

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on October 18, 2019

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Friday, October 18, 2019 at 1:00 P.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets.

Present: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Cynthia Wilson Frias, John Harrington, Todd Bianco, Alan Nault, and Luly Massaro.

- I. Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 1:05 P.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Docket No. 4975 – Block Island Utility District (BIUD)** – BIUC submitted a rate application to implement new rates and schedules designed to collect total revenues of \$3,291,335. BIUD seeks no overall revenue increase. However, it proposes rate design changes. Chairperson Curran moved to suspend the proposed rates beyond the effective date of November 1, 2019 for the purpose of conducting examination and hearing on the proposal. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 4611 – Kent County Water Authority (KCWA)** – KCWA filed on September 25, 2019, a Motion for Extension of Time to submit its compliance filing regarding the termination of funding of the meter program effective January 1, 2020. This requirement is pursuant to the Settlement Agreement approved by the PUC in this docket and PUC Order 23343. KCWA seeks an extension of time to submit its compliance filing from October 1, 2019 to February 1, 2020. No objection to KCWA’s motion was received. Chairperson Curran moved to grant KCWA’s request. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IV. **Docket No. 4933 – City of Newport Water Division (Newport Water)** – This docket relates the PUC’s review of Newport Water’s application to implement a multi-year rate plan through a two-step rate increase pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §39-15.1-4. The PUC reviewed the Settlement Agreement executed by and between Newport Water, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, the Portsmouth Water and Fire District, the Town of Middletown, and the United States Department of the Navy (collectively, the Parties) resolving the issues in the docket. After review, the following motions were made:
 - a. Commissioner Anthony moved conditionally to approve the Settlement Agreement as filed and approve the multi-year rate increase with three adjustments. The settling parties shall: 1) reduce the solicitation expense by \$9,789 as indicated in PUC Record Request 1-1, 2) update rate case expense

as provided in Paragraph 26.d of the Settlement Agreement, and 3) update the operating revenue allowance to reflect the adjustments. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** If the parties agree to these modifications, they shall file an amended settlement agreement and compliance tariffs by October 22 for the PUC's review at the October 25 Open Meeting. If the parties want to reject the modifications, they should notify the PUC by October 22.

- b. Commissioner Anthony moved to require that in Newport Water's next application to increase rates, it closely examine and provide evidence and justification for the total amount of City of Newport MIS costs and the portion that is allocated to Newport Water. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- V. **Docket No. 4956 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid and Energy Development Partners, LLC (EDP) –** PUC Counsel Wilson-Frias recused herself from participating in this docket and left the Open Meeting. This docket relates to a request for assistance, submitted by National Grid, together with EDP (Parties), to resolve an interconnection dispute under National Grid's Standards for Connecting Distributed Generation, R.I.P.U.C. 2180 (Tariff) in accordance with Section 9.2(b) of the Tariff. Chairperson Curran noted the parties reached a resolution regarding the interconnection dispute and there is no longer a dispute. After review, the following motions were made:

Chairperson Curran moved to deny Green Development LLC's motion to intervene and protest because movant failed to show entitled to intervene. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC acknowledge the summary and conclusion of this dispute resolution process. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Gold moved to find that the resolution is not inconsistent with Standards for Connecting Distributed Generation. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

There being no dispute and therefore nothing to intervene in, Chairperson Curran moved to dismiss the motion to intervene and protest submitted by Green Development, LLC. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VI. **Docket No. 4968 – Evergreen Wind Power 111, LLC –** After review, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the application for eligibility certification of the Rollins Wind Plant generation unit, a 60 MW wind facility located in Rollins, Maine as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Commissioner Marion seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VII. There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Curran moved to adjourn the Open Meeting at 1:21 P.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>.