

April 30, 2012

VIA HAND DELIVERY & ELECTRONIC MAIL

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

**RE: Docket 2509- Storm Contingency Fund
 Hurricane Earl Event Report**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Enclosed is one original and ten copies of the National Grid's¹ event report on the planning and preparation associated with Hurricane Earl in September 2010 ("Earl" or the "storm"), which will likely qualify for inclusion in the Company's Storm Contingency Fund.

In addition, the Company is simultaneously filing with the Commission a report detailing the incremental costs associated with Earl.

Thank you for your attention to this transmittal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (401) 784-7288.

Very truly yours,



Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson

Enclosures

cc: Leo Wold, Esq.
 Steve Scialabba, Division

¹ The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid ("the Company").

National Grid

The Narragansett Electric Company

**Report on
Hurricane Earl Event
September 2010**

April 30, 2012

Docket No. 2509

Submitted to:
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission

Submitted by:
The logo for National Grid, featuring the word "national" in a blue sans-serif font and "grid" in a bold, blue sans-serif font with a small blue diamond shape above the letter 'i'.

Hurricane Earl

September 2010

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (the “Company”) presents the following report on the planning and preparation associated with Hurricane Earl (“Earl” or the “storm”). Earl was a long-lived, powerful tropical cyclone that was the first major hurricane to threaten New England since Hurricane Bob in 1991. Earl developed out of a tropical wave roughly 430 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands on August 25, 2010. Tracking nearly due west, the system attained tropical storm intensity within hours of being classified as a depression. After maintaining winds of approximately 50 mph for nearly two days, Earl began to strengthen as it neared the Lesser Antilles. The storm intensified into a hurricane on August 29 and later a major hurricane on August 30 as it brushed the Leeward Islands. A temporary weakening trend took place as Earl moved northwestward. Once reorganized, Earl reached its peak intensity on September 2, with maximum sustained winds of 145 mph and a barometric pressure of 927 mbar (hPa; 27.37 inHg). Executing a gradual curve to the northeast, the hurricane slowly weakened over decreasing sea surface temperatures; the storm's center passed roughly 85 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina on September 3. Passing the New England region, Earl briefly weakened to a tropical storm before retaining hurricane strength as it made landfall near Western Head, Nova Scotia. The hurricane then transitioned into an extra tropical cyclone before being absorbed by a larger low pressure area on September 6, north of Newfoundland.

In anticipation of a major storm event, the Company began preparing for Earl on Tuesday, August 31. As part of its preparation efforts, the Company secured additional contractor crews to ensure the availability of resources with which to respond to the storm. However, given that the intensity of the storm weakened faster than was predicted and moved out of Rhode Island by Friday, September 3, little to no restoration work was required, and crews were demobilized beginning early on Saturday, September 4.

