

June 25, 2013

**VIA HAND DELIVERY & ELECTRONIC MAIL**

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 RIPUC NG-GAS No. 101  
Docket No. 4405**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

On behalf of National Grid<sup>1</sup> attached are responses to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission's First Set of Data Requests concerning this proceeding.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at (401) 784-7667.

Very truly yours,



Thomas R. Teehan

Enclosures

cc: Leo Wold, Esq.  
Steve Scialabba  
James Lanni

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

The Narragansett Electric Company  
d/b/a National Grid  
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Commission 1-1

Request:

How many instances has the Company had to disconnect a customer by turning off service from a street or curb valve in the last three years? Please specify the number by year.

Response:

Historical information regarding the use of street or curb valves for the last three years is incomplete due to system and record-keeping changes. However, in order to be responsive the available data for 2010 to 2013 YTD is presented below.

<b>2010</b>	
Residential	654
Non-Res	29
<b>Total:</b>	<b>683</b>
<b>2011</b>	
Residential	699
Non-Res	26
<b>Total:</b>	<b>725</b>
<b>2012</b>	
Residential	602
Non-Res	45
<b>Total:</b>	<b>647</b>
<b>2013 YTD</b>	
Residential	246
Non-Res	17
<b>Total:</b>	<b>263</b>

Prepared by or under the supervision of: Kristin Hess

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Commission 1-2

Request:

How many times during the past three years was the Company unable to terminate service to a customer because there was no street or curb valve installed? Please specify the number by year.

Response:

Historical information for the last three years regarding the Company's inability to terminate service where no street or curb valve existed is incomplete due to system and record-keeping changes. However, in order to be responsive the available data for 2010 to 2013 YTD is presented below.

<b>2010</b>	
Residential	1077
Non-Res	18
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1095</b>
<b>2011</b>	
Residential	485
Non-Res	4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>489</b>
<b>2012</b>	
Residential	1043
Non-Res	115
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1158</b>
<b>2013 YTD</b>	
Residential	374
Non-Res	40
<b>Total:</b>	<b>414</b>

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Commission 1-3

Request:

How many instances during the past three years has the Company had to install a street or curb valve in order to be able to terminate a customer's service for failure to make payment? Please specify the number by year.

Response:

Historical information for the last three years regarding the installation of a street or curb valve to terminate a customer's service for non-payment is incomplete due to systemic system and record keeping changes. However, in order to be responsive the available data for 2010 to 2012 is presented below.

<b>2010 -</b>	121
<b>2011 -</b>	103
<b>2012 -</b>	21

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Commission 1-4

Request:

Prior to termination of service with a street or curb valve, does the Company notify the property owner/landlord?

Response:

Yes. Multiple-dwelling premises are posted by placing a notice of shutoff in a conspicuous place prior to service termination and notification is also provided by US mail to the landlord during this process. Customers in single-family premises receive disconnect notices and outbound calls notifying them that their services may be interrupted. If the landlord is the account holder in this case, they will also receive a disconnect notice by US mail and an outbound call.

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Commission 1-5

Request:

If the Company terminates service with a street or curb valve to a multi-unit dwelling, does that result in the other tenants losing service?

Response:

Yes. If after complying with the Commission-approved posting process, the Company terminates service with a street or curb valve to a multi-unit dwelling other tenants at that building will lose service. However, in those cases the Company's practice is to restore service to the multi-unit dwelling by no later than the next business day once it has gained access to the location and terminated service to the non-paying customer's meter or has received adequate payment and/or payment arrangements relative to the non-paying account.

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Commission 1-6

Request:

What is the full cost of installing a street or curb valve? Please break down the cost into components that include how much depreciation is included in the calculation and whether or not the cost includes overtime costs.

Response:

The chart below provides the estimated costs of two methods (Coring Method and Complete Excavation) of installing a service curb valve in Rhode Island.

<b>Service Curb Valve Cut-in Cost</b>		
<b>Coring Method</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Labor	\$400.00	Coring Crew @ \$100/hour - 4 hours (loaded)
Police	\$215.00	City of Providence 4 hour rate.
Permit	\$75.00	City of Providence Permit Fee
Materials	\$80.00	Curb Valve, Curb Box and Epoxy for restoration
CMS Tech	\$50.00	1/2 hour to pressure test service from basement to curb valve prior to turn-on.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$820.00</b>	
<b>Excavation Crew</b>		
Labor	\$400.00	2-person Excavation Crew @ \$100/hour - 4 hours (loaded)
Police	\$215.00	City of Providence 4 hour rate.
Permit	\$75.00	City of Providence Permit Fee
Materials	\$60.00	Curb Valve and Curb Box
Sidewalk Restoration	\$400.00	Concrete Restoration (average contractor cost)
CMS Tech	\$50.00	1/2 hour to pressure test service from basement to curb valve prior to turn-on.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>	

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Please see the Company's Response to Commission 1-7 which describes how the Company will address depreciation if payment is not received from the customer.

