

July 13, 2012

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

**RE: The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid  
Tariff Advice Filing to Amend R.I.P.U.C. NG-GAS No. 101  
Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Pursuant to Commission Rule 1.9(c), I enclose ten (10) copies of National Grid's<sup>1</sup> tariff advice filing to request approval of the Company's gas tariff, entitled General Terms and Conditions, R.I.P.U.C. NG-GAS No. 101, Section 1, Schedule A, Fourth Revision, effective September 1, 2012. This tariff would supersede the Company's General Terms and Conditions, R.I.P.U.C. NG-GAS No. 101, Section 1, Schedule A, Third Revision. The appropriate tariff pages marked to identify the additions to the gas tariff currently in effect are contained in this filing as Attachment 1. A clean copy of the amended tariff is attached as Attachment 2.

In this filing, National Grid seeks to amend Section 7.0 (Billing and Reading of Meters) of the General Terms and Conditions of its gas tariff to allow residential customers to request to replace their National Grid Automated Meter Reading ("AMR") meter equipped with a radio frequency ("RF") transmitter with a non-AMR meter that does not utilize a RF transmitter.

National Grid is committed to utilizing technologies that result in cost savings to its customers. AMR meters benefit customers and the Company by, *inter alia*, (i) transmitting accurate meter readings; (ii) reducing the need for manual readings and the occurrence of estimated bills; and (iii) mitigating operation and maintenance expenses. The AMR technology reduces the chance of human error in the transcription of meter readings, and provides a faster and less costly meter reading process because Company personnel do not need to be physically present on the customer's premises to manually read the meter. As a result, Customers also experience less physical intrusion at their premises with the AMR technology. Nonetheless, it is important to National Grid that customers have the ability to choose whether to utilize this cost-saving technology; therefore, the Company seeks to amend its gas tariff to allow customers to opt out from having an AMR meter installed at their premises and instead elect to have a non-AMR manually-read meter installed at their premises.

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<sup>1</sup> The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (hereinafter referred to as "National Grid" or the "Company").

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Because the AMR technology has been in place for approximately a decade, the Company's current rate structure reflects the costs of reading meters utilizing AMR technology. Accordingly, customers who elect a non-AMR meter will be required to bear additional associated costs under the proposed tariff in order to offset the increased incremental costs to the Company to manually read the non-AMR meter.<sup>2</sup> First, opt-out customers will be required to pay an installation fee of \$111.67, which includes the Company's cost to remove the existing AMR gas meter and replace it with a non-AMR gas meter. Second, opt-out customers' monthly bill will reflect an increased monthly rate equal to \$23.40 to offset the incremental labor costs associated with Company employees manually reading their meter, as compared to costs associated with reading AMR meters. The Company, at its option, may choose to read the non-AMR meter less frequently than once per month, in which case an estimated read will be utilized. Finally, if a customer chooses to switch back to an AMR meter, there is a reinstallation fee. The Company has provided the meter reading and meter change cost calculations to support the proposed tariff changes in Attachment 3.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson

Enclosures

cc: Steve Scialabba  
Leo Wold, Esq.

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<sup>2</sup> Because the costs associated with the installation of the non-AMR meter and the costs to manually read the meter as a result of customers electing to have a non-AMR meter installed at their premises are not included in base rates, the associated revenue, which is intended to cover the incremental expense associated with these costs, will not be included in the gas revenue decoupling reconciliations.

ATTACHMENT 1

Proposed Terms and Conditions – Marked to Show Changes

**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 1.0 APPLICABILITY:** The following terms and conditions shall apply to and be a part of each Rate Classification now or hereafter in effect except as they may be expressly modified or superseded by Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission order.
- 2.0 RATES AND TARIFFS:** The Company furnishes natural gas service under rates and/or special contracts ("Schedule of Rates") promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Rhode Island General Laws and the regulations of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission ("RIPUC") and the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers ("RIDPUC"), all as may be in effect from time to time. Such Schedule of Rates, which includes these Terms and Conditions, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the administrative offices of the Company and at the offices of the RIPUC and the RIDPUC or on the Company's website.
- The Schedule of Rates may be revised, amended, supplemented or supplanted in whole or in part from time to time according to the procedures provided in the General Laws and the RIPUC regulations. When effective, all such revisions, amendments, supplements or replacements will appropriately supersede the present Schedule of Rates. In case of conflict between these Terms and Conditions and any orders or regulations of the RIPUC or the RIDPUC, said orders or regulations shall govern.
- The provisions of these Terms and Conditions apply on a non-discriminatory and non-preferential basis to all persons, partnerships, corporations or others (hereinafter "customers" or the "customer") who obtain natural gas distribution service from the Company pursuant to the Schedule of Rates.
- No representative of the Company has the authority to modify orally any provision or rate contained in the Schedule of Rates or to bind the Company to any promise or representation contrary thereto. Any such modification to the Schedule of Rates or these Terms and Conditions shall be in writing, duly executed by an authorized officer of the Company and made

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**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws and pursuant to regulations of the RIPUC and RIDPUC.

The Company will advise all new residential customers as to the least expensive rate available for the service based on the information in our records. Non-residential customers will be advised of the applicable rate based on a review of the available information in our existing records or as a result of a field inspection by the Company when the customer provides information which is inconsistent with Company records. The customer is responsible for accurately describing its gas burning equipment and updating the Company as changes occur.

A customer is entitled to change its customer account from one rate classification to another upon written application to the Company; provided, however that the customer account's use complies with the conditions specified in the requested rate classification. Once an election to change rate classifications has been made by the customer, the customer account must remain on that rate for a period of not less than twelve months. In cases where the customer requests a rate reclassification, no rebate will be granted for service rendered during the period the customer account was served under the previous rate classification, except in instances where the previous rate classification was due to an error by the Company.

