



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

October 21, 2015

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

Re: Docket No. 1725

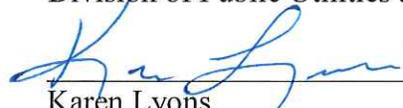
Dear Ms. Massaro

The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) writes to the Commission in response to a letter received by the Public Utilities Commission on October 13, 2015 from the George Wiley Center. Similar to previous years, the Division recommends that the Commission adopt a regulation that permits all residential customers (Standard and Protected) to re-establish utility service or prevent termination on the same terms and conditions as implemented in 2014. This action would help to mitigate customer hardship caused by delays in obtaining LIHEAP-eligibility certification and provide lower down payments to restore gas and electric services.

Residential customers who are subject to termination or who have been terminated (with certain designated balances) and who: (i) make down payments of 10%, 15% or 20% within the designated time periods, (ii) did not participate in the plan in the prior year or who possess a balance due on his or her utility 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 is not in favor of eliminating the tiered nature of the emergency regulation as proposed by the George Wiley Center. In addition, the Division believes that the Commission should not eliminate the part of the rule requiring customers to possess a balance that is the same or less than the customer possessed on enrollment in the payment plan of the prior year. These provisions assure that smaller balances will be paid over shorter time periods and that customers do not use the rule to increase the size of the balance due. The rules as applied in years past are reasonable and just.

Respectfully submitted
Division of Public Utilities and Carriers



Karen Lyons
Special Assistant Attorney General

Service List