

RI Office of Energy Resources
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**OFFICE OF
ENERGY RESOURCES**
Commissioner Marion S. Gold, Ph.D.

October 1, 2014

RI Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Amy D'Alessandro
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

RE: Support for 2015-2017 Three-Year Least Cost Procurement Plan – Docket No. 4522

Dear Chairperson Curran, Commissioner Roberti and Commissioner DeSimone,

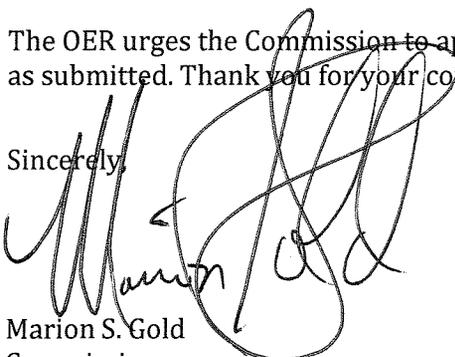
The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) is committed to utilizing Least Cost Procurement – the legislated requirement to invest in all cost-effective energy efficiency – as a core strategy to move Rhode Island toward a more secure, cost-effective, and sustainable energy future. As a result of significant investments in energy efficiency over the last several years, Rhode Island currently leads the country in utility and public benefits programs, according to the *2013 ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*. We look to maintain that momentum with the 2015-2017 Least Cost Procurement Plan (Plan) submitted by National Grid and endorsed by the Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council (EERMC).

New England is currently experiencing natural gas supply constraints, potential shortage conditions in our capacity market, continued escalation of transmission costs, and energy supply rate increases. As a result, it is increasingly critical that Rhode Island maximize all cost-effective energy efficiency measures and incentives that can lower short- and long-term energy costs and consumer exposure to wholesale market volatility. Moreover, these investments help support jobs and investment here in the Ocean State, while advancing important environmental goals embedded within our laws.

This Plan puts forth a solid, cost-effective strategy for implementing programs consistent with our state's Least Cost Procurement requirements, as enacted by the Rhode Island General Assembly, by investing in all available energy efficiency that is less than the cost of more traditional supply resources.

The OER urges the Commission to approve the 2015-2017 Three-Year Least Cost Procurement Plan as submitted. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Marion S. Gold
Commissioner