**3.0 OBTAINING SERVICE**

**FROM THE COMPANY:** The Company shall furnish service to applicants under the filed rates and in accordance with these Terms and Conditions and the rules and regulations of the RIPUC and RIDPUC. The furnishing of service and acceptance by the customer constitutes a contract under these provisions. The Company may require at least one person on behalf of all parties who will receive service to sign an application or contract. Application for gas service within the territory served by the Company will be received through any duly authorized representative of the Company.

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### GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Company may accept oral or written application for residential service. Residential service may commence upon receipt by the Company of oral application, except that the Company reserves the right to require residential customers to show identification and proof of residency before commencing service. If residential service is commenced upon the receipt of oral application, then all residents at that address who have attained the age of majority may choose to execute a written application, thereby becoming parties to the contract. Non-residential service may commence upon oral application for an interim period pending the receipt of a duly executed written application and security deposit.

The Company reserves the right to refuse service, at any location, to an individual who is indebted to the Company for any service not in dispute before the RIDPUC, furnished to such individual at any location, or to such applicant or customer under another name. The Company will commence service if a reasonable payment plan for said indebtedness made in accordance with RIPUC and RIDPUC regulations is agreed to by the customer and the Company. The Company reserves the right to refuse service to any non-residential applicant who has not paid a deposit as required by the Company.

A customer shall be and remain the customer of record and shall be liable for service taken until such time as the customer requests termination of service and a final meter reading is recorded by the Company. The bill rendered by the Company based on such final meter reading shall be payable upon receipt. Such meter reading and final bill shall not be unduly delayed by the Company. In the event that the customer of record fails to give notice of termination of service to the Company or fails to provide access to the meter, the customer of record shall continue to be liable for service taken until the Company either disconnects the meter or a new party becomes a customer of the Company by taking service at such service location. Failure to make application for service shall not relieve a party from the obligation to apply and/or pay for service previously used.

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The Company shall undertake to furnish service to the customer for use only for his/her own purposes and only on the premises occupied through ownership or lease by the customer, except as provided below. In cases where the customer is a condominium association or the owner or manager of a commercial or residential rental property with over six (6) units, the customer may allocate the Company charges for gas service to other gas users on the premises through any reasonable means, including properly installed submetering. In such situations where the customer is allocating the Company charges for service to others, the burden is on the customer, when requested by the Company, to demonstrate that the allocated charges are no greater than the customer's bill from the Company. When allocating such charges, the customer may separately include reasonable administrative fees. Natural gas sold by the Company to authorized natural gas vehicle filling stations may be remetered or submetered by the customer for resale to another or others.

On an annual basis the Company may notify all customers that if they are the owners of property and their tenants move out, the owner must provide written notification in advance that he/she wants gas left on at that premises in his/her name. If the Company does not receive advance written notice, the service may be terminated, and the Company will not be liable for any damages to the premises resulting from the termination of gas service.

### **3.1 BILLING TERMINATION ("Soft-Off")**

The Company and the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (the "Division") have agreed to participate in a one-year pilot program (the "Pilot") with respect to the Company's "Soft-Off" termination policy, pursuant to a Settlement Agreement between the Company and the Division, as approved by the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission on May 4, 2012. During the Pilot, where a customer has requested termination of service and an

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### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

estimated or actual final meter reading is recorded, and the account is not subject to a shut-off order or request, the Company may choose to utilize a “Soft-Off” termination.

In the event of a termination of an account for which there is no unbilled consumption, a landlord may initiate an application for service in the landlord’s name at that premises by either oral or written request in accordance with Section 1, Schedule A, Paragraph 3.0 of this tariff; provided however, that in the event of a termination of an account for which there is any unbilled consumption, a landlord may initiate an application for service in the landlord’s name only upon providing the Company with a signed authorization. In addition, where the landlord has previously provided the Company a signed agreement, the Company may record the landlord as the customer of record for that account without further authorization.

When gas consumption at a premises where a Soft Off termination has been implemented exceeds 13ccf in a month the Company will send a notification to the premises indicating that service will be terminated pursuant to the Commission’s and Division’s rules and regulations governing the termination of service if an account is not established.

Once metered gas consumption at that premises exceeds an aggregate of 35 ccf or the account is still in a “Soft-Off” status for a consecutive period of 90 days, whichever occurs first, the Company will commence a termination action for the account, provided however that where such a termination action would affect the statutory and/or termination rights of other gas customers at that location, service will be terminated at the Soft Off premises as soon as the Company is able to accomplish the termination so as not to conflict with the rights provided under the Commission and Division’s rules and regulations governing the termination of service for the other customers.

**4.0 SECURITY DEPOSITS:** Security deposits, letters of credit or bonds may be required and taken in accordance with rules and procedures

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promulgated by the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission or other body having authority to regulate the Company. The Company reserves the right to refuse service to an applicant who has not paid a deposit as required by the Company. The rate of interest paid on deposits shall be adjusted annually on March 1st. The interest rate in effect in any year shall be based on the average rate over the prior calendar year for 10-year constant maturity Treasury Bonds as reported by the Federal Reserve Board.

#### **5.0 SERVICE SUPPLIED:**

The Company shall take reasonable care in providing regular and uninterrupted service to its firm customers, but whenever the Company deems that the situation warrants any interruption or limitation in the service to be rendered, such interruption or limitation shall not constitute a breach of the contract, and shall not render the Company liable for any damages suffered thereby by any person, or excuse the customer from further fulfillment of the contract.

The Company may refuse to supply service to loads of unusual characteristics which, in its sole judgment, might adversely affect the quality of service supplied to other customers, the public safety or the safety of the Company's personnel. In lieu of such refusal, the Company may require a customer to install any necessary regulating and protective equipment in accordance with the requirements and specifications of the Company.

