

Luly Massaro - Dkt. 4237

From: Leo Wold <LWold@riag.ri.gov>
To: "Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov" <Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov>
Date: 10/2/2014 3:13 PM
Subject: Dkt. 4237
CC: "Thomas.teehan@nationalgrid.com" <Thomas.teehan@nationalgrid.com>, "Raqu...
Attachments: Booth Docket 4237 Compliance Report Letter.pdf

Dear Ms. Massaro,

Attached please find correspondence from the Greg Booth to Steven Scialabba for filing with the Commission. The letter reflects the position of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers relating to the above matter.

Very truly yours,

Leo J. Wold



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September 25, 2014

Mr. Steve Scialabba
Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

Subject: National Grid June 26, 2014 Contact Voltage Compliance Report
Recommendations and Review Comments

Dear Steve:

I have reviewed National Grid's Annual Contact Voltage Compliance Report dated June 26, 2014. This letter outlines my review and comments and recommendation. In September 2012 I prepared and filed testimony concerning Docket 4237, and on December 19, 2013, I filed a memorandum with the Division in which I commented and provided recommendations concerning the National Grid Contact Voltage Compliance Report dated August 29, 2013.

I found that National Grid's June 26, 2014 Compliance Report meets the requirements set forth in §39-2-25(b)(6)¹, while also incorporating recommendations of the Division. The Company has explained in detail the contact voltage survey process and the findings and actions taken, and incorporated tables with the data accumulated in the August 2013 report into the June 26, 2014 report results from its last survey. It is important to note that there has only been a small decline in identified instances of contact voltage requiring action, and the summary results are on Table 2 for the last survey. It is notable that Table 3 indicated an increase the number of identified readings between 1 and 4.5 volts between the 2013 and 2014 surveys, and there are still 7 instances identified over 4.5 volts in the 2014 survey.

National Grid, in Section 7-DCVRA Recommendations (DCVRA stands for Designated Contact Voltage Risk Areas), has proposed an Option 1 in which it would survey once again 100% of the DCVRA area in 2015. This would provide the Company and the PUC with a 100% survey data base for three consecutive years. In consideration of the similarity in the events identified in the 2014 survey to the 2013 survey, and the quantity of identified contact voltage points, it would be prudent to complete a third year of 100% surveying on the DCVRA for the continued enhancement of safety for the public. Additionally, the Company is proposing a modification to the months in which testing will be performed, citing, among other issues, the snowbanks which can adversely impact the efficiency.

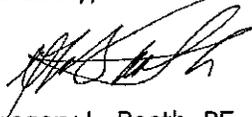
¹ 4. §39-2-25(b)(6)- Annually report on contact voltage findings, including, but not limited to, the number and type of energized objects on both company-owned and customer-owned assets, voltage level, corrective action taken, shocks that occur to members of the public or to pets owned by members of the public, and any other information that the commission deems appropriate.

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I recommend the Division support the proposals in Section 7 of the Company's report. Both a 100% survey for a third time and the adjustment in the survey schedule are prudent, considering the past results and the emphasis on public safety in this process.

If you have any questions or would like additional clarification, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Gregory L. Booth, PE
President

glb/sk