

EDA awards incentives for Shore Mall, cogen projects

By Andrew Kitchenman

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, NJ – Cedar Shopping Centers Inc., which owns the Shore Mall, in Egg Harbor Township, was awarded a \$20.4 million grant by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority on Tuesday.

The EDA board also voted at its monthly meeting to award \$15.1 million to six combined heat and power, or cogeneration, projects, which will be funded through federal stimulus grants.

The board approved the authority's \$27.8 million budget for 2011, as well as its strategic business plan for the coming year.

The Shore Mall is planning a \$102.7 million redevelopment project, which would add large discount and home improvement stores, as well as other new uses. The Economic Redevelopment and Growth grant would be funded through future tax revenues projected from the project, and would cover 20 percent of its cost.

The CHP grant recipients will benefit from a program designed by the EDA and the state Board of Public Utilities, after an earlier federal stimulus program failed to attract applicants.

The recipients were: Anheuser-Busch, approved for \$3.2 million for a cogen plant at its Newark brewery; DSM Nutritional Products, of Belvidere, \$3.1 million; ACR Energy Partners LLC, \$3.2 million for a cogen plant at a new casino in Atlantic City; ACB Energy Partners LLC, \$3.2 million for a plant serving the Borgata Hotel and Casino, in Atlantic City; NRG Thermal Energy, of Plainsboro, \$1.9 million for a plant at the new University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro; and Ocean County College, \$475,000.

Six Combined Heat and Power Projects Approved by EDA

December 14, 2010 TRENTON, N.J. (Dec. 3, 2010) - The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) has approved over \$15.1 million in funding for six projects under the Clean Energy Solutions ARRA Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Program. This competitive grant program was supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and was jointly developed by the EDA and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU).

Launched in September through a competitive solicitation, the program offered project-based grants to support the development, design and construction of commercial, institutional and industrial entity (including public and not-for-profit entities) CHP projects in New Jersey. The program made available grants equal to \$450 per kW of installed electric generation, up to a maximum of \$5 million. The six approved projects are expected to leverage more than \$101.3 million in total public/private investment, lead to the creation of an estimated 240 construction jobs and 18 new, full-time jobs, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 85,695 tons annually.

"CHP systems can provide power reliability for businesses and organizations throughout the state and result in daily operating cost savings," said EDA Chief Executive Officer Caren Franzini. "From Newark to Atlantic City, this program provided an opportunity for the state to support important projects that will add efficiencies and make doing business in New Jersey less expensive."

The six projects approved for funding include:

- Anheuser-Bush, which was approved for a \$3.2 million grant to establish a 7.965MW cogeneration plant at its Newark brewery;
- DSM Nutritional Products of Belvidere, which was approved for a \$3.1 million grant to purchase and install a 9.5MW cogeneration unit;
- ACR Energy Partners LLC, which was approved for a \$3.2 million grant to construct a 7.965MW cogeneration facility to serve a new casino in Atlantic City;
- ACB Energy Partners LLC, which was approved for a \$3.2 million grant to establish a 7.965MW cogeneration plant to expand the District Energy Center in Atlantic City currently serving the Borgata Hotel and Casino;
- NRG Thermal Energy of Plainsboro, which was approved for a \$1.9 million grant to establish a 4.6MW cogeneration facility that is part of an Energy Center it is developing to serve the new University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro; and,
- Ocean County College, which was approved for a \$475,200 grant to support the construction of a 1.1MW gas engine generator at the college.

"CHP is a clean and reliable approach to generating power and thermal energy and these projects help us move forward with Governor Christie's plan to secure New Jersey's energy future, enhance our environment and support economic development," said BPU President Lee Solomon.

Governor Christie's energy policy for New Jersey emphasizes in-state production of renewable and traditional energy sources with the goal of creating a stronger economy by making energy more affordable, more reliable and more often produced by New Jersey workers. One of the state's priorities in this effort is to enhance energy efficiency through on-site power generation with recovery and productive use of waste heat, and to reduce existing and new demands to the electric power grid by providing financial incentives for CHP installations. A well designed and thermally balanced CHP plant operates between 60-percent and 85-percent thermal efficiency - more than double the efficiency of a standard central power plant.