

November 3, 2015

**BY HAND DELIVERY AND ELECTRONIC MAIL**

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

**RE: Docket 4536-A - Tariff Advice Filing for Renewable Energy Growth Program and Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules**  
**Response to Division Data Requests – Set 2**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

I have enclosed ten copies of National Grid's<sup>1</sup> response to the Division's second set of data requests in the above-referenced docket.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions concerning this filing, please contact me at 781-907-2121.

Very truly yours,



Raquel J. Webster

Enclosures

cc: Docket 4536-A Service List  
Steve Scialabba, Division  
Leo Wold, Esq., Division  
Karen Lyons, Esq., Division

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

Service List

I hereby certify that a copy of the cover letter and any materials accompanying this certificate was electronically transmitted to the individuals listed below.

Copies of this filing are being hand delivered to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and to the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.



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Joanne M. Scanlon

December 1, 2015

Date

**Docket No. 4536-A National Grid Tariff Advice Filing for Renewable Energy Growth Program (RE Growth Program) and Solicitation & Enrollment Process Rules for 2015**

**Docket No. 4536-B RI Distributed Generation Board (DG Board) Report and Recommendation Regarding 2015 Renewable Energy Growth Classes, Ceiling Prices and Targets**

Service List updated 1/9/15

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Division 2-1

Request:

With respect to the September 21, 2015 submission by National Grid in Docket 4536A 2015 First Open Enrollment, for the commercial scale and large-scale solar projects, please explain the process undertaken by the Company to arrive at the list of projects and how the projects were scored and selected. Please also explain whether, in the opinion of the Company, the process was done in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6-1 et seq. and Commission approved Solicitation and Enrollment Rules, and whether, in the opinion of the Company, the projects should qualify for a certificate of eligibility award by the Public Utilities Commission.

Response:

Pursuant to the Rhode Island Renewable Energy (RE) Growth Program Statute, the first Open Enrollment for 2015 was held from August 3, 2015 through August 14, 2015.

After the Open Enrollment concluded, the Company reviewed the applications it received, following the process below.

- 1) Eligibility Evaluation: The Company first reviewed applications to make sure the projects met the eligibility requirements set forth in Section 1.2.2 of the "Rhode Island Renewable Energy Growth Program Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules for Solar (Greater than 25kW), Wind, Hydro and Anaerobic Digester Projects" (Rules). Projects must meet the eligibility facility criteria set forth in Section 1.2.2.3 of the Rules, must qualify as approved Renewable Energy Classes, and must not be a segment of a larger project. Projects that meet the eligibility criteria set forth in Section 1.2.2 of the Rules then move to the next stage of the process, the Threshold Evaluation.
- 2) Threshold Evaluation: The Company reviewed the applications that met the eligibility requirements based on certain threshold criteria described in Section 2.1.1-2.1.3 of the Rules, including interconnection progress, site control, and application completeness and timeliness.
- 3) Selection: Projects in each renewable energy class that met the eligibility requirements and threshold requirements were further evaluated based on price in accordance with Sections 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 of the Rules.

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Medium-Scale Solar projects that met the eligibility and threshold requirements were selected on a "first come, first served" basis. In the first enrollment, this particular renewable energy class was under-subscribed. The project selected did not meet the MW target for that renewable energy class. Therefore, the remaining capacity is available for the second open enrollment.

Commercial-Scale Solar projects that met the eligibility and threshold requirements were ranked from lowest bid price received to highest, but not to exceed the applicable ceiling price. In the first enrollment, this particular renewable energy class was undersubscribed. The combined nameplate capacity of the projects selected did not meet the MW target for that renewable energy class in the first enrollment. Therefore, the remaining capacity is available for the second open enrollment.

Large-Scale Solar projects that met the eligibility, and threshold requirements were ranked from lowest bid price received to highest, but not to exceed the applicable ceiling price. In the first open enrollment, this particular renewable energy class was over-subscribed. The combined nameplate capacity of the projects exceeded the MW target for the renewable energy class for the 2015 Program Year. The Company, after consulting with the Office of Energy Resources and the Distributed Generation Board, selected projects in excess of the MW target pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Section 39-26.6-12(b).

The Company received two applications for Wind projects. After reviewing the applications, the Company did not select one of the projects because it determined that it was a segment of a larger project, in violation of R.I. Gen. Laws Section 39-26.6-9. The other project was eligible, and the Company selected it.

The Company maintains that the review process described above was undertaken in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws Section 39-26.6-1 et seq. and the Rules. The selected projects qualify for Certificates of Eligibility to be awarded by the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission.