



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

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October 19, 2016

Ms. Luly Massaro, Clerk
Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Blvd
Warwick, RI 02888

Re: Docket No. 1725

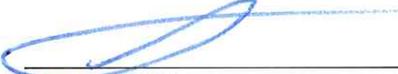
Dear Ms. Massaro,

The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers ("Division") submits this letter to amend the comments that it filed October 17, 2016 regarding the George Wiley Center (the "Center") request that the PUC institute a year-round emergency regulation allowing utility consumers to continue to maintain service, or have service restored after termination, by making a 10% down-payment of the total amount owed. The Division believes the Commission should expand the duration of the emergency regulation from the thirty (30)-day period contained in its initial recommendation to the statutory maximum 120-day period permitted by statute, *i.e.*, from and including November 1, 2016 through February 28, 2016. In addition, instead of the 15% down-payment amount the Division originally recommended, the Division now joins with the Wiley Center to propose reducing this figure to a 10% down-payment amount. Thus, residential customers who are subject to termination or who have been terminated (with certain designated balances) and who: (i) make down-payments of 10%, and the remainder balances within certain specified time-periods, (ii) did not participate in the plan in the prior year or who possess a balance due on his or her account that is the same or less than the customer possessed upon enrollment in the plan in the prior year, and (iii) pay their current bills within the time-period allowed by National Grid, will not be subject to termination or will have their utility service restored.

The Division recognizes that its expanded recommendation still represents a temporary solution for the forthcoming winter. The Division intends to address the issue posed by the Center's request, as well as others relating to protected classes and low-income ratepayers, far more comprehensively in the review which the Commission is required to complete pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-2-1(e).

Respectfully submitted,

Division of Public Utilities and Carriers


Macky McCleary

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