



status customers until May 1, 2018. While it would continue to send termination notices, it would shut off no protected status customers during the period of the extension.<sup>4</sup>

On April 13, 2018, National Grid (National Grid or Company) similarly joined in supporting the Wiley Center's request. In a letter filed with the PUC, the Company expressed concern for its vulnerable customers who find it difficult to pay their electric and gas bills during the colder months and stated it had no objection to the two-week extension of the winter moratorium period for protected status customers. The Company noted that it would continue to send out termination notices during the moratorium extension, but would not terminate service for protected status customers prior to May 1, 2018.<sup>5</sup>

On April 16, 2018, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) also filed a letter with the PUC in response to the Wiley Center's filing, noting that March 2018 had been a particularly cold month and that April weather is often cold and unpredictable. The Division accordingly recommended approval of the requested extension, noting it "will afford the most vulnerable utility customers protection from termination during these likely adverse weather conditions." The Division also offered that an extension would provide low-income ratepayers "additional time to obtain the necessary funding to avoid utility service termination."<sup>6</sup>

The Block Island Power Company (BIPCo) did not submit comments.

On April 16, 2018, at an Open Meeting, the PUC unanimously voted to extend the winter moratorium for a two-week period, through May 1, 2018. Relying on the reasons stated by the George Wiley Center, and the supporting comments from the Department of

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<sup>4</sup> Pascoag Letter (Apr. 12, 2018).

<sup>5</sup> National Grid Letter (Apr. 13, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> Division Letter (Apr. 13, 2018).

Human Services, the Pascoag Utility District, National Grid, and the Division, the PUC found it was reasonable, appropriate, and in the public interest to extend the moratorium an additional two weeks.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(23090) ORDERED

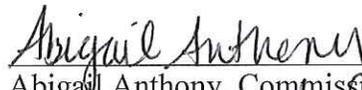
The “utility termination moratorium period” defined in the Commission’s Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas and Water Utility Service is hereby extended to 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2018.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON APRIL 16, 2018. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED MAY 1, 2018.

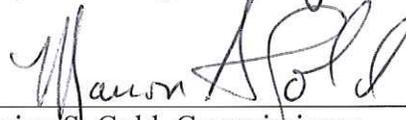
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson



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Abigail Anthony, Commissioner



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Marion S. Gold, Commissioner

**NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL:** Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within seven days from the date of the order, petition the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or order.