

## **JUDGE MAKES RULING ON JCP&L HIGH VOLTAGE LINE**

On March 8, 2018, the Honorable Gail M. Cookson, ALJ issued an initial decision denying Jersey Central Power and Light's ("JCP&L's") petition to locate high-voltage power lines down New Jersey Transit's ("NJT's") North Jersey Coast Line right of way ("ROW").

Agreeing with Holmdel and our neighboring municipalities' ongoing concerns, the Judge wrote that "the use of this particular NJT ROW for 230 kV monopoles of an average height of 135' and maximum height of 210' is untried, untested, and likely infeasible due to its narrow width, age, and proximity to residential communities. . . . [T]he aesthetic, real estate, and environmental impacts on the five communities is overwhelming and is not offset by the interests of all JCP&L ratepayers."

The case now proceeds to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("BPU"), which may accept, reject, or modify Judge Cookson's decision in rendering a final decision. The BPU is expected to rule within the next 45 days, unless an extension is exercised.

"We are grateful to have received this well-reasoned, common sense decision from Judge Cookson, finding that high tension power lines up to 210' tall have no place in our community" said Holmdel Mayor Tom Critelli. "I urge the Board of Public Utilities to promptly accept Judge Cookson's decision rejecting JCP&L's petition."

"I would like to thank the Holmdel Township Committee, our neighboring municipalities, counsel from the Joint Municipal Group, and RAGE for all of their efforts leading to this result. But most of all, I would like to thank the public, as we could not have received this favorable initial decision without your support and grassroots opposition to the JCP&L application," said Critelli.