

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC :
COMPANY d/b/a NATIONAL GRID REQUEST :
FOR APPROVAL OF A GAS CAPACITY CONTRACT : DOCKET NO. 4627
AND COST RECOVERY PURSUANT TO :
R.I. GEN. LAWS § 39-31-1 TO 9 :

**NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE,
INTERVENTION DEADLINE, AND
PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING**

Pursuant to the provisions of the R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 39-1-7, 39-1-11, 39-1-12, and 39-31-1 to 9, legal counsel to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will conduct a Pre-Hearing Conference on **Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 2:00 PM** in Hearing Room A of the PUC office building, located at 89 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, Rhode Island. **The deadline for Intervention in this docket is Friday, July 29, 2016.**

A **hearing** to take oral public comment will be conducted on **Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 6:00 PM** in Hearing Room A of the PUC office building. The PUC will also accept written comments. Written comments can be submitted to Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk, RIPUC, 89 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI 02888 or at Luly.Massaro@puc.ri.gov.

On June 30, 2016, The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid) filed with the PUC a Request for Approval of a Gas Contract and Cost Recovery provision. The proposed contract is between the electric company and Algonquin Gas Transmission Company LLC (Algonquin) for natural gas transportation capacity and storage services on Algonquin's Access Northeast Project. Evidentiary hearings will be scheduled at the prehearing conference and a separate notice will follow. A written decision approving or rejecting the contract is due on or before October 28, 2016.

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-31-6(a)(1)(v), subject to review and approval of the PUC, National Grid may be authorized to enter into long-term contracts for natural gas pipeline infrastructure and capacity that are commercially reasonable and advance the purposes of the Affordable Clean Energy Security Act at levels beyond those commitments necessary to serve local gas distribution customers. R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-31-3 defines commercially reasonable as terms and pricing that are reasonably consistent with what an experienced power market analyst would expect to see in transactions involving regional energy resources and regional energy infrastructure. It also requires a finding by the PUC that, based on a preponderance of the evidence, the total energy security, reliability, environmental and economic benefits to the state of Rhode Island and its ratepayers exceed the costs of such projects.

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-31-6(a)(1)(vi), the Department of Environmental Management is required to provide an advisory opinion on the expected greenhouse gas emissions and statewide environmental impacts resulting from the proposed contract. The Commerce Corporation is required to provide an advisory opinion on the expected statewide economic impacts resulting from the proposed contract. The Office of Energy Resources is required to

provide an advisory opinion on the expected energy, security, reliability, environmental, and economic impacts resulting from the proposed contract.

The filing may also be examined at the PUC's office and at the office of National Grid, 280 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island. A copy of the filing can be accessed at: http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4627_Filing.pdf. Reference is made to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 39-1, 39-3, and 42-35. The building is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the PUC Clerk's office at 780-2107, seventy-two hours in advance of hearing date.

Cynthia G. Wilson-Frias
Deputy Chief of Legal Services
July 8, 2016