STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: EMERGENCY REGULATIONS TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC, GAS AND WATER UTILITY SERVICE	:	**Docket No. 1725**

REPORT

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2010, the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") received a letter from Rhode Island Senate President Teresa Pavia Weed and Rhode Island Speaker of the House Gordon D. Fox requesting renewal of its previously adopted emergency regulations to restore gas and electric services to protected low-income customers; and

WHEREAS, for the past two years, the Commission's Rules and Regulations Governing Termination of Residential Electric, Gas and Water Utility Service ("Termination Rules") have been changed to allow for the restoration or continuation of service of a utility between October 5, 2009 and December 1, 2009 if the customer who was either terminated or scheduled for termination of service pays a percentage of the balance owed determined by the total of the outstanding back bill; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2010, Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid filed a letter with the Commission recommending that the Commission adopt the same emergency regulations as previously adopted in 2009[1] for the period October 15, 2010 to December 1, 2010; and

[1] From October 5, 2009 through December 1, 2009, any residential customer whose utility service has been terminated by National Grid for non-payment will be entitled to have such service restored by National Grid upon satisfaction of one of the following conditions:

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2010, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers filed a letter indicating that it would have no objection to the Commission promulgating the same emergency rules it promulgated in October 2009 for the period October 7, 2010 to December 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2010, AARP Rhode Island filed a letter in support of the General Assembly's request and recommended that the Commission issue emergency regulations for the period October 7, 2010 to December 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, at an open meeting held on October 7, 2010 after consideration and deliberation, the Commission found there exists an imminent peril to public health, safety and welfare because Rhode Island's current unemployment rate is extremely high, making it more difficult for Rhode Islanders to meet their financial obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds it is necessary to adopt emergency regulations to address the imminent peril to public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that it is necessary to adopt the following emergency regulation:

> From October 7, 2010 through December 1, 2010, any residential customer whose utility service has been terminated by National Grid for

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(a) for a customer owing less than $1000, 20% of the balance owed must be paid and the remainder of that balance must be paid within 18 months;

(b) for a customer owing more than $1000 but less than $2500, 15% of the balance owed must be paid and the remainder of that balance must be paid within 24 months;

(c) for a customer owing $2500 or more, 10% of the balance owed must be paid and the remainder of that balance must be paid within 36 months unless the Company chooses to extend such time period.

(d) the customer requesting a payment plan under this provision, Part V, Section 4(G) either did not participate in one of the plans listed in Part V, Section 4(G)(a)-(c) in 2008 or did not participate and currently has a balance due on his or her account that is the same or less than that customer had upon enrollment in a 2008 plan listed in Part V, Section (4)(G)(a)-(c).

In addition to the down payments specified above, customers must pay current bills within the time period allowed by National Grid.

non-payment or who has a Termination date scheduled, will be entitled to have such service restored by National Grid upon satisfaction of two of the following conditions:

(a) for a customer owing less than $1000, 20% of the balance owed must be paid and the remainder of that balance must be paid within 18 months;

(b) for a customer owing at least $1000 but less than $2500, 15% of the balance owed must be paid and the remainder of that balance must be paid within 24 months;

(c) for a customer owing $2500 or more, 10% of the balance owed must be paid and the remainder of that balance must be paid within 36 months unless the Company chooses to extend such time period;

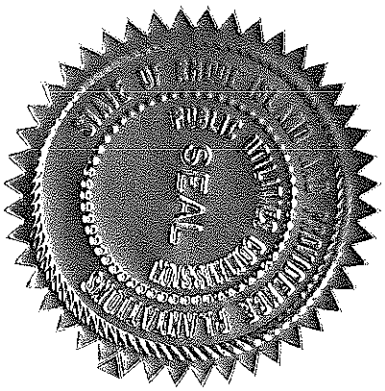
(d) the customer requesting a payment plan under this provision, Part V, Section 4(G), either did not participate in one of the plans listed in Part V, Section 4(G)(a)-(c) in a prior year or did participate and currently has a balance due on his or her account that is the same or less than that customer had upon enrollment in a prior year plan listed in Part V, Section 4(G)(a)-(c).

In addition to the down payments specified above, customers must pay current bills within the time period allowed by National Grid. A formal commitment to receive funds from any social service agency by December 1, 2010 for either all or part of the down payment required above shall be considered as compliance with the provisions of this rule provided that customer has satisfied the other conditions set forth above.

(20157)

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND, ON OCTOBER 7, 2010 PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. A COPY OF THE FINAL RULES WAS FILED WITH THE RHODE ISLAND SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE ON OCTOBER 8, 2010 WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF OCTOBER 7, 2010. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON OCTOBER 8, 2010.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Elia Germani, Chairman

Mary E. Bray, Commissioner

Paul J. Roberti, Commissioner