

February 12, 2020

**BY HAND DELIVERY & ELECTRONIC MAIL**

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

**RE: Docket 4996 - Proposed FY 2021 Gas Infrastructure, Safety, and Reliability Plan Responses to PUC Data Requests - Set 2**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

On behalf of National Grid,<sup>1</sup> I have enclosed ten (10) copies of the Company's responses to the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) data requests PUC 2-2 through PUC 2-4 in the above-referenced matter. The Company's response to PUC 2-1 is pending.

Additionally, this transmittal does not include the Company's responses to PUC 2-5 through PUC 2-37 because the Company is awaiting the PUC's decision on its February 4, 2020 request for the PUC to withdraw these questions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 781-907-2121.

Very truly yours,



Raquel J. Webster

Enclosures

cc: Docket 4996 Service List  
Leo Wold, Esq.  
John Bell, Division  
Al Mancini, Division  
Rod Walker, Division

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

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

February 12, 2020

Date

**Docket No. 4996 - National Grid's FY 2021 Gas Infrastructure, Safety and Reliability (ISR) Plan - Service List 1/7/2020**

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<b>File an original &amp; nine (9) copies w/:</b> Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk Margaret Hogan, Commission Counsel Public Utilities Commission 89 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick RI 02888	<a href="mailto:Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov">Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov</a> ;	401-780-2107
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PUC 2-2

Request:

On Bates page 35, the Company states: “The Company’s FY 2021 Plan includes the elimination or rehabilitation of a total of approximately 63 miles of leak-prone pipe (approximately 48 miles of proactive main replacement, 1 mile of rehabilitation work, 13 miles of public works replacement, and 1 mile of reinforcement work). This resulting abandonment target of approximately 62 miles for FY 2021 is an increase of 1 mile compared to the FY 2020 ISR Plan and keeps pace with the 20-year Proactive Main Replacement program.” Please confirm that the target is 62 miles and not 63 miles.

Response:

Confirmed. The FY 2021 leak-prone pipe Abandonment Target is 62 miles, which will be comprised of approximately 48 miles of proactive main replacement, 13 miles of public works replacement, and 1 mile of reinforcement work.

PUC 2-3

Request:

Why is the Gas System Control – Training Simulator not part of Gas Business Enablement costs?

- a. When did the Company identify the need for this simulator? Why was the simulator chosen?
- b. Where are the costs for paper based simulations currently recovered?
- c. What is the cost avoided by replacing the paper exercises with the proposed simulator?
- d. Is the \$0.12M a net cost or total cost?

Response:

The Gas Control Simulator is outside the scope of Gas Business Enablement (GBE). The simulator serves only the two Gas Control Centers and was not part of the scope of GBE. Gas Business Enablement is an effort to enhance field software and the Control Centers were not considered part of those efforts.

- a. The simulator was identified as need for Gas Control with the evolution of Control Room Management Regulations and delayed until the completion of the SCADA GMS Upgrade (completed in April 2019). The simulator chosen is provided by the SCADA vendor (Aveva) to work with data provided by the SCADA system and modeled to simulate the same system utilized by the Control Center.
- b. Paper Based simulation is designed, developed, and run by Control Center personnel. Costs are recovered in the labor costs for the Training & Compliance Analysts who develop the paper-based simulations