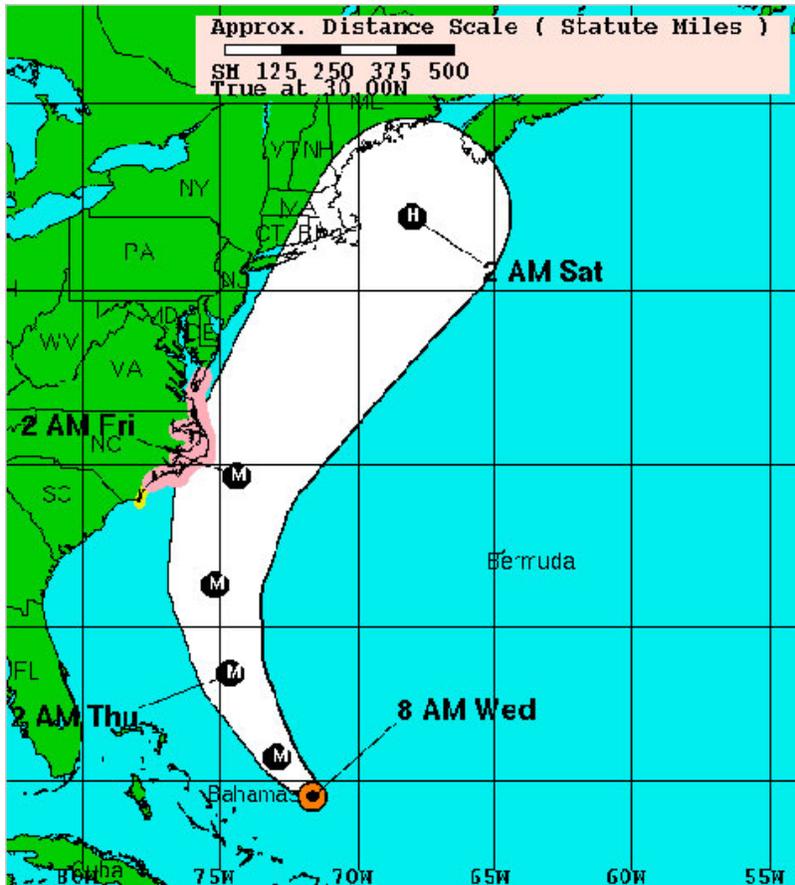
II. THE STORM AND ITS IMPACT

September 1, 2010 - Wednesday



NOAA/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images A satellite image of Hurricane Earl on Wednesday, September 1st.

Hurricane Earl weakened to a Category 3 storm early Wednesday, September 1, with winds of 125 mph, but evacuations began along the Atlantic coast, ahead of the storm's anticipated impact later that week. A spokesman for the National Hurricane Center ("NHC") told The Associated Press that a storm this powerful had not threatened such a large area of the East Coast since Hurricane Bob in 1991. At 8 a.m. on Wednesday, September 1, the NHC in Miami forecasted the following path it expected Hurricane Earl would follow in the days ahead:



According to the NHC, a hurricane watch was in effect for North Carolina and Virginia from north of Surf City, NC to Parramore Island, VA including the Pamlico and Albermarle Sounds. A tropical storm watch was in effect for the North Carolina coast from Cape Fear to Surf City. In addition, a tropical storm warning was in effect for San Salvador Island in the central Bahamas.

The NHC stated that even if the storm did not make landfall it was powerful enough to cause damage on shore, with destructive winds and currents.

September 2, 2010 – Thursday

Earl weakened all day Thursday, September 2, winding down from a Category 4 storm with winds of 140 mph to a Category 2 with winds at 105 mph. The storm still packed enough of a punch to send rain sideways and shake signs on the Outer Banks. On Nags Head, the tops of small trees bent in the howling gusts and beach grass was whipping back and forth on dunes leading to the ocean. Sustained winds of about 30 mph were whipping the North Carolina coast. The U.S. Coast Guard station at Hatteras reported a gust of 67 mph just before midnight.

National Weather Service meteorologist Chris Collins said early Friday that Earl had produced little storm surge and only minor flooding in some coastal counties.

Predictions of storm surges between 2 and 4 feet might be generous, he said. Waves of up to 18 feet were predicted to smash into the North Carolina coast, leading to beach erosion and roadway over wash on the Outer Banks.

During its march up the Atlantic, Earl was expected to snarl travelers' Labor Day weekend plans and strike a second forceful blow to vacation homes and cottages on Long Island, Nantucket Island and Cape Cod, which could get gusts up to 100 mph. Much of New England should expect strong, gusty winds much like a nor'easter, along with fallen trees and downed power lines, forecasters said. Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") Administrator Craig Fugate on Thursday said people shouldn't wait for the next forecast to act. "This is a day of action. Conditions are going to deteriorate rapidly," he said.

Shelters were open in inland North Carolina, and officials on Nantucket Island planned to set up a shelter at a high school on Friday. North Carolina shut down ferry service between the Outer Banks and the mainland. Boats were being pulled from the water in the Northeast, and lobstermen in Maine set their traps out in deeper water to protect them. Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri declared a state of emergency.

Similar declarations had been made in Massachusetts, North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland. President Obama late Thursday signed an emergency declaration authorizing federal disaster relief efforts for southeastern Massachusetts. He declared an emergency for North Carolina on Wednesday. The declarations authorize the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts in the two areas.