Whenever the estimated expenditures necessary to supply gas to a customer(s) or to resume service to a customer following relocation of Company equipment for reasons other than the needs of the Company shall be of such an amount that the income to be derived from gas service at the applicable rates will, in the opinion of the Company, be insufficient to warrant such expenditure, the Company will require the customer(s) to pay a Contribution in Aid of Construction ("CIAC") for meter relocation or for main and service extension. The level of the CIAC will be based on an economic analysis looking at appropriate impacts associated with the capital expenditures.

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A detailed written cost estimate will be provided to the customer upon request.

The Company shall make application in a reasonable time for any necessary locations or other street permits required by public bodies for its pipes, mains and other apparatus, and shall not be required to supply service until a reasonable time after such approvals are obtained. The applicant for service shall obtain all other permits, certificates, licenses, easements and the like necessary to give the Company access to the applicant's equipment and to enable its pipes to be connected thereto.

The customer shall notify the Company in writing before making any significant change in the customer's gas equipment which would affect the capacity or other characteristics of the Company's facilities required to serve the customer. The customer shall be liable for any damage to the Company's property caused by customer's additional or changed installation if made without prior notification to the Company.

All piping, equipment and apparatus on the premises of the customer, excepting meters, underground service pipe, and governors, shall be furnished and put in place by the customer, and shall conform to the requirements and regulations of the Company, and the Company shall not be required to supply gas unless such piping, equipment and apparatus at all times conform to the requirements and regulations of the State, City, and Town ordinances and laws and policies of the Company. The Company shall be under no obligation to make any inspection to ascertain whether the foregoing condition has been conformed with and shall be under no liability for any damages occasioned by any defect in such piping, equipment or apparatus or other property on the premises.

If temporary service is rendered, the customer shall pay the cost of service under the rate plus the cost of installing and removing all equipment and connections.

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**6.0 INSTALLATION  
OF METERS:**

The Company will furnish, install, connect and maintain such meter(s) as are necessary for metering gas service for Company billing purposes.

All gas service to be provided under a single service classification to a customer in a building will be rendered through a single meter except in the instances described in (1) and (2) below:

(1) The Company may elect to install more than one meter for gas service provided under a single service classification:

- i. when the use of more than one meter is necessary to provide safe gas service;
- ii. when the use of more than one meter is required by a municipal ordinance;
- iii. when one meter cannot correctly measure the total gas service rendered;
- iv. when the characteristics of gas service of the customer are such that at the time the service line was installed there was no single meter commercially available to measure the gas service correctly;
- v. when more than one meter is required in order to render proper and reliable gas service without interruption;
- vi. in other comparable circumstances where service cannot practically be rendered through a single meter.

Pursuant to (i) through (vi), when more than one meter is installed to measure the gas service of a single customer at a premises or building under a single service classification under the above listed circumstances, the registrations of the meters will be combined under one customer account

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and the bill computed as if all service had been rendered through a single meter.

(2) At the customer's written request and at the customer's expense, the Company will install more than one meter for a building or premises under a single service classification, in which case the quantity of gas supplied through each meter will be measured separately and the bills for each computed separately under the appropriate service classification(s).

Gas service provided for use by emergency back-up natural gas generators of more than 12 kw shall be separately metered and billed.

**7.0 BILLING AND READING  
OF METERS:**

Bills are calculated and rendered on the basis of a customer account which shall have a unique identification number established for the billing of service provided through an individual meter, except for multiple metered customer accounts established pursuant to section (1) of Item 6.0 above, or aggregation pools established pursuant to the Company's Transportation Terms and Conditions in Section 6, Schedule C of the tariff. A single customer may have more than one customer account.

All bills are due within 25 days from the date of the bill. A late payment charge shall accrue on non-residential bills after 25 days in accordance with regulations of the RIPUC and RIDPUC.

Whenever a check or draft presented for payment of service is not accepted by the institution on which it is written, a returned check charge of \$15 applies, per check or draft written. Such returned check charge shall be waived for customers eligible for low-income assistance programs.

The customer shall be responsible for all charges for distribution and gas service furnished by the Company under

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the applicable rates as filed from time to time with the RIPUC, from the time service is commenced until it is terminated.

Annually in August the Company will review the gas consumption of each non-residential firm customer account for the just ended September through August period to determine if any customer account qualifies for a different rate class. If any such customer account does qualify for a different rate class based on this billing information, then commencing with the September billing month that customer account will be billed under that new rate class.

Properly authorized representatives of the Company shall have the right to access the customer's premises at all reasonable times and intervals for the purpose of reading, installing, examining, repairing, replacing or removing the Company's meters, meter reading devices, pipes and other gas equipment and appliances, in accordance with the General Laws, public regulations and Company policy in effect from time to time. The customer shall be responsible for providing accessibility to the above metering and equipment belonging to the Company.

Readings taken by an automated meter reading device will be considered actual readings for billing purposes.

The Company shall maintain the accuracy of all metering equipment installed pursuant hereto by regular testing and calibration in comparison to recognized standards and in accordance with RIPUC and RIDPUC regulations. A meter shall be deemed to be registering correctly if it appears from examination or test that it does not vary more than two percent (2%) from the standard approved by the RIDPUC.

In the event that the Company obtains inaccurate meter readings for any reason or in case any meter shall for any reason fail to register the full amount of gas supplied or the maximum demand of any customer account for any period of time, the amount of the bill of such customer account shall be estimated by the Company from available data. Such

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estimated bills shall be payable as rendered unless a customer disputes such estimate in accordance with procedures established by the RIDPUC.

