

May 9, 2018

#### VIA HAND DELIVERY AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

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
Supplemental Filing of Company Direct Testimony Filed in Docket 4780

Dear Ms. Massaro:

As requested at the procedural conference on April 20, 2018 in the above-referenced docket, on behalf of the Company, <sup>1</sup> I enclose the following Power Sector Transformation (PST) Plan documents filed by the Company in Docket No. 4780 for filing with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in Docket No. 4770:

#### From the Company's November 27, 2017 Filing

(originally filed in Docket No. 4770, then subsequently moved by the PUC to Docket No. 4780)

- 1. PST Book 1 of 3 (Chapter 1, Introduction), Bates Pages 25-30.
- 2. PST Book 1 of 3 (Chapter 2, 4600 Goals/Framework), Bates Pages 31-37.
- 3. PST Book 1 of 3 (Chapter 3, Modern Grid), Bates Pages 38-67.
- 4. PST Book 1 of 3 (Chapter 4, AMF), Bates Pages 68-99.
- 5. PST Book 1 of 3 (Chapter 9, Performance), Bates Pages 161-183.
- 6. PST Book 1 of 3 (Chapter 10, Revenue Requirement), Bates Pages 184-191.
- 7. PST Book 1 of 3 (Appendices 2.1 and 2.2), Bates Pages 192-277.
- 8. PST Book 2 of 3 [REDACTED] (Appendices 4.1 and 4.2), Bates Pages 1-128.
- 9. PST Book 2 of 3 [REDACTED] (Appendices 10.1 through 10.11), Bates Pages 129-300.
- 10. PST Book 3 of 3 [REDACTED] (Workpapers 3.1 and 3.2), Bates Pages 1-34.
- 11. PST Book 3 of 3 [REDACTED] (Workpaper 4.1), Bates Pages 35-44.
- 12. PST Book 3 of 3 [REDACTED] (Workpapers 9.1 through 9.4), Bates Pages 71-91.
- 13. PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL] (Appendix 4.1 and Workpaper 4.1), Bates Pages 1-41.

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

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk Docket 4770 – Company Direct Testimony, Docket 4780 May 9, 2018 Page 2 of 2

# From the Company's January 12, 2018 Filing (originally filed in Docket No. 4780)

- 14. Book 1 of 1 (PST- Joint Pre-Filed Testimony), Bates Pages 1 102. –
- 15. Book 1 of 1 (Schedule PST-1, Chapter 2, 4600 Goals/Framework, Page 3 of 6), Bates Page 1.
- 16. Book 1 of 1 (Schedule PST-1, Chapter 3, Modern Grid, Page 27 of 29), Bates Page 2.
- 17. Book 1 of 1 (Schedule PST-1, Chapter 10, Funding the Transformation, Page 1 of 7), Bates Pages 3-27.
- 18. Book 1 of 1 (Appendices 10.1 through 10.9), Bates Pages 28-172.

This filing includes a Motion for Protective Treatment of Confidential Information in accordance with Rule 1.2(g) of the PUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure and R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-2(4)(B) for the enclosed excerpt from PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL] - Bates Pages 1-41. The Company seeks protection from public disclosure of certain confidential information contained in PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL] - Bates Pages 1-41. Accordingly, the Company has provided the PUC with one complete, unredacted copy of the confidential document in a sealed envelope marked "Contains Privileged and Confidential Information – **Do Not Release,"** and has included redacted copies of this document for the public filing.

Thank you for your attention to this transmittal. If you have any questions, please contact me at 401-784-7288.

Very truly yours,

Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson

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#### Enclosures

cc: Docket 4770 Service List
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# STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY )

d/b/a NATIONAL GRID – ELECTRIC AND GAS )

DISTRIBUTION RATE FILING )

# THE COMPANY'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE TREATMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The Company<sup>1</sup> respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (PUC) provide confidential treatment and grant protection from public disclosure of certain confidential, competitively sensitive, and proprietary information submitted in this proceeding, as permitted by PUC Rule 1.2(g) and R.I. Gen. Laws. § 38-2-2(4)(B). The Company also requests that, pending entry of that finding, the PUC preliminarily grant the Company's request for confidential treatment pursuant to Rule 1.2(g)(2).

