Spring is never more appreciated than after a hard winter. But while we’re glad to see Old Man Winter go, he gave us a valuable reminder that fuel diversity can be as important when it’s bitterly cold outside as when it’s sizzling hot. Having a diverse range of fuels at the ready is especially critical during extreme weather events like the polar vortex that held large parts of the country in an icy grip this past winter.

As temperatures plummeted, demand soared for natural gas to heat homes. Fortunately, PSEG has power plants that run on a variety of fuels and technologies. Our ability to use alternate fuels helped us respond to our customers’ needs during one of the harshest winters in memory.

The conditions affecting different fuels can change as dramatically as the weather. In recent years abundant natural gas supplies have transformed our nation’s energy picture and enabled us to provide significant savings to customers.

At the same time, it’s important not to become overly dependent on a single fuel. Certainly, we continue to believe it’s much sounder to emphasize a diverse mix of environmentally responsible resources. Our Salem and Hope Creek nuclear generating facilities play a key role in providing New Jersey and the region with reliable, emissions-free energy. Our solar energy programs have helped New Jersey develop a new, green industry. And we have built new and upgraded gas plants, updated coal plants and reduced emissions substantially across our generation fleet.

Fuel diversity matters not just from our perspective. It makes sense for America’s energy future.