The Company will notify the customer whenever it obtains information indicating that gas is being diverted from the customer's service or that the meter has been tampered with. The customer will be held responsible to the Company for any leakage or other use of gas which may occur beyond the point of the meter installation.

~~Unless otherwise determined by the Company, all residential premises shall be equipped with a meter that employs Automatic Meter Reading ("AMR") technology utilizing radio frequency transmitters to allow the Company to obtain meter readings remotely. However, residential customers may choose to "opt-out" by having their AMR meter replaced with a non-AMR meter.~~

~~Customers who choose to opt-out will be charged an initial fee of \$111.67 for the removal of the existing AMR gas meter and the installation of the non-AMR gas meter.~~

~~Customers who choose to opt-out will also be charged a monthly meter reading fee of \$23.40 for the non-AMR gas meter. The Company, at its option, may choose to read the non-AMR meter less frequently than once per month. In that case, or if the Company is unable for any reason to read the meter on the regularly scheduled monthly read date, the Company shall make a reasonable estimate of the consumption of electricity during those months when the meter is not read, based on available data, and such estimated bills shall be payable as rendered.~~

~~A customer will not be assessed the initial or monthly fee until after the Company has installed the non-AMR gas meter.~~

~~Any opt-out customer who subsequently wishes to have an AMR gas meter re-installed will be charged a "re-installation fee" of \$111.67. The re-installation fee will be charged for the~~

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removal of the non-AMR gas meter and the installation of the AMR gas meter.

Any customer electing re-installation will no longer be assessed the special monthly gas meter reading fee after the AMR meter has been re-installed.

**8.0 DISCONTINUANCE  
OF SERVICE:**

Subject to the applicable regulations of the RIPUC and RIDPUC, the Company shall have the right to discontinue gas service to the customer and to remove or disconnect its meters and piping for nonpayment of bills for gas service. The customer shall be responsible for paying the cost of reconnecting gas service if the service is disconnected for nonpayment of bills or a \$25 account restoration charge in the case of a turn-on after a shut-off for nonpayment of bills. Such account restoration charge shall be waived for customers eligible for low-income assistance programs.

The Company reserves the right to disconnect its service at any time without notice or to refuse to connect its service if to its knowledge and in its judgment the customer's installation has become or is unsafe, defective or in violation of the Company's policies or any ordinances, laws, codes or regulations.

In the event that any action by the customer or others shall cause a condition in the premises occupied by any customer whereby life or property is endangered, the Company may discontinue service to said premises regardless of the number of occupants or tenants of said premises.

Whenever the Company shall have proof that any customer is diverting and/or stealing service, the Company may discontinue its service to such customer and remove the meter.

**9.0 COMPANY  
INSTALLATION  
AND PROPERTY:**

All meters, services and other gas equipment owned by the Company shall be and will remain the property of the

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Company and no one other than an employee or authorized agent of the Company shall be permitted to remove, operate, or maintain, such property. The customer shall be responsible for all damage to, or loss of, such property unless occasioned by circumstances beyond the customer's control. Such property shall be installed at points most convenient for the Company's access and service and in conformance with public regulations in force from time to time. The costs of relocating such property shall be borne by the customer when done at the customer's request, or for his convenience, or if necessary to remedy any violation of public law or regulation caused by the customer.

The Company shall provide and maintain the necessary housing, fencing, barriers and foundations for the protection of the equipment to be installed upon the customer's premises. Such space, housing, fencing, barriers and foundations shall be in conformity with applicable laws and regulations and subject to the Company's specifications and approval.

**10.0 SUPPLY OF GAS:**

The Company shall make every reasonable effort to maintain an uninterrupted supply of gas for all firm customers, but it shall not be liable for loss or damage caused by reason of any interruption or reduction of the supply, or by reason of any abnormal pressure or quality of the gas, whether as a result of accident, labor difficulties, condition of fuel supply, the actions of any public authority, failure to receive any gas for which in any manner it has contracted, the implementation in accordance with good utility practice of an emergency load reduction program by the Company or one with whom it has contracted for a supply of gas, or inability for any other reason beyond the Company's control to maintain normal pressure or quality, or uninterrupted and continuous service.

Whenever the integrity of the Company's system or the supply of gas is believed to be threatened by conditions on its system or upon the systems with which it is directly or indirectly interconnected, the Company may, in its sole judgment, curtail or interrupt gas service or reduce pressure and such action shall not be construed to constitute a default nor shall the

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Company be liable therefore in any respect. The Company will use reasonable efforts under the circumstances to overcome the cause of such curtailment, interruption or reduction and to resume full performance.

The Company shall be excused from performing under the Schedule of Rates and shall not be liable in damages or otherwise if and to the extent that it shall be unable to do so or prevented from doing so by statute or regulation or by action of any court or public authority having or purporting to have jurisdiction in the premises; or by loss, diminution or impairment of gas supply from its suppliers or the systems of others with which it is interconnected; or by reason of storm, flood, fire, earthquake, explosion, civil disturbance, labor dispute, act of God or public enemy, failure of any supplier to perform, restraint by any court or regulatory agency, or any other intervening cause, whether or not similar thereto; the Company shall use reasonable efforts under the circumstances to overcome such cause and to resume full performance.

The foregoing shall not alter the Company's liability under applicable legal standards for damages in the case of its negligent or intentionally wrongful conduct with respect to any act or failure to act by the Company.

**11.0 COMPANY LIABILITY:** The Company shall not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from the use of gas or the presence of the Company's appliances and equipment on the customer's premises unless such loss or damage results directly and solely from the Company's negligence.

The Company shall not, in any event except that of its own negligent acts or omissions, be liable to any party for any direct, consequential, indirect or special damages, whether arising in tort, contract or otherwise, by reason of any services performed, or undertaken to be performed, or actions taken by the Company, or its agents or employees, under the Schedule of Rates or in accordance with or required by law, including, without limitation, termination of the customer's service.

