

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC :
COMPANY D/B/A NATIONAL GRID TARIFF :
ADVICE FILING TO AMEND RENEWABLE :
ENERGY GROWTH PROGRAM FOR : DOCKET NO. 4640
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS TARIFF RIPUC :
NO. 2151-A AND RENEWABLE ENERGY :
GROWTH PROGRAM FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL :
CUSTOMERS RIPUC NO. 2152-A :

ORDER

On August 15, 2016, The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid or Company) filed with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) amendments to its Renewable Energy Growth Program tariffs. The proposed amendments to the residential tariff clarify that projects on either contiguous parcels or a single parcel of land will not be considered segments of a larger project if they serve different residential customers. Currently, if only one owner of a condominium unit in a multi-family structure enrolls in the Renewable Energy Growth Program by installing solar panels on a portion of the roof or property, other condominium owners within the same structure are precluded from enrolling for a period of twenty-four months. The proposed changes to the non-residential tariff were administrative in nature. Additionally, the Company included changes to the Small-Scale Rules to reflect the residential tariff changes.¹

On August 31, 2016, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) submitted a memorandum summarizing the changes and recommending approval of the Renewable Energy Growth Program tariff provisions contained in National Grid's proposed tariff RIPUC No. 2151-

¹ National Grid filing letter (Aug. 12, 2016). [http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4640-NGrid-REGrowth-TariffAdvice\(8-12-16\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4640-NGrid-REGrowth-TariffAdvice(8-12-16).pdf).

B and RIPUC No. 2152-B.² According to the Division's Memorandum, the Office of Energy Resources also found the proposed tariff changes to be reasonable.

On September 9, 2016, following a review of the filings in this matter, the PUC approved the amended residential tariff, finding the clarification to be consistent with the policy goal of encouraging investment in renewable energy while also not violating the anti-segmentation provision of R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6-9. The anti-segmentation provision is necessary to avoid arbitrage and inflated program costs. In the Renewable Energy Growth Program, small distributed generation projects are compensated at higher performance-based incentives than larger projects, which must engage in competitive bidding to enter the program. Allowing a larger project to be split into smaller parts in order to realize a higher performance-based incentive would increase costs to the program and thwart overarching legislative goals of least cost procurement within the program. The clarification language proposed by National Grid addresses a different situation altogether. This tariff language does not address the situation where a single residential customer invests in a distributed generation project in multiple parts in order to qualify for a higher performance based incentive. Rather, it addresses the situation where two different residential customers on the same or contiguous parcels may be interested in investing at different times due to financial or other considerations. These separate customer enrollments should not be dependent upon when their neighbor enrolled in order to participate in the Renewable Energy Growth Program. Therefore, the PUC finds that the proposed tariff language is not inconsistent with R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6-9. Because the proposed changes to the non-residential tariff were administrative in nature, no additional discussion is required.

² Scialabba Mem. (Aug. 31, 2016). http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4640-DPU-Memorandum_8_31_16.pdf.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(22605) ORDERED:

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's tariffs RIPUC No. 2151-B and RIPUC No. 2152-B are hereby approved for effect on and after September 9, 2016. RIPUC No. 2151-A and RIPUC No. 2152-A are hereby cancelled.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2016,
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED
NOVEMBER 10, 2016.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson

Herbert F. DeSimone, Jr.
Herbert F. DeSimone, Jr., Commissioner

Marion S. Gold
Marion S. Gold, Commissioner

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL: Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within seven days from the date of the order, petition the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or order.