

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY :
D/B/A NATIONAL GRID’S PILOT METERING : **DOCKET NO. 4513**
PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL OWNED STREETLIGHTS :

ORDER

WHEREAS, On July 24, 2014, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) ordered The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid or Company) to design a Streetlight Metering Pilot for Municipally Owned Streetlights; and

WHEREAS, The PUC ordered that the Pilot should include, at a minimum, the following four goals: (1) gauging meter accuracy; (2) integration with the billing system; (3) a comparison to the unmetered rates; and (4) cost allocation; and

WHEREAS, The Company filed its proposed Metering Pilot with the PUC on October 23, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns (League) filed an Objection to the Company’s proposed Metering Pilot; and

WHEREAS, The League and the Company unsuccessfully attempted to negotiate a solution to the League’s Objection; and

WHEREAS, On March 24, 2015, the Company filed a Revised Metering Pilot which proposed two stages, each of which was divided into two phases:

- a) Stage 1 – Phase 1 involves Integrated Circuit meter laboratory verification testing;
- b) Stage 1 – Phase 2 involves Integrated Circuit meter and communication network field application testing;
- c) Stage 2 – Phase 1 involves impact assessment of information system integration;

d) Stage 2 – Phase 2 involves comparative analysis of metered and unmetered computations; and

WHEREAS, The League filed a renewed objection on March 25, 2014, alleging that the proposed Pilot still exceeded the scope needed to answer the Commission’s four questions and was designed to support National Grid’s ownership of the meters despite the Commission’s order that the pilot should be ownership neutral; and

WHEREAS, On July 1, 2015, after months of additional discovery, the PUC rejected the Metering Pilot filed on October 23, 2014 and approved the Revised Metering Pilot, with additional modifications, (PUC Order No. 22413, attached hereto as Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, On February 22, 2016, the Company filed its First Status Report on the Metering Pilot which described challenges, delays, cost increases, and a revised schedule¹; and

WHEREAS, On December 21, 2016, the Company filed its Second Status Report on the Metering Pilot which related that the Company was unable to complete the Pilot under the timeframe and within the budget originally approved;²and

WHEREAS, In its Second Status Report, the Company requested that the PUC approve modification to: (1) the Pilot timeline (2) the Pilot budget; and (3) the Stage 1-Phase 2 field testing; and

WHEREAS, On January 17, 2017, the PUC conducted a status conference and the parties agreed they would meet and develop a joint report to the PUC addressing where consensus or lack of consensus existed on developing and implementing a revised work plan designed to achieve the goals set forth in PUC Order No. 22413; and

¹ National Grid’s First Status Report on Metering Pilot (Feb. 22, 2016); [http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4513-NGrid-PilotUpdate\(2-22-16\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4513-NGrid-PilotUpdate(2-22-16).pdf).

² National Grid’s Second Status Report on Metering Pilot (Dec. 21, 2016); [http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4513-NGrid-StatusReport\(12-21-16\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4513-NGrid-StatusReport(12-21-16).pdf).

WHEREAS, On February 17, 2017, National Grid filed a Joint Report of National Grid and the Municipalities that addressed areas of agreement and disagreement regarding future activities related to the meter pilot and identified disputed costs; and

WHEREAS, On March 1, 2017, following the filing of the Joint Report, PUC staff conducted a status conference to discuss the Joint Report. Agreement on a short-term solution was reached whereby the parties agreed that (1) it would be appropriate for National Grid to continue with Phase 1, Stages 1 and 2 of the Pilot, including additional costs that would be incurred; (2) that it would be reasonable for the PUC to consider suspending the effectiveness of the approved Pilot as it related to further work on the Information System Studies; and (3) that it would be reasonable to defer ruling on the propriety of all costs associated with the Pilot and the reasonableness of costs disputed by the Municipalities following the conclusion of the Phase 1 activities; and

WHEREAS, At an Open Meeting on March 10, 2017, the PUC approved the three short-term solutions agreed to by the parties; and

WHEREAS, On November 21, 2017, National Grid filed its Final Report on the Metering Pilot which concluded that: (1) the network lighting controls did not meet the accuracy measurement tolerance criteria established by ANSI C12.20 for revenue grade meters; (2) prior to the adoption of nodes and supporting network infrastructure use for street light metering, appropriate ANSI industry-accepted testing protocols must be available to qualify the specified revenue grade accuracy of the integrated circuit meters; and (3) unmetered billing remains less expensive than metered billing;³ and

WHEREAS, In its Final Report, National Grid recommended: (1) further testing of the network lighting controls to address increased knowledge on power factor, total harmonic

³ National Grid's Final Report (Nov. 17, 2017); [http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4513-NGrid-StreetlightPilot-FinalRept\(11-21-17\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4513-NGrid-StreetlightPilot-FinalRept(11-21-17).pdf).

distortion, parasitic load, accuracy of power consumption of different dimming control protocols (i.e., digital addressable lighting interface, also known as “DALI”), and correlation of dimming control with actual illumination output; (2) continuing to complete the analysis of the Information System integration study related to achieving a cost and schedule for the data integration; (3) industry collaboration of node vendors, network service providers, utilities, end-users, and regulatory entities to address the issues of industry standard testing protocols, definitive metrology performance requirements, data format and transmission quality standards, and software platform standards for data retrieval/export and retention; and (4) that regulatory compliance standards associated with street light metering, to establish a common industry baseline, be required for integrated circuit meter standardization; and

WHEREAS, On January 17, 2018, the League filed its Objection to the conclusions reached in the Metering Pilot, together with its Motion to Re-Open; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to a new procedural schedule, the Company and the League filed additional testimony defending their respective positions; and

WHEREAS, At an Open Meeting on June 11, 2019, the PUC considered the Company’s Final Report on the Metering Pilot, the testimony filed by all parties, as well as responses to data requests, and made the following decisions:

- (1) To accept the conclusion set forth in the Street Light Metering Pilot Report submitted by National Grid on November 21, 2017, that integrating networking lighting control metering technology would be imprudent at this time;
- (2) To direct the Company to consider adjusting dimming schedules in the SO-5 tariff at an appropriate time in the future, but no later than the filing of its next rate case; and

(3) To close the docket, noting that closure does not prevent additional exploration of the streetlighting options or a new streetlight docket in the future.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(23638) ORDERED:

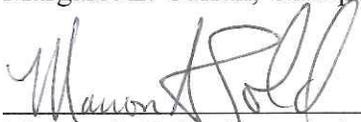
1. The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's Final Report dated November 20, 2017 is hereby accepted and is placed on file.
2. The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid shall consider adjusting the SO-5 tariff at an appropriate time in the future, but no later than the filing of its next rate case.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JUNE 11, 2019, PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON JUNE 11, 2019. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED JULY 25, 2019.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION




Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson


Marion S. Gold, Commissioner


Abigail Anthony, Commissioner

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL: Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within seven days from the date of the order, petition the Rhode Island Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or order.