



**Acadia
Center**

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March 25, 2016

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

Re: Acadia Center's Application for Membership on the Stakeholder Committee in Docket 4600

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Pursuant to the "Notice of Commencement of Docket and Invitation for Stakeholder Participation" of March 16, 2016, Acadia Center submits its application for membership on the stakeholder committee in Docket 4600.

Acadia Center is a non-profit, research and advocacy organization committed to advancing the clean energy future. Acadia Center is at the forefront of efforts to build clean, low carbon, and consumer friendly economies. To this end, the organization seeks to represent environmental interests and promote consumer empowerment throughout the energy system.

Acadia Center experts have researched and written about utility policy reforms and investments for a distributed energy future, including its 2015 resource, "UtilityVision." UtilityVision is a resource for regulators and a framework for how reforms in five interdependent categories can be aligned to modernize the electric grid in a way that advances climate, economic, and consumer goals. UtilityVision provides recommendations in several categories that are especially relevant to an investigation into the changing distribution system and the modernization of rates in light of the changing distribution system, including the utility business model, rate-making, and customer-side energy resources.

In addition, Acadia Center personnel has significantly participated in rate reform and grid modernization processes in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. Dr. Abigail Anthony is the chair of Rhode Island's System Integration Committee, convened by the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources. The System Integration Committee was formed to map out key issues related to the future of Rhode Island's electric grid and offer recommendations for addressing opportunities, filling gaps, and gaining efficiencies in existing regulatory, legislative, and utility processes and policies governing the electric grid. Acadia Center staff have also participated in every aspect of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities Docket 12-76, Investigation on its own Motion into Modernization of the Electric Grid, including the Department's Grid Modernization Stakeholder Working Group in 2012-2013, the hearings and panels convened in February 2014, the benefit-cost analysis working group, and the related dockets on time-varying rates and electric vehicles. Acadia Center has engaged consistently in the New York Department of Public Service proceedings on Reforming the Energy Vision (NY REV), including aspects related to the distribution system implementation plans, cost-benefit analysis, and proposed reforms to the utility business model. Acadia Center staff

also participated in a panel on grid modernization for the Connecticut General Assembly's Energy and Technology Committee.

Acadia Center has been active in Rhode Island and other northeastern states in researching and promoting consumer-friendly rate design that preserves incentives to use energy wisely and gives consumers greater control over energy bills. Acadia Center has participated in numerous public utility dockets relating to electric rate design, notably in Rhode Island Public Utility Commission Docket No. 4568, in Massachusetts in Dockets 14-04 and 15-155, and in Connecticut Public Utility Regulatory Authority Docket No. 14-05-06.

Acadia Center has considerable experience and expertise in matters relating to Rhode Island energy efficiency policy. Acadia Center has a staff member who is the Vice-Chair of the Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council. Acadia Center, previously known as Environment Northeast, has participated in the formulation of Rhode Island energy efficiency policy and programs on an ongoing basis since helping to develop the state's least cost procurement mandate. In addition, Acadia Center staff members sit on the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council and the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board, both of which review the planning and implementation of statewide gas and electric utility energy efficiency programs.

Acadia Center's interests are directly affected by the issues in this proceeding and cannot be adequately represented by any other party. To build environmentally-friendly and consumer-friendly energy systems, Acadia Center spends considerable time, effort, and monetary resources working to ensure that utility reforms and investments reduce system and customer costs and promote a clean distributed energy future. Given Acadia Center's combined decades of experience in matters relevant to this docket, Acadia Center's participation in this proceeding will help facilitate an appropriate result in this proceeding, and is in the public interest.

Acadia Center has a long history of active and beneficial participation in RI Public Utility Commission proceedings. Under our current name, and as previously known as ENE/ Environment Northeast, Acadia Center has been admitted as a party in numerous energy efficiency and system reliability proceedings, and a decoupling proceeding. As an authorized representative, the undersigned commits that Acadia Center will actively participate in good faith in the development of recommendations on issues under the consideration in Docket 4600.

Thank you for the opportunity to file this application, and your consideration of Acadia Center's membership on the stakeholder committee.

Sincerely,

/s/ Abigail Anthony

Abigail Anthony
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