



New Jersey Gasoline, C-Store, and Automotive Association (**NJGCA**)
(Formerly New Jersey Gasoline Retailers Association)
66 Morris Ave.
Springfield, NJ 07081
973-376-0066

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sal Risalvato
Executive Director
973-376-0066 office
201-745-1914 cell

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NJGCA Lauds Expansion of Christie Administration Generator Grant Program

*NJGCA meeting with EDA officials leads to many positive changes to the Program;
New criteria will allow for participation by smaller stations all across the state;*

Sal Risalvato, Executive Director of the New Jersey Gasoline, Convenience, Automotive Association (NJGCA), released the following statement today in response to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority's decision to revise the eligibility criteria for the Retail Fuel Station Energy Resiliency Program:

"The Christie Administration first announced the Retail Fuel Station Energy Resiliency Program in October 2013. Under the parameters of that Program, stations had to be located within 1/4 mile of a qualified roadway or identified evacuation route, and had to have at least 30,000 gallons of underground fuel storage capacity. Stations with 30,000-35,000 gallons of underground fuel storage capacity would be eligible for up to \$15,000 for a quick connect, and stations with more than 35,000 gallons of underground storage capacity would be eligible for up to \$65,000 gallons for the installation of a permanent generator. This **voluntary** program accomplished many of the things that NJGCA had been fighting for in the year after Hurricane Sandy, and we were thrilled to partner with the Economic Development Authority (EDA) in promoting the program."

"During the initial application period, we were contacted by many stations who did not fit the requirements of the program," Risalvato said. "These were stations located outside the 1/4 mile buffer zone from the qualified roadways and identified evacuation routes, or stations that had less than 30,000 gallons of underground fuel storage capacity. After all of the applications were processed, and it became clear that there was still a substantial amount of money left, we began to engage in discussions with the EDA about possibly expanding the program to allow more stations to be eligible."

"Today's announcement by the EDA proves once again that the Christie Administration is committed to creating and implementing a program which will benefit both the small business owners and the citizens of New Jersey. The new program will permit stations anywhere in the State to apply for a grant, as long as they meet **three** requirements: the station sell must diesel fuel, the station must have 18,000 gallons of underground fuel storage capacity, and the station must have an effective UST registration (be in good standing with NJ DEP)," Risalvato continued.

"We continue to be very pleased with our partnership with the EDA and the productive and effective working relationship that has been cultivated over the past two years. The State has worked diligently to create a program which would help eliminate the long gas lines that we experienced during Superstorm Sandy. These recent changes to the program, combined with the efforts to make New Jersey's fuel supply and distribution systems more resilient, will only improve our potential for success. I look forward to continuing to work with the State on this project, to further ensure that New Jersey motorists and small businesses are better prepared in case of another storm like Hurricane Sandy," Risalvato concluded.

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