Prepared by or under the supervision of Alfred Amaral

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Commission 1-7

Request:

The cost of installing the curb valve is included in the utility's plant in service and then credited once payment is received. How does this affect rate base and taxes?

Response:

The Company's rate base is adjusted annually based on estimated capital investment during a particular fiscal year as part of the Gas Infrastructure, Safety, and Reliability Plan. The fiscal year capital investment estimate is later reconciled to actual capital investment after the completion of the fiscal year. The Company's estimated Gas ISR capital investment proposal would reflect an estimate of curb valve installations related to discontinuation of service at a value of \$-0- since it will be assumed that the customer will reimburse the Company for its costs. This would also generate an estimate of property taxes of \$-0- in the ISR because calculation of the property tax component of the Gas ISR revenue requirement is based on an historic effective property tax rate (currently 3.98 percent per the approved Fiscal Year 2014 plan in Docket No. 4382) times net capital investment. If the Company has not been reimbursed by the customer for the cost of the curb valve by the end of any fiscal year, the Company's net investment in the curb valve will be included as part of the actual capital investment for the aforementioned annual Gas ISR reconciliation which will effectively increase rate base at that time. In addition, property taxes will be calculated on the net investment in the curb valve as described above.

Prepared by or under the supervision of William R. Richer

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Commission 1-8

Request:

If a customer is scheduled for termination and that customer moves prior to the installation of the street or curb valve, will that customer be responsible for the cost of the installation of the street or curb valve if the move occurs prior to the installation?

Response:

Whether a customer who is scheduled for termination and moves prior to the installation of a street or curb valve will be responsible for the cost of the street or curb valve will depend on if the Company is aware of the customer's move at the time of the scheduled installation. If the Company is not aware that the customer has moved at the time it installs a street or curb valve, then the Company will bill the customer the cost of the installation. However if the Company becomes aware that the customer has moved prior to the installation of a street or curb valve then the customer will not be responsible for the cost of installation. Rather the Company will determine at that time whether to (1) cancel the installation of the street or curb valve since the reason for the installation, (termination of the customer's service) is no longer applicable in which case no installation costs will be incurred or (2) to proceed with the installation of the street or curb valve for an alternative reason (see the Company's Response to Commission 1-9) in which case the decision would benefit the Company's gas system.

Prepared by or under the supervision of Walter Fromm

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Commission 1-9

Request:

Are shut off valves used only for delinquent customers? If not, please identify all of the reasons for which street or curb valves are used.

Response:

Curb valves are not used only to terminate service to delinquent customers. They can also be used for safety purposes when access to the meter is not available to terminate gas flow to a premise and can be used for a control point when performing routine maintenance such as a meter change, a meter addition, pipe replacement and re-builds.

Prepared by or under the supervision of Alfred Amaral and Walter F. Fromm

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Commission 1-10

Request:

When new distribution mains and services are installed, are street or curb valves normally installed as part of the network infrastructure?

Response:

Street and curb valves are installed for new mains and services in accordance with the Company operating and maintenance procedures. For example, the Company installs street (main) valves at intersections where appropriate to allow for future isolation of the mains in the event of emergencies. For services, the Company may install a curb valve or may install an outside riser with a valve where the meter is inside and the Company does not have outside access. Curb valves are provided for new commercial/industrial services.

Prepared by or under the supervision of Alfred Amaral and Walter F. Fromm

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Commission 1-11

Request:

When replacing mains and/or service lines under the ISR Program, does National Grid install valves at the curb? If yes, please explain why.

Response:

The Company follows its existing operation and maintenance procedures for the installation of street or curb valves for replacing mains and services under the ISR Program. Please see the Company's Response to Commission 1-9 and the Company's Response to Commission 1-10.

Prepared by or under the supervision of Walter F. Fromm

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Commission 1-12

Request:

How many customer connections does National Grid have and of those, how many have street or curb valves?

Response:

As of June 18, 2013, the Company has a total number of services of 192,115. Of these 192,115 services, the Company estimates that 147,569 services have either a curb valve on the service or the Company has access to the meter. Specifically, 67,476 services have a curb valve on the service. In addition, another 80,093 services that do not have a curb valve are on outside sets which would provide the Company with access to the meter.

Please note that the proposed tariff language is intended to refer to gas service valves installed in order to terminate service to a single location and not riser shutoffs or other types of valves.

Prepared by or under the supervision of Walter F. Fromm