



Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light www.riipl.org

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December 9, 2008

Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Re: Public Comment, Docket #4000

Honorable Commissioners,

Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light, Rhode Island's faith-based voice on the issue of global warming and energy efficiency, supports the full funding of the Least Cost Procurement plan as requested by National Grid under Docket 4000.

We support the idea of least cost procurement, the concept of supporting all cost-effective energy efficiency, and other demand-side reductions, so that the utility must procure the least expensive energy over time. We understand that significant investment in energy efficiency is critical at this time of declining resources and a difficult economy, even though it will cost an average of 60 cents more a month. Since the congregants of our eighty-plus affiliated congregations are often seeking ways to reduce their utility costs, we know that demand for the existing energy efficiency programs is very high, and that the programs should expand to help people who want to cut their energy costs.

We are very concerned with helping low-income consumers pay their bills. Several aspects of the plan, we are pleased to see, assist them. Low income rate ratepayers pay no cost for their energy efficiency services. 10% of electric and 20% of gas DSM proceeds from Commercial and Industrial as well as Residential customers are reserved for low-income customers, which helps the middle class, which is increasingly stressed by high energy costs, gets fair access to the programs.

Energy efficiency and other demand side management programs lower energy demand voluntarily. This is much better than the current situation, where many decrease their use because they cannot afford their bills and sacrifice or end up with utility shut-offs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Howard Brown".

Howard J. Brown
Director