

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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

REPORT

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2010, the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) approved a request of 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 customers¹; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated November 9, 2010, President Pavia Weed and Speaker Fox requested an extension of the Commission’s emergency regulations to January 1, 2011; and

¹ From October 7, 2010 through December 1, 2010, 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:

- (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.

WHEREAS, in support of their request the legislative leaders noted the delay in the implementation of this year's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the chronic recession, the increase in home heating oil prices and the projection of a colder than normal winter; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2010, AARP Rhode Island filed a letter in support of the General Assembly's; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2010, the Office of Energy Resources ("OER") filed a letter requesting extension of the regulations through January 2, 2011²; and

WHEREAS, on November 24, 2010, Pascoag Utility District filed a letter indicating that it did not oppose the requested extension through January 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, on November 24, 2010, Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid filed a letter with the Commission indicating that it had no objection to extending the Commission's previous order until January 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, both National Grid and OER noted the highly unusual circumstances leading to a delay in available LIHEAP funds to assist financially at-risk customers during this heating season; and

WHEREAS, at an open meeting held on November 24, 2010 after consideration and deliberation, the Commission found there continues to exist 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 extend its emergency regulations to address the imminent peril to public health, safety and welfare; and

² January 1, 2011 falls on a Sunday.

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

From October 7, 2010 through January 2, 2011, any residential customer whose utility service has been terminated by National Grid for 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:

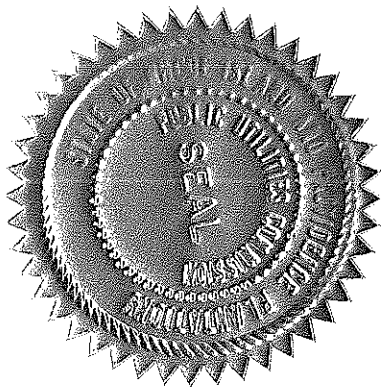
- (a) for a customer owing less than \$1000, 20% of the balance owed must be paid and the remainder of that balance must be paid within 18 months;
- (b) for a customer owing at least \$1000 but less than \$2500, 15% of the balance owed must be paid and the remainder of that balance must be paid within 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 January 2, 2011 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.

(20213)

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND, ON NOVEMBER 24, 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 NOVEMBER 24, 2010 WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF NOVEMBER 24, 2010. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 24, 2010.



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Elia Germani, Chairman

Mary E. Bray, Commissioner

Paul J. Roberti, Commissioner