

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
THIRD DISTRICT UTILITY WORKSHOP

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Dear New York State Energy Planning Board,

I am writing to you as President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Utility Labor Council of New York State (NYS) with regard to the draft regulations proposed by the New York State Energy Planning Board. The IBEW Labor Council NYS represents the over 14,000 utility employees state-wide. The Local Presidents representing these workers eagerly anticipate the creation of a long-term energy plan for New York State. The benefits of this plan, if properly developed and executed, can be of great value to citizens, the utility industry, and the workforce.

After a careful review of the plan's proposed outline we request that you consider including a section evaluating the future trends and needs of the utility industry in terms of the workforce. The average age of utility workers in New York has gradually risen in recent years. This trend will result in the need to educate a whole new generation of utility workers in the next ten to fifteen years. Further, as our state embraces new and alternative energies, there will be a need to reeducate many workers to meet the new energy sector's skill sets. This should be of great concern to the state. Without well trained, knowledgeable, and experience personnel working to produce and transmit traditional and emerging energy any plan proposed by the Board will fail. Properly preparing the workforce for the utility industry of the future will help to ensure the State Energy Plan's long-term success.

Representatives from the IBEW Utility Labor Council of NYS would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these issues in greater depth at your earliest convenience. Please contact our Governmental Representative, Glen Casey, to schedule a time and date that is mutually acceptable. He can be reached by telephone at 607-798-9718.

Best Regards,
Dan Addy
President
IBEW Utility Labor Council