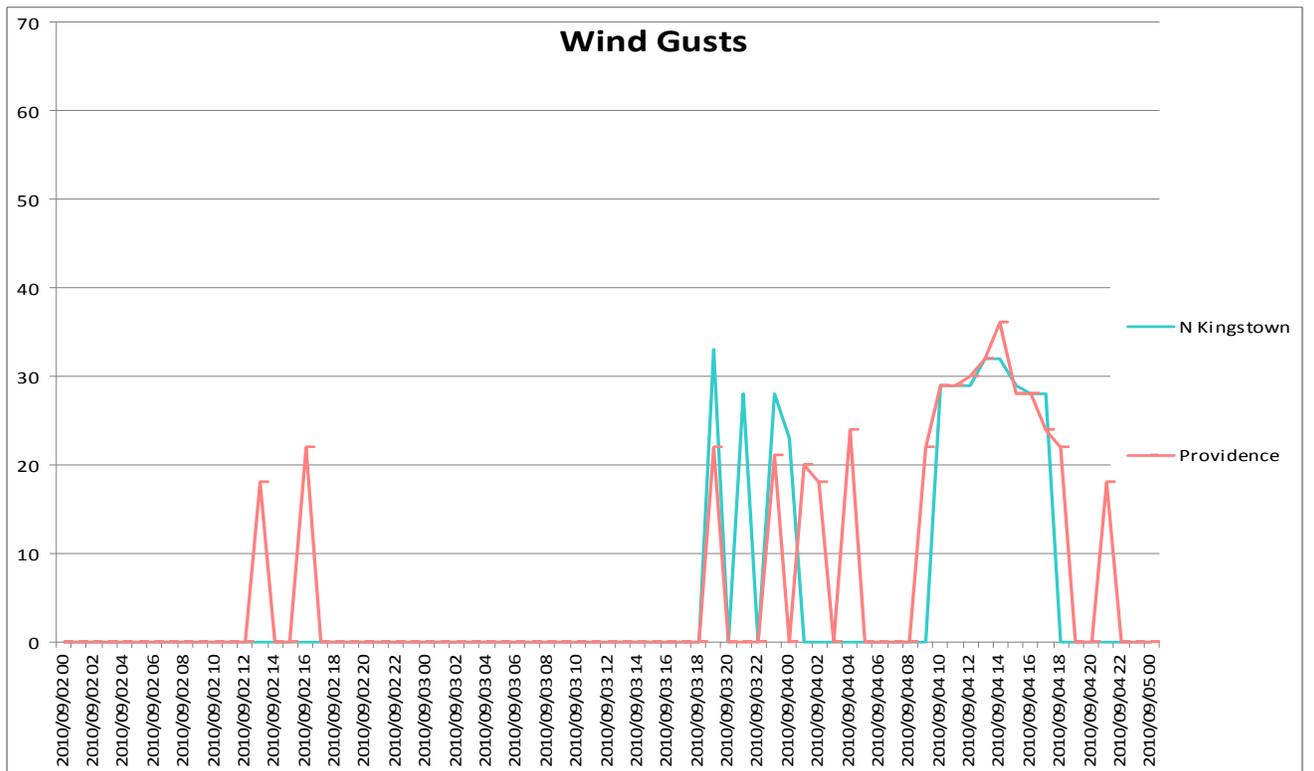
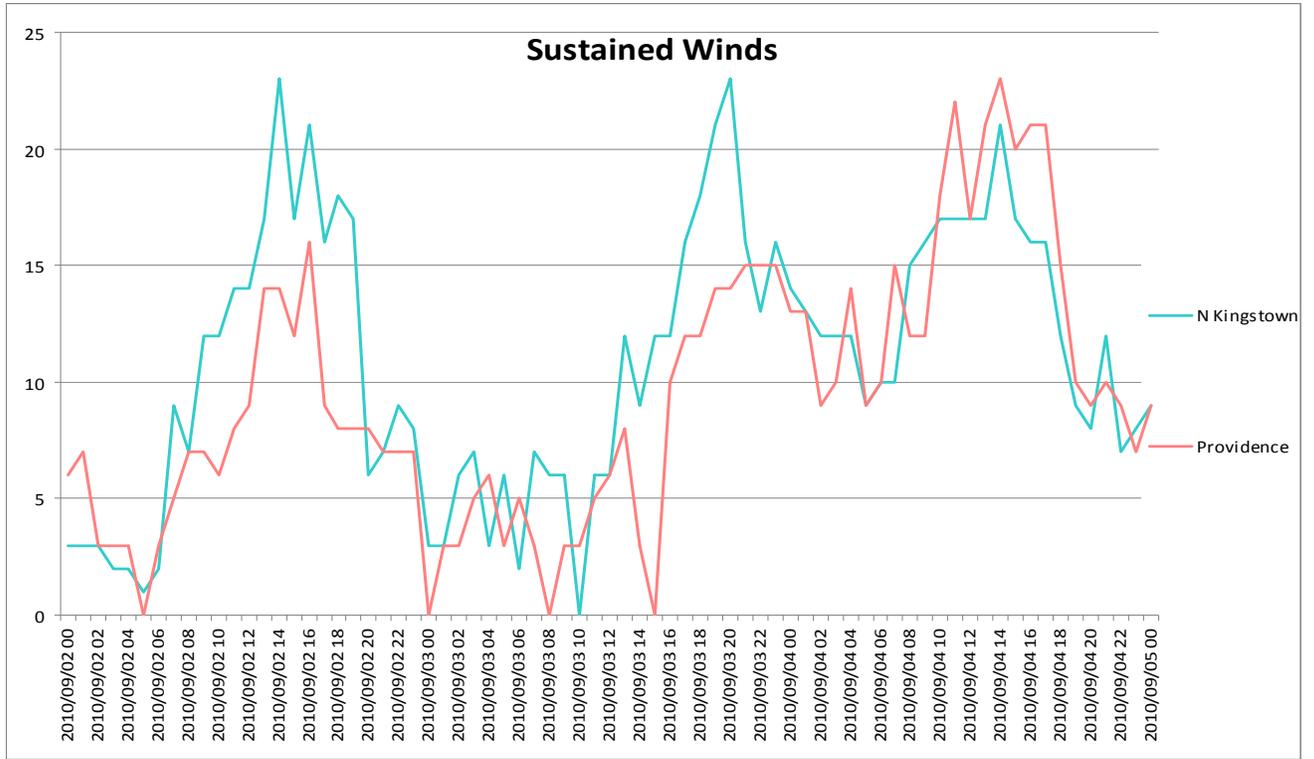
September 3, 2010 – Friday

A slow winding down was expected to continue as the storm moved into cooler waters, but forecasters warned the size of the storm's wind field was increasing, similar to what happened when Hurricane Katrina approached the Gulf Coast five years ago. "It will be bigger. The storm won't be as strong, but they spread out as they go north and the rain will be spreading from New England," National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read said.

Eventually, the storm moved further out in the Atlantic causing little or no damage. Rhode Island lifted its State of Emergency around 5:00 p.m.



Weather Information



III. STORM PREPARATION

System storm calls were held several times each day, beginning on Tuesday, August 31 and ending on September 4. The Company began preparations to secure supplemental contractor crews who would be strategically placed throughout New England, and to ensure that there was an adequate supply of inventories and restoration equipment, and additional storm kits were built and placed in inventory. U.S. Electricity Operations employees and others with storm assignments were asked to cancel their vacations beginning on September 3. By Friday morning, the Company was prepared for Earl. The deployment plan allowed for the greatest degree of flexibility to move our resources to where they were needed, even if Earl's track changed. Pre-staging crews and equipment in key locations throughout the region enabled the Company to restore service to customers as quickly and safely as possible. Natural gas crews were also stationed at key locations to make repairs and secure the gas system in the event of storm damage to the Company's gas infrastructure. The following is a list of available resources in Rhode Island:

- Internal Crews: 47
- Contractor Crews: 48
- Tree Crews: 61
- Wires Down Personnel: 40
- Damage Appraisers: 30
- Numerous support and supervision personnel

Work hours were adjusted to have the maximum number of crews available at first light on Saturday, September 4. In addition, approximately 20% of Company crews were scheduled to work through the night on Friday, September 3 to respond to police, fire and wires down issues. All other resources were instructed to report at 5:30 am on Saturday, September 4.

Customer Meter Operations was fully staffed to respond to wires down issues and an additional 100 gas meter personnel were trained to supplement staffing. Several wires down command centers opened on Friday evening.

The Northboro Customer Call Center added additional personnel for Friday night and through the weekend, and expanded the offsite Voice Response Unit ("VRU") to take outage calls so that external callers would not receive a busy signal.

The Northboro Emergency Room opened on Friday morning and was in communication with the Rhode Island Emergency Management Association ("RIEMA"), which had opened on Thursday, September 2 at 8:00 a.m. RIEMA was staffed by a Company liaison until it closed on Saturday, September 4.

