

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT’S 2018** :  
**DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM** : **DOCKET NO. 4761**

**REPORT AND ORDER**

On November 7, 2017 and pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-2-1.2, Pascoag Utility District (Pascoag or District) filed its Demand Side Management (DSM) Program for 2018 with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC). Pascoag proposed an overall budget of \$132,827 to fund its residential and commercial energy efficiency programs for calendar year 2018.<sup>1</sup>

Although Pascoag’s 2018 residential programs continue most of those offered in 2017, the District made budget adjustments to nine programs based on the level of activity during 2017.<sup>2</sup> To reflect an increase in activity, Pascoag proposed increasing the Home Energy Audits program by \$770, the ENERGY STAR Appliance Rebate Program by \$500, and the Energy Efficient Window/Doors Program by \$300. The District proposed decreasing the budgets for the Refrigerators/Freezer Buy Back Program by \$140, the ENERGY STAR Qualified Water Heaters by \$300, the Home Office Equipment/Home Electronics Program by \$500, the Central Air Conditioning Program by \$600, and the Change a Light Campaign by \$250.<sup>3</sup> Due to a lack of participation for several years, the District proposed to discontinue the Geothermal System Program, the Smart Power Strips Program, and the ENERGY STAR Pool Pump Program.<sup>4</sup> In

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<sup>1</sup> Pascoag Utility District’s 2018 Demand Side Management Program (Nov. 7, 2017) (Filing). The \$132,827 budget is based on forecasted sales in 2018 of 56,966 MWhs. All filings in this docket are available at the PUC offices located at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island or at <http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4761page.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Filing, Sch. A-2; Sch. B at 4; Sch. C at 11-18.

<sup>3</sup> Filing, Sch. A-2; Sch. B at 5-6; Sch. C at 11-18.

<sup>4</sup> Filing, Sch. A-2; Sch. B at 5-6; Sch. C at 16-18.

2017, the budgets for these programs totaled \$800.<sup>5</sup> The District noted that it will continue to monitor its programs and will seek permission to reallocate funds should certain programs not perform to expectation.<sup>6</sup> To address low performing programs, it reminds customers of programs through customer service representatives, by advertising in local publications, and by including informational inserts with its bills.<sup>7</sup>

Pascoag made only two changes to its Commercial/Industrial DSM programs for 2018 relative to 2017. The District decreased the budget of the Committed Funds – Lighting and Energy Efficiency Projects by \$13,602, resulting in an allocation of \$21,566 to support rebates for both unidentified and identified projects on a first-come first-serve basis<sup>8</sup> The identified projects include NeighborhoodWorks, which involves new construction of 96 affordable housing units in Burrillville. The District provided rebates of \$10,000 in 2017 for high efficiency heating systems in 40 of the units. The District proposed rebates of \$14,000 in 2018 for the remaining 56 units.<sup>9</sup> The District has also been working with the Burrillville School District on multiple energy efficiency projects over several years. The District proposed \$27,000, an increase of \$2,000, for a major lighting project for the Burrillville High School Skating Rink.<sup>10</sup>

Finally, Pascoag proposed a \$3,434 decrease in the funding for the Energy Efficiency Management Continuing Education line item in its Administrative/Advertising/Education programs. In 2017, the District’s newly appointed DSM Coordinator attended the American Power’s Energy Efficiency Management Certification Program and anticipates obtaining program certification in 2018. The cost of the program to date was \$4,431. The District also proposed to

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<sup>5</sup> Filing, Sch. A-2.

<sup>6</sup> Filing, Sch. B at 4.

<sup>7</sup> Pascoag Resp. to Comm. 1-5.

<sup>8</sup> Filing, Sch. A-2; Sch. C at 19-20.

<sup>9</sup> Filing, Sch. C at 19-20.

<sup>10</sup> DSM Filing, Sch. A-2; Sch. C at 19.

discontinue the Burrillville High School Partnership which was funded in 2017 with \$3,000 to support the school's Environmental Sciences program. The school has not moved forward with any suggested ideas and the fund has not been used, as there is no teacher able to lead the partnership.

On December 12, 2017, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) filed a memorandum recommending approval of Pascoag's 2018 DSM Program.<sup>11</sup>

At the December 19, 2017 hearing, Desarae Dolan, DSM Coordinator, testified in support of the District's proposed 2018 DSM Program. Ms. Dolan stated that the 2018 budget of approximately \$132,000 represents a 26% reduction over last year's DSM Program budget of \$181,000. Ms. Dolan testified that a lack of customer participation over the last five years prompted the District's request to discontinue three residential programs. Ms. Dolan explained that the Home Energy Audits program authorizes up to \$100 for rebates not provided in currently offered programs.<sup>12</sup> Thus, a customer could receive a rebate for a smart power strip or an energy efficient pool pump under the Home Energy Audit program despite the elimination of these programs.<sup>13</sup>

Immediately after the hearing on December 19, 2017, the Commission unanimously approved Pascoag's 2018 DSM Plan, associated budget, and reallocation guidelines via bench decision. Pascoag's continued efforts and diligence in designing and implementing its DSM programs and its commitment to energy conservation are familiar to the Commission. It is evident to the Commission that the District remains dedicated to providing services in an efficient manner by continuing to review existing programs and making modifications to those programs that reflect

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<sup>11</sup> Division Mem. (Dec. 12, 2017).

<sup>12</sup> Hr'g Tr. at 8.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 9.

its customers' needs. As in the past, the Commission will continue to allow Pascoag the flexibility to reallocate up to 10% of the funding associated with a certain program subject to Division authorization; reallocation of any amount in excess of 10% will continue to require Commission approval.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(23096) ORDERED:

1. Pascoag Utility District's 2018 Demand Side Management Programs and associated budget are approved as filed.
2. A factor of \$0.0023 per kilowatt-hour is hereby approved in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws §39-2-1.2, with \$0.002 per kilowatt-hour to be applied to the Demand Side Management Programs approved herein and \$0.0003 per kilowatt-hour to be administered by the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources for renewable energy programs. This rate shall apply to energy consumed on or after January 1, 2018.
3. Pascoag shall file with the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers any request to reallocate funds among programs up to 10% of the total budget, with a reference copy to the Commission. Requests to reallocate funds in excess of 10% of the total budget shall require Commission approval.
4. Pascoag shall make its 2019 DSM Filing no later than November 1, 2019.
5. Pascoag shall comply with all other findings and instructions contained in this Report and Order.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JANUARY 1, 2018 PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON DECEMBER 19, 2017. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED APRIL 5, 2018.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



*Margaret E. Curran*

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Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson

*Marion S. Gold*

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Marion S. Gold, Commissioner

*Abigail Anthony*

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Abigail Anthony, 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.