### I. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

On May 9, 2018, as requested at the April 20, 2018 procedural conference, the Company filed with the PUC certain Power Sector Transformation (PST) Plan documents previously filed by the Company in Docket No. 4780 (the Supplemental PST Filing). The Supplemental PST Filing includes PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL]. PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL] contains confidential and proprietary Company information. Specifically, PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL] contains unredacted copies of Appendix 4.1 and Workpaper 4.1 of the PST Panel, which include confidential vendor pricing information regarding advanced metering functionality (AMF) costs that is competitively sensitive and customarily not released to the public by the Company. The Company has provided redacted public versions of these

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

documents with its May 9, 2018 filing, as well as an unredacted, confidential version. Therefore, the Company requests that, pursuant to Rule 1.2(g), the PUC afford confidential treatment to the confidential vendor pricing information contained in PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL].

### II. LEGAL STANDARD

PUC Rule 1.2(g) provides that access to public records shall be granted in accordance with the Access to Public Records Act (APRA), R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-1, et seq. Under the APRA, all documents and materials submitted in connection with the transaction of official business by an agency is deemed to be a "public record," unless the information contained in such documents and materials falls within one of the exceptions specifically identified in R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-2(4). Therefore, to the extent that information provided to the PUC falls within one of the designated exceptions to the public records law, the PUC has the authority under the terms of the APRA to deem such information to be confidential and to protect that information from public disclosure.

In that regard, R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-2(4)(B) provides that the following types of records shall not be deemed public:

Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person, firm, or corporation which is of a privileged or confidential nature.

The Rhode Island Supreme Court has held that this confidential information exemption applies where disclosure of information would be likely to either (1) impair the Government's ability to obtain necessary information in the future; or (2) cause substantial harm to the competitive position of the person from whom the information was obtained. Providence Journal Company v. Convention Center Authority, 774 A.2d 40 (R.I. 2001). Disclosure of information would impair the Government's ability to obtain such information in the future when: (a) information is provided voluntarily to the governmental agency, and (b) that information is of a

kind that customarily would not be released to the public by the person from whom it was obtained. Providence Journal, 774 A.2d at 47.

### III. BASIS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

The information contained in PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL] is confidential and proprietary information relating to the Company's business operations. Specifically, PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL] contains competitively sensitive vendor pricing terms associated with the Company's AMF costs. The estimates associated with its Company's AMF costs were provided through confidential discussions with leading AMF vendors through confidential means. Public disclosure of this information would negatively impact the Company's negotiating position in the market and thus jeopardize the ability of the Company to ensure that its customers are being served by the lowest cost option. Protection of PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL] allows the Company to procure the most cost-efficient resources to support its customers. Accordingly, the Company requests that the PUC not require the Company to disclose its vendor pricing information, which would provide potential vendors with a negotiating advantage that may lead to higher prices for the Company's customers. Further, the competitively sensitive vendor pricing terms in PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL] are information the Company customarily would not release to the public both because of the harmful impact on the Company's negotiating position and because of the confidential means through which the Company received the information.

Therefore, the Company is providing PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL] on a voluntary basis to assist the PUC with its decision-making in this proceeding, but respectfully requests that the PUC provide confidential treatment to PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL].

# IV. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

Accordingly, the Company respectfully requests that the PUC grant protective treatment to PST Book 2 of 3 [CONFIDENTIAL].

**WHEREFORE**, the Company respectfully requests that the PUC grant this Motion for Protective Treatment.

Respectfully submitted,

# THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY

By its attorneys,

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Dated: May 9, 2018

# 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.

The paper copies of this filing are being hand delivered to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and to the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.

Joanne M. Scanlon

May 9, 2018 Date

# Docket No. 4770 - National Grid – Rate Application Service list updated 4/19/2018

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