Community outreach included telephone calls to critical care customers, large business customers and municipalities to brief them on the Company's preparation efforts. External websites were modified to include emergency and safety information.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

The Company employed a thorough customer and public communications campaign in anticipation of the storm. The Company notified customers regarding possible outages relating to Earl through the Company's Call Center (for Life Support Customers) and through the media to ensure that all customers, including those with special needs, had adequate time to prepare for possible outages. Primary messages throughout the duration of the event focused on safety as well as the Company's deployment plan which allowed for the greatest degree of flexibility to get the Company's resources where they were needed, even if Earl's track changed. In addition, the Company's Media Relations team participated in all internal storm-related conference calls. Media Relations also worked daily with senior management and the incident commander to determine communications strategy, provide communications counsel, and work on message development and dissemination of information in the days ahead of the storm's scheduled arrival. The Company's websites were modified to include emergency and safety information.

Proactive outreach was made to all government contacts in Rhode Island, as well as the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission. Contact was maintained with the Governor's office during the storm. The Company pre-positioned liaisons at RIEMA.

In addition, the Company's Call Center prepared for incoming trouble calls by increasing staffing on Friday and Saturday. The Company's VRU system was expanded to receive outage calls.

The Northboro Emergency Room also activated the Employee 800 line whereby employees could call to receive information regarding storm assignments.

V. RESTORATION WORK

The storm fell apart faster than anyone predicted as it moved into New England. There were a few minor issues and demobilization began early Saturday morning. As seen in the Reliability Statistics chart below, the average events over the storm period were higher than the typical day in Rhode Island, while the CI and CMI were lower than a typical day.

Reliability Statistics

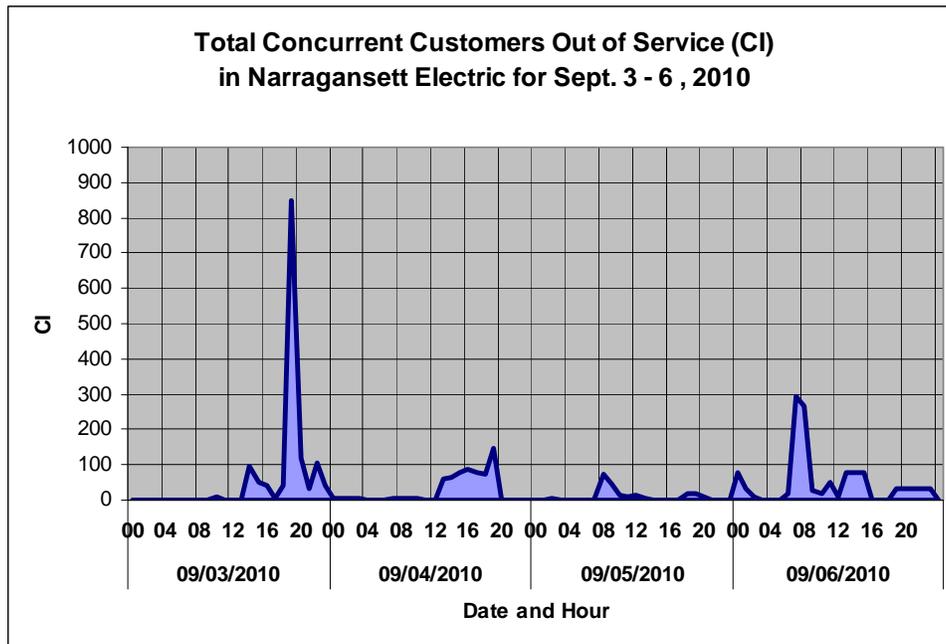
All Events

Date	Day	Events	CI	CMI	SAIFI	SAIDI	CAIDI
09/03/10	Fri.	22	1,339	68,168	.003	.143	51
09/04/10	Sat.	14	269	36,496	.001	.076	136
09/05/10	Sun.	19	238	18,165	.000	.038	76
09/06/10	Mon.	15	2175	142,900	.000	.299	66
4 Day Avg.		17.5	1,005	66,432	.002	.139	66

Point of Reference – 2010 Average Day:

	Events	CI	CMI	SAIFI	SAIDI	CAIDI
All Events	13	1,547	186,779	.003	.391	121

Concurrent Customers Out of Service



VI. CONCLUSION

The Company prepared for Earl with both internal and contractor crews strategically deployed to allow for the greatest degree of flexibility in getting its resources where they needed to be, even if Earl's track changed, which it ultimately did.

There was little to no restoration work required as a result of Earl. Nonetheless, inventory levels and equipment were maintained in anticipation of a major storm based on its predicted path, and the Company maintained communications with all stakeholders using a variety of channels throughout the event.