

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: REQUEST TO EXTEND THE : DOCKET NO. 1725
WINTER MORATORIUM :

ORDER

On April 6, 2007, the George Wiley Center filed a letter with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission requesting the Commission “postpone the shutoffs until at least May 1st of this year.” The George Wiley Center indicated that “weather this week has stayed in the 40’s.” On April 13, 2007, a majority of the Commission denied the George Wiley Center’s request to extend the winter moratorium to May 1st.

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-35-3(b) to extend the winter moratorium, the Commission must find that an emergency exists so as to amend its existing Rules Governing Termination of Residential, Electric, Gas and Water Utility Service (“Termination Rules”) to change the expiration date of the winter moratorium from April 15 to May 1. There is no emergency. Based on weather forecasts temperatures, the lows for the week beginning April 15 are very similar to the historical temperature lows for that week.¹ Also, National Grid’s current operational procedures will prevent protected customers, such as low-income customers, from having their utility service termination prior to May 1.² Furthermore, it appears that the George Wiley Center wanted the extension in the moratorium to apply to all customers, not just those protected under the existing Termination Rules. The request had no legal justification. Lastly, it

¹ See weather.com for Warwick, RI 02888 and see also Order No. 17805 (citing forecasts of normal weather as a reason to deny extending the moratorium).

² See [Providence Journal](#) (4/14/07).

should be emphasized that Rhode Island already has one of the longest winter moratorium periods in the nation.³ Thus, the request is denied.

Accordingly, it is

(18941) ORDERED

1. The George Wiley Center's request to extend the winter moratorium is hereby denied.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON APRIL 13, 2007. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED MAY 3, 2007.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Elia Germani, Chairman

Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner

Mary E. Bray, Commissioner*

*Commissioner Bray dissented and would have granted the request. She wanted to extend the moratorium as it is currently applied in the Termination Rules.

³ Order No. 17805 and see Order No. 17617 (indicating that "it appears the moratorium causes more harm than good" because "the longer the moratorium, the larger the balances that must later be addressed grow.").