here in the Meadowlands.”

The BPU set aside \$20.6 million for government-sponsored alternative energy projects from the tens of millions it received as part of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help pay for energy upgrades in homes, businesses and public buildings. Other projects that received federal funding through the BPU include a New Jersey Transit solar installation in Kearny (\$4.3M), a Residence Hall Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy Upgrade at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark (\$1.6M), and a Smart Buildings/Energy Management System Project at William Paterson University in Wayne (\$1.1M).

The BPU also voted on Aug. 19 to extend the NJMC’s deadline on a Customer On-Site Renewable Energy, or CORE rebate, now valued at \$1.3 million. The Commission plans to use part of this state funding for the solar landfill project and the remainder for other renewable energy initiatives.

The solar landfill project supports objectives of the NJMC Energy Master Plan and Governor Corzine’s Energy Master Plan for New Jersey. The NJMC’s plan calls for the production of 20 megawatts of renewable energy in the Meadowlands District by 2020, while the state’s goals include using alternative energy sources to meet 30 percent of New Jersey’s electricity needs by the same year.

This month New Jersey reached a milestone by surpassing 4,000 solar installations. Seven years ago the state had only six solar installations. Today New Jersey trails only California nationwide in the total number of installations and has more solar installations than Arizona, Florida, New Mexico, Nevada and Texas combined.

###