

April 21, 2009

VIA HAND DELIVERY & ELECTRONIC MAIL

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

RE: Docket 4028 – The Narragansett Electric Company¹ v. the City of Providence

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Enclosed please find ten (10) copies of National Grid's responses to the Commission's Data Requests issued in the above-captioned docket.

Thank you for your attention to this transmittal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (401) 784-7667.

Very truly yours,



Thomas R. Teehan

Enclosures

cc: Peter V. Lacouture, Esq.
Leo Wold, Esq.
Adrienne Southgate, Esq., City of Providence
Don Ledversis, Division
James Lanni, Division

¹ Submitted on behalf of The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid.

**Docket No. 4028 – National Grid - Review Pursuant to RIGL 39-1-30
Service List as of 3/25/09**

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Commission Data Request 1-1

Request:

Please identify the additional cost per foot of placing the gas meter where the customer wants as opposed to where National Grid wants to place it on the outside of a residence.

Response:

The cost per foot to install pipe is approximately \$40 per foot (37.88 for under 2", 39.01 for 2" or greater).

Prepared by or under the supervision of: Amy S. Smith

Commission Data Request 1-2

Request:

Please state why customers living on the East Side of Providence were given a waiver and not required to have gas meters located on the outside of their properties as testified to during the March 11, 2009 public comment hearing in the above-captioned matter. Also identify what, if any, criteria was used to distinguish these customers from the ones that reside on the West Side of Providence.

Response:

During 2007, National Grid performed two gas main projects on the East Side of Providence. One project was in the Fox Point section of Providence and the other project was in the Charlesfield Street area of Providence. Both of these projects involved gas systems with lower pressures than that involved in the Knight Street area. The Fox Point project involved ¼ pound pressure while the Charlesfield Street project involved 35-pound pressure.

As in all projects involving the replacement of gas meters, the Company preferred outside meter placements, but made inside meter placements where an outside placement was unfeasible as described below. Additionally, because those two projects involved relatively lower pressure, the Company permitted a handful of residents living in “placarded houses” (designating houses of historical significance) the option of an inside placement. In that case, the customer was to sign a waiver acknowledging that they would grant the Company access in order to perform all necessary inspections and maintenance and agreeing that gas service would be terminated to the residence if access were denied. In the Fox Point (1/4 lb.) project, only 10 placarded historical house were granted an inside placement, where there was a feasible outside placement. In the Charlesfield Street (35 lb.) project, only one placarded historical house was granted such a meter location.

During 2008, the Company began a gas main relay project in the Knight Street area of West Providence. The Knight Street project involved a system upgrade to a high gas pressure of 99 lbs. During that project, the Company employed its standard approach, which is that the preferred location for a meter and regulator is outside the building. This was particularly true for the Knight Street project because of the elevated gas pressure. Nevertheless there are circumstances where, because of good engineering practice or safety concerns, an outside location is impractical. These circumstances would include the following:

Commission Data Request 1-2 (cont.)

- a. if the proximity of adjacent buildings or other structures precludes installing an outside meter;
- b. if the proximity of property lines would result in a meter installation which could extend into adjacent property;
- c. if an outside meter would be subject to the hazard of vehicular traffic and cannot be protected from such a hazard.

Where these circumstances were present the Company would install the meter inside; however, because the Knight Street project involved a 99-pound gas pressure system, the Company, would still attempt to locate the gas regulator on the exterior of the residence.

Prepared by or under the supervision of: Amy S. Smith and William Peck

Commission Data Request 1-3

Request:

Please identify the cost to move the gas meters presently on the outside of the Pawtucket Armory to either inside the building or to another part of the building less visible to the public and whether or not there are any safety issues with moving such meters, other than those testified to at the hearing and set forth in National Grid's complaint.

Response:

The cost to move the meters inside would be approximately \$21,000 (including the cost of inside piping/fitting work). The estimate includes the following:

- * Digging through the double wide cement sidewalk approx. - \$5, 000
- * Coring of 3 foot deep granite block wall to move meters inside - \$10, 000
- * Removal of approximately 11 feet of 6" steel pipe protection - \$3,500
- * Filling of holes in outside structure - \$1,500
- * Inside fitting work - \$1,000

We do not see any additional safety issues with relocating these meters. The Company is working with the customer to relocate the meters in question.

Prepared by or under the supervision of: Amy S. Smith