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The customer assumes full responsibility for the proper use of gas furnished by the Company and for the condition, suitability and safety of any and all equipment on the customer's premises, or owned or controlled by the customer which is not the Company's property. The customer shall indemnify and save harmless the Company from and against any and all claims, expenses, legal fees, losses, suits, awards or judgments for injuries to or deaths of persons or damage of any kind, whether to property or otherwise, arising directly or indirectly by reason of (1) the routine presence in or use of gas from pipes owned or controlled by the customer; or (2) the failure of the customer to perform any of his or her duties and obligations as set forth in the Schedule of Rates where such failure creates safety hazards; or (3) the customer's improper use of gas or gas appliances. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Company shall be liable for damages claimed to have resulted from the Company's conduct of its business only when the Company, its employees or agents have acted in a negligent, or intentionally wrongful manner.

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ATTACHMENT 2

Proposed Terms and Conditions – Clean

## **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 1.0 APPLICABILITY:** The following terms and conditions shall apply to and be a part of each Rate Classification now or hereafter in effect except as they may be expressly modified or superseded by Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission order.
- 2.0 RATES AND TARIFFS:** The Company furnishes natural gas service under rates and/or special contracts ("Schedule of Rates") promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Rhode Island General Laws and the regulations of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission ("RIPUC") and the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers ("RIDPUC"), all as may be in effect from time to time. Such Schedule of Rates, which includes these Terms and Conditions, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the administrative offices of the Company and at the offices of the RIPUC and the RIDPUC or on the Company's website.

The Schedule of Rates may be revised, amended, supplemented or supplanted in whole or in part from time to time according to the procedures provided in the General Laws and the RIPUC regulations. When effective, all such revisions, amendments, supplements or replacements will appropriately supersede the present Schedule of Rates. In case of conflict between these Terms and Conditions and any orders or regulations of the RIPUC or the RIDPUC, said orders or regulations shall govern.

The provisions of these Terms and Conditions apply on a non-discriminatory and non-preferential basis to all persons, partnerships, corporations or others (hereinafter "customers" or the "customer") who obtain natural gas distribution service from the Company pursuant to the Schedule of Rates.

No representative of the Company has the authority to modify orally any provision or rate contained in the Schedule of Rates or to bind the Company to any promise or representation contrary thereto. Any such modification to the Schedule of Rates or these Terms and Conditions shall be in writing, duly executed by an authorized officer of the Company and made

### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws and pursuant to regulations of the RIPUC and RIDPUC.

The Company will advise all new residential customers as to the least expensive rate available for the service based on the information in our records. Non-residential customers will be advised of the applicable rate based on a review of the available information in our existing records or as a result of a field inspection by the Company when the customer provides information which is inconsistent with Company records. The customer is responsible for accurately describing its gas burning equipment and updating the Company as changes occur.

A customer is entitled to change its customer account from one rate classification to another upon written application to the Company; provided, however that the customer account's use complies with the conditions specified in the requested rate classification. Once an election to change rate classifications has been made by the customer, the customer account must remain on that rate for a period of not less than twelve months. In cases where the customer requests a rate reclassification, no rebate will be granted for service rendered during the period the customer account was served under the previous rate classification, except in instances where the previous rate classification was due to an error by the Company.

### **3.0 OBTAINING SERVICE**

**FROM THE COMPANY:** The Company shall furnish service to applicants under the filed rates and in accordance with these Terms and Conditions and the rules and regulations of the RIPUC and RIDPUC. The furnishing of service and acceptance by the customer constitutes a contract under these provisions. The Company may require at least one person on behalf of all parties who will receive service to sign an application or contract. Application for gas service within the territory served by the Company will be received through any duly authorized representative of the Company.

### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The Company may accept oral or written application for residential service. Residential service may commence upon receipt by the Company of oral application, except that the Company reserves the right to require residential customers to show identification and proof of residency before commencing service. If residential service is commenced upon the receipt of oral application, then all residents at that address who have attained the age of majority may choose to execute a written application, thereby becoming parties to the contract. Non-residential service may commence upon oral application for an interim period pending the receipt of a duly executed written application and security deposit.

The Company reserves the right to refuse service, at any location, to an individual who is indebted to the Company for any service not in dispute before the RIDPUC, furnished to such individual at any location, or to such applicant or customer under another name. The Company will commence service if a reasonable payment plan for said indebtedness made in accordance with RIPUC and RIDPUC regulations is agreed to by the customer and the Company. The Company reserves the right to refuse service to any non-residential applicant who has not paid a deposit as required by the Company.

A customer shall be and remain the customer of record and shall be liable for service taken until such time as the customer requests termination of service and a final meter reading is recorded by the Company. The bill rendered by the Company based on such final meter reading shall be payable upon receipt. Such meter reading and final bill shall not be unduly delayed by the Company. In the event that the customer of record fails to give notice of termination of service to the Company or fails to provide access to the meter, the customer of record shall continue to be liable for service taken until the Company either disconnects the meter or a new party becomes a customer of the Company by taking service at such service location. Failure to make application for service shall not relieve a party from the obligation to apply and/or pay for service previously used.

## **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The Company shall undertake to furnish service to the customer for use only for his/her own purposes and only on the premises occupied through ownership or lease by the customer, except as provided below. In cases where the customer is a condominium association or the owner or manager of a commercial or residential rental property with over six (6) units, the customer may allocate the Company charges for gas service to other gas users on the premises through any reasonable means, including properly installed submetering. In such situations where the customer is allocating the Company charges for service to others, the burden is on the customer, when requested by the Company, to demonstrate that the allocated charges are no greater than the customer's bill from the Company. When allocating such charges, the customer may separately include reasonable administrative fees. Natural gas sold by the Company to authorized natural gas vehicle filling stations may be remetered or submetered by the customer for resale to another or others.

