

July 17, 2020

**VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

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

**RE: Docket 4770 – Application of The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of a Change in Electric and Gas Base Distribution Rates Request for Proposals for a Front-of-the-Meter Energy Storage System to be located in Rhode Island**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

On behalf of National Grid,<sup>1</sup> enclosed for filing with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in the above-referenced docket is the Company's draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for a front-of-the meter energy storage system to be located in Rhode Island. The RFP is attached to this letter as Attachment A. The Company previously filed an earlier draft of this RFP with the PUC pursuant to the Amended Settlement Agreement that the PUC approved on August 24, 2018 in Docket No. 4770 (the Amended Settlement Agreement). The Company never finalized that draft RFP because the Company decided to revise the draft; the Company now submits the revised draft RFP to the PUC for its review.

Per the Amended Settlement Agreement, the Company is to procure front-of-the meter storage solutions through a competitive RFP process, which will set forth the technical requirements, and will request proposals for both a third party-owned front-of-the meter Energy Storage System with a service agreement, and an Engineering Procurement and Construction delivered front-of-the meter energy storage system owned by the Company. The Company has shared the proposed RFP with stakeholders via the PST Advisory Group and has received their feedback about publicizing the RFP. As required by the Amended Settlement Agreement, the Company is filing the draft RFP with the PUC no fewer than 30 days before it is issued to ensure the PUC understands: (1) the barriers the front-of-the meter Energy Storage System demonstration project is designed to overcome, and (2) the learnings the Company intends to obtain from the project.

As described in Section 3.2 (Project Objectives) of the RFP, the RFP is designed to evaluate the performance, benefits and limitations of an energy storage system to support the integration of renewable energy into the electric distribution system conditions under one of the

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<sup>1</sup> The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (the Company)

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following use cases: (1) using an energy storage system to improve system conditions in feeders with a high penetration of renewable energy and distributed generation by smoothing the feeder current and voltage fluctuations; or (2) using an energy storage system to alleviate areas that present a high load variability and congestion by smoothing the feeder's summer and winter peaks while also reducing voltage fluctuations.

Through the RFP, the Company intends to gain knowledge and further experience with developing, managing and dispatching energy storage systems to improve the hosting capacity of feeders in areas that either have a high penetration of renewable energy or high load variability and congestion. Specifically, this RFP will enable the Company to learn more about the following challenges to the distribution system, depending on which use case the selected bidder proposes: (1) whether and how a front-of-the meter energy storage system can be deployed to increase the capacity of a feeder to accommodate more renewable generation; (2) whether and how a front-of-the meter energy storage system can be used to help alleviate high load variability and congestion; and (3) whether and how a front-of-the-meter energy storage system can provide Volt-VAR support to reduce the strain on the electric distribution system from voltage variations. The Company also intends to gain knowledge about the benefits and costs of ownership models for a front-of-the-meter energy storage system and to gain experience with the model proposed in the selected bid: either third-party ownership or Company ownership.

The Company respectfully requests confidential treatment of Attachment A in order to protect the competitive nature of the RFP and ensure no party receives an advantage ahead of the RFP's release. In addition, the Company is providing the confidential Excel version of Attachment 2 to Attachment A. Accordingly, the Company requests that this letter serve as the Company's request for confidential treatment in accordance with PUC Rule 810-RICR-00-00-1.3 (H) (Rule 1.3 (H)) and R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-2(4)(B), and that the PUC grant protection from public disclosure of the RFP. National Grid also hereby requests that, pending entry of that finding, the PUC preliminarily grant National Grid's request for confidential treatment pursuant to Rule 1.3 (H)(2).

In compliance with PUC Rule 1.3 (H)(3), I have enclosed one complete and confidential copy<sup>2</sup> of the RFP marked, **“Contains Privileged Information - Do Not Release.”**<sup>3</sup> I have also enclosed a redacted copy for the public record.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The confidential version of the RFP (Attachment A) is being sent via the Company's encryption software, Egress Switch.

<sup>3</sup> Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency period, the Company is providing a PDF version of the above-referenced transmittal. The Company will provide the PUC with a hard copy and, if needed, additional hard copies at a later date.

<sup>4</sup> Note: The redacted copy only contains the cover page of the RFP (Attachment A).

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Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at 401-784-7288.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson

Enclosure

cc: Docket 4770 Service List  
Christy Hetherington, Esq.  
John Bell, Division  
Carrie Gill, Office of Energy Resources

**REDACTED**

Attachment A: Request for Proposals Rhode Island Power Sector Transformation –  
Energy Storage (Redacted Pages 2 through 225)

REDACTED



## Request for Proposals

# *Rhode Island Power Sector Transformation – Energy Storage*

July 17, 2020

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the cover letter and any materials accompanying this certificate was electronically transmitted to the individuals listed below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanne M. Scanlon

July 17, 2020  
Date

**National Grid Docket No. 4770 (Rate Application) & Docket No. 4780 (PST)  
Combined Service list updated 7/8/2020**

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