

Dkt. 4556- National Grid's 2016 SOS/RES Procurement Plan

Decision Summary

1. The PUC voted to approve National Grid's 2016 RES Procurement Plan as filed.
2. The PUC voted to eliminate the billing adjustment and allow National Grid to recover costs associated with eliminating the billing adjustment from all delivery customers. Elimination of the billing adjustment will be effective immediately.
3. The PUC voted to reject Lieutenant Governor McKee's request to order National Grid to issue refunds of billing adjustments paid prior to this decision.
4. The PUC voted to require the Company to monitor the impacts associated with elimination of the billing adjustment, including the associated costs and extent of any gaming which may occur as a result of this decision. The Company shall file a proposal with the PUC recommending a specific method of monitoring and reporting the impacts of the elimination of the billing adjustment. The Company shall consult with the Division in developing a recommendation for the monitoring and reporting of any gaming which may occur as a result of this decision.
5. The PUC voted to approve National Grid's 2016 SOS Procurement Plan as filed, with the following exceptions:
 - a) National Grid's current retail rate periods for the Residential and Commercial Groups, January through June and July through December, shall be changed to October through March and April through September. This change shall take effect on October 1, 2016.
 - b) In order to provide Residential and Commercial customers an additional 30 days' notice of impending rate changes, National Grid shall conduct its final SOS RFP at least 75 days prior to the next retail rate period.
 - c) In order to transition to the new retail rate periods, National Grid shall file SOS rates for the Residential and Commercial Groups for the period January 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, providing 75 days' notice pursuant to Paragraph (b). Thereafter, National Grid shall file SOS rates each year for effect on October 1 and April 1.
 - d) As soon as practicable, National Grid shall file revised procurement schedules for the Residential and Commercial Groups consistent with the revised retail rate periods contained in Paragraph (a) such that FRS contracts will be secured for 90% of the Residential and Commercial load for the upcoming rate period.
 - e) National Grid shall conduct an analysis of whether and to what extent its SOS procurement plan addresses current wholesale electricity market conditions. To be consistent with R.I.G.L. §39-1-27.8 and least cost procurement, such analysis shall include the extent to which current market conditions are conducive to discretionary hedging of the spot market with FRS contracts in the SOS procurement process. The analysis should refer to, and expand upon, the Northbridge Study filed by National Grid on January 22, 2010 in Docket 4041. National Grid shall file this analysis with the PUC on or before January 29, 2016.
6. National Grid shall no longer display the RES charge as a separate line item on customers' electric bills. The RES charge shall henceforth be included within the Standard Offer Supply charge which is currently displayed on customers' electric bills.
7. The PUC voted not to revise SOS rates to include a different reflection of wholesale market price volatility that more closely aligns the timing of volatility with the charging of that volatility customers.
8. The PUC voted not to make any changes to any of the pricing options offered by National Grid to any of its customer classes.