On an annual basis the Company may notify all customers that if they are the owners of property and their tenants move out, the owner must provide written notification in advance that he/she wants gas left on at that premises in his/her name. If the Company does not receive advance written notice, the service may be terminated, and the Company will not be liable for any damages to the premises resulting from the termination of gas service.

### **3.1 BILLING TERMINATION (“Soft-Off”)**

The Company and the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (the “Division”) have agreed to participate in a one-year pilot program (the “Pilot”) with respect to the Company's “Soft-Off” termination policy, pursuant to a Settlement Agreement between the Company and the Division, as approved by the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission on May 4, 2012. During the Pilot, where a customer has requested termination of service and an

### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

estimated or actual final meter reading is recorded, and the account is not subject to a shut-off order or request, the Company may choose to utilize a “Soft-Off” termination.

In the event of a termination of an account for which there is no unbilled consumption, a landlord may initiate an application for service in the landlord’s name at that premises by either oral or written request in accordance with Section 1, Schedule A, Paragraph 3.0 of this tariff; provided however, that in the event of a termination of an account for which there is any unbilled consumption, a landlord may initiate an application for service in the landlord’s name only upon providing the Company with a signed authorization. In addition, where the landlord has previously provided the Company a signed agreement, the Company may record the landlord as the customer of record for that account without further authorization.

When gas consumption at a premises where a Soft Off termination has been implemented exceeds 13ccf in a month the Company will send a notification to the premises indicating that service will be terminated pursuant to the Commission’s and Division’s rules and regulations governing the termination of service if an account is not established.

Once metered gas consumption at that premises exceeds an aggregate of 35 ccf or the account is still in a “Soft-Off” status for a consecutive period of 90 days, whichever occurs first, the Company will commence a termination action for the account, provided however that where such a termination action would affect the statutory and/or termination rights of other gas customers at that location, service will be terminated at the Soft Off premises as soon as the Company is able to accomplish the termination so as not to conflict with the rights provided under the Commission and Division’s rules and regulations governing the termination of service for the other customers.

**4.0 SECURITY DEPOSITS:** Security deposits, letters of credit or bonds may be required and taken in accordance with rules and procedures

### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

promulgated by the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission or other body having authority to regulate the Company. The Company reserves the right to refuse service to an applicant who has not paid a deposit as required by the Company. The rate of interest paid on deposits shall be adjusted annually on March 1st. The interest rate in effect in any year shall be based on the average rate over the prior calendar year for 10-year constant maturity Treasury Bonds as reported by the Federal Reserve Board.

#### **5.0 SERVICE SUPPLIED:**

The Company shall take reasonable care in providing regular and uninterrupted service to its firm customers, but whenever the Company deems that the situation warrants any interruption or limitation in the service to be rendered, such interruption or limitation shall not constitute a breach of the contract, and shall not render the Company liable for any damages suffered thereby by any person, or excuse the customer from further fulfillment of the contract.

The Company may refuse to supply service to loads of unusual characteristics which, in its sole judgment, might adversely affect the quality of service supplied to other customers, the public safety or the safety of the Company's personnel. In lieu of such refusal, the Company may require a customer to install any necessary regulating and protective equipment in accordance with the requirements and specifications of the Company.

Whenever the estimated expenditures necessary to supply gas to a customer(s) or to resume service to a customer following relocation of Company equipment for reasons other than the needs of the Company shall be of such an amount that the income to be derived from gas service at the applicable rates will, in the opinion of the Company, be insufficient to warrant such expenditure, the Company will require the customer(s) to pay a Contribution in Aid of Construction ("CIAC") for meter relocation or for main and service extension. The level of the CIAC will be based on an economic analysis looking at appropriate impacts associated with the capital expenditures.

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A detailed written cost estimate will be provided to the customer upon request.

The Company shall make application in a reasonable time for any necessary locations or other street permits required by public bodies for its pipes, mains and other apparatus, and shall not be required to supply service until a reasonable time after such approvals are obtained. The applicant for service shall obtain all other permits, certificates, licenses, easements and the like necessary to give the Company access to the applicant's equipment and to enable its pipes to be connected thereto.

The customer shall notify the Company in writing before making any significant change in the customer's gas equipment which would affect the capacity or other characteristics of the Company's facilities required to serve the customer. The customer shall be liable for any damage to the Company's property caused by customer's additional or changed installation if made without prior notification to the Company.

All piping, equipment and apparatus on the premises of the customer, excepting meters, underground service pipe, and governors, shall be furnished and put in place by the customer, and shall conform to the requirements and regulations of the Company, and the Company shall not be required to supply gas unless such piping, equipment and apparatus at all times conform to the requirements and regulations of the State, City, and Town ordinances and laws and policies of the Company. The Company shall be under no obligation to make any inspection to ascertain whether the foregoing condition has been conformed with and shall be under no liability for any damages occasioned by any defect in such piping, equipment or apparatus or other property on the premises.

If temporary service is rendered, the customer shall pay the cost of service under the rate plus the cost of installing and removing all equipment and connections.

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**6.0 INSTALLATION  
OF METERS:**

The Company will furnish, install, connect and maintain such meter(s) as are necessary for metering gas service for Company billing purposes.

All gas service to be provided under a single service classification to a customer in a building will be rendered through a single meter except in the instances described in (1) and (2) below:

(1) The Company may elect to install more than one meter for gas service provided under a single service classification:

- i. when the use of more than one meter is necessary to provide safe gas service;
- ii. when the use of more than one meter is required by a municipal ordinance;
- iii. when one meter cannot correctly measure the total gas service rendered;
- iv. when the characteristics of gas service of the customer are such that at the time the service line was installed there was no single meter commercially available to measure the gas service correctly;
- v. when more than one meter is required in order to render proper and reliable gas service without interruption;
- vi. in other comparable circumstances where service cannot practically be rendered through a single meter.

Pursuant to (i) through (vi), when more than one meter is installed to measure the gas service of a single customer at a premises or building under a single service classification under the above listed circumstances, the registrations of the meters will be combined under one customer account

### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

and the bill computed as if all service had been rendered through a single meter.

(2) At the customer's written request and at the customer's expense, the Company will install more than one meter for a building or premises under a single service classification, in which case the quantity of gas supplied through each meter will be measured separately and the bills for each computed separately under the appropriate service classification(s).

Gas service provided for use by emergency back-up natural gas generators of more than 12 kw shall be separately metered and billed.

#### **7.0 BILLING AND READING OF METERS:**

Bills are calculated and rendered on the basis of a customer account which shall have a unique identification number established for the billing of service provided through an individual meter, except for multiple metered customer accounts established pursuant to section (1) of Item 6.0 above, or aggregation pools established pursuant to the Company's Transportation Terms and Conditions in Section 6, Schedule C of the tariff. A single customer may have more than one customer account.

All bills are due within 25 days from the date of the bill. A late payment charge shall accrue on non-residential bills after 25 days in accordance with regulations of the RIPUC and RIDPUC.

Whenever a check or draft presented for payment of service is not accepted by the institution on which it is written, a returned check charge of \$15 applies, per check or draft written. Such returned check charge shall be waived for customers eligible for low-income assistance programs.

The customer shall be responsible for all charges for distribution and gas service furnished by the Company under

### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

the applicable rates as filed from time to time with the RIPUC, from the time service is commenced until it is terminated.

Annually in August the Company will review the gas consumption of each non-residential firm customer account for the just ended September through August period to determine if any customer account qualifies for a different rate class. If any such customer account does qualify for a different rate class based on this billing information, then commencing with the September billing month that customer account will be billed under that new rate class.

Properly authorized representatives of the Company shall have the right to access the customer's premises at all reasonable times and intervals for the purpose of reading, installing, examining, repairing, replacing or removing the Company's meters, meter reading devices, pipes and other gas equipment and appliances, in accordance with the General Laws, public regulations and Company policy in effect from time to time. The customer shall be responsible for providing accessibility to the above metering and equipment belonging to the Company.

Readings taken by an automated meter reading device will be considered actual readings for billing purposes.

The Company shall maintain the accuracy of all metering equipment installed pursuant hereto by regular testing and calibration in comparison to recognized standards and in accordance with RIPUC and RIDPUC regulations. A meter shall be deemed to be registering correctly if it appears from examination or test that it does not vary more than two percent (2%) from the standard approved by the RIDPUC.

In the event that the Company obtains inaccurate meter readings for any reason or in case any meter shall for any reason fail to register the full amount of gas supplied or the maximum demand of any customer account for any period of time, the amount of the bill of such customer account shall be estimated by the Company from available data. Such

### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

estimated bills shall be payable as rendered unless a customer disputes such estimate in accordance with procedures established by the RIDPUC.

The Company will notify the customer whenever it obtains information indicating that gas is being diverted from the customer's service or that the meter has been tampered with. The customer will be held responsible to the Company for any leakage or other use of gas which may occur beyond the point of the meter installation.

Unless otherwise determined by the Company, all residential premises shall be equipped with a meter that employs Automatic Meter Reading ("AMR") technology utilizing radio frequency transmitters to allow the Company to obtain meter readings remotely. However, residential customers may choose to "opt-out" by having their AMR meter replaced with a non-AMR meter.

Customers who choose to opt-out will be charged an initial fee of \$111.67 for the removal of the existing AMR gas meter and the installation of the non-AMR gas meter.

Customers who choose to opt-out will also be charged a monthly meter reading fee of \$23.40 for the non-AMR gas meter. The Company, at its option, may choose to read the non-AMR meter less frequently than once per month. In that case, or if the Company is unable for any reason to read the meter on the regularly scheduled monthly read date, the Company shall make a reasonable estimate of the consumption of electricity during those months when the meter is not read, based on available data, and such estimated bills shall be payable as rendered.

A customer will not be assessed the initial or monthly fee until after the Company has installed the non-AMR gas meter.

Any opt-out customer who subsequently wishes to have an AMR gas meter re-installed will be charged a "re-installation fee" of \$111.67. The re-installation fee will be charged for the

### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

removal of the non-AMR gas meter and the installation of the AMR gas meter.

Any customer electing re-installation will no longer be assessed the special monthly gas meter reading fee after the AMR meter has been re-installed.

#### **8.0 DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE:**

Subject to the applicable regulations of the RIPUC and RIDPUC, the Company shall have the right to discontinue gas service to the customer and to remove or disconnect its meters and piping for nonpayment of bills for gas service. The customer shall be responsible for paying the cost of reconnecting gas service if the service is disconnected for nonpayment of bills or a \$25 account restoration charge in the case of a turn-on after a shut-off for nonpayment of bills. Such account restoration charge shall be waived for customers eligible for low-income assistance programs.

The Company reserves the right to disconnect its service at any time without notice or to refuse to connect its service if to its knowledge and in its judgment the customer's installation has become or is unsafe, defective or in violation of the Company's policies or any ordinances, laws, codes or regulations.

In the event that any action by the customer or others shall cause a condition in the premises occupied by any customer whereby life or property is endangered, the Company may discontinue service to said premises regardless of the number of occupants or tenants of said premises.

Whenever the Company shall have proof that any customer is diverting and/or stealing service, the Company may discontinue its service to such customer and remove the meter.

#### **9.0 COMPANY INSTALLATION AND PROPERTY:**

All meters, services and other gas equipment owned by the Company shall be and will remain the property of the

### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Company and no one other than an employee or authorized agent of the Company shall be permitted to remove, operate, or maintain, such property. The customer shall be responsible for all damage to, or loss of, such property unless occasioned by circumstances beyond the customer's control. Such property shall be installed at points most convenient for the Company's access and service and in conformance with public regulations in force from time to time. The costs of relocating such property shall be borne by the customer when done at the customer's request, or for his convenience, or if necessary to remedy any violation of public law or regulation caused by the customer.

The Company shall provide and maintain the necessary housing, fencing, barriers and foundations for the protection of the equipment to be installed upon the customer's premises. Such space, housing, fencing, barriers and foundations shall be in conformity with applicable laws and regulations and subject to the Company's specifications and approval.

#### **10.0 SUPPLY OF GAS:**

The Company shall make every reasonable effort to maintain an uninterrupted supply of gas for all firm customers, but it shall not be liable for loss or damage caused by reason of any interruption or reduction of the supply, or by reason of any abnormal pressure or quality of the gas, whether as a result of accident, labor difficulties, condition of fuel supply, the actions of any public authority, failure to receive any gas for which in any manner it has contracted, the implementation in accordance with good utility practice of an emergency load reduction program by the Company or one with whom it has contracted for a supply of gas, or inability for any other reason beyond the Company's control to maintain normal pressure or quality, or uninterrupted and continuous service.

Whenever the integrity of the Company's system or the supply of gas is believed to be threatened by conditions on its system or upon the systems with which it is directly or indirectly interconnected, the Company may, in its sole judgment, curtail or interrupt gas service or reduce pressure and such action shall not be construed to constitute a default nor shall the

### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Company be liable therefore in any respect. The Company will use reasonable efforts under the circumstances to overcome the cause of such curtailment, interruption or reduction and to resume full performance.

The Company shall be excused from performing under the Schedule of Rates and shall not be liable in damages or otherwise if and to the extent that it shall be unable to do so or prevented from doing so by statute or regulation or by action of any court or public authority having or purporting to have jurisdiction in the premises; or by loss, diminution or impairment of gas supply from its suppliers or the systems of others with which it is interconnected; or by reason of storm, flood, fire, earthquake, explosion, civil disturbance, labor dispute, act of God or public enemy, failure of any supplier to perform, restraint by any court or regulatory agency, or any other intervening cause, whether or not similar thereto; the Company shall use reasonable efforts under the circumstances to overcome such cause and to resume full performance.

The foregoing shall not alter the Company's liability under applicable legal standards for damages in the case of its negligent or intentionally wrongful conduct with respect to any act or failure to act by the Company.

**11.0 COMPANY LIABILITY:** The Company shall not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from the use of gas or the presence of the Company's appliances and equipment on the customer's premises unless such loss or damage results directly and solely from the Company's negligence.

The Company shall not, in any event except that of its own negligent acts or omissions, be liable to any party for any direct, consequential, indirect or special damages, whether arising in tort, contract or otherwise, by reason of any services performed, or undertaken to be performed, or actions taken by the Company, or its agents or employees, under the Schedule of Rates or in accordance with or required by law, including, without limitation, termination of the customer's service.

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The customer assumes full responsibility for the proper use of gas furnished by the Company and for the condition, suitability and safety of any and all equipment on the customer's premises, or owned or controlled by the customer which is not the Company's property. The customer shall indemnify and save harmless the Company from and against any and all claims, expenses, legal fees, losses, suits, awards or judgments for injuries to or deaths of persons or damage of any kind, whether to property or otherwise, arising directly or indirectly by reason of (1) the routine presence in or use of gas from pipes owned or controlled by the customer; or (2) the failure of the customer to perform any of his or her duties and obligations as set forth in the Schedule of Rates where such failure creates safety hazards; or (3) the customer's improper use of gas or gas appliances. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Company shall be liable for damages claimed to have resulted from the Company's conduct of its business only when the Company, its employees or agents have acted in a negligent, or intentionally wrongful manner.

ATTACHMENT 3

Calculation of Charges

<b>Proposed Gas Meter Change Fee</b>	\$ 111.67
<b>Proposed Gas Meter Reading Fee</b>	\$ 23.40

**JOB COST CALCULATIONS**

Narragansett Electric Company										
Labor Times (minutes)										
Job	Unable to Complete (UTC) Rate (a)	Travel (b)	Unanswered Meter Access Requests (c)	Wrench Time (d)	Total Time (access gained) (e)	Total Time (access blocked) (f)	Average Job Time (g)	Average Hourly Overtime Rate (h)	Loadings (i)	Overtime Cost Per Job (j)
<b>Meter Change (Gas)</b>	0%	10	10	40	50	20	50.00	\$ 47.86	180%	\$ 111.67
<b>Manual Meter Read (Gas)</b>	19%	10	10	10	20	20	23.80	\$ 47.97	23%	\$ 23.40

- (a) For manual meter readings, percentage is from Resource Planning. For meter changes, a rate of zero is assumed.
- (b) Based on twelve month rolling average of actual job times through February 2012, per Resource Planning.
- (c) Based on twelve month rolling average of actual job times through February 2012, per Resource Planning.
- (d) Based on twelve month rolling average of actual job times through February 2012, per Resource Planning.
- (e) Equal to (b) + (d)
- (f) Equal to (b) + (c)
- (g) Equal to (a)(e + f) + (1 - a)(e).
- (h) Based on average salary of all qualified wage rates.
- (i) Based on twelve month rolling average of actuals through February 2012 (capex % for meter changes, opex % for meter reads)
- (j) Equal to (g)/60 times (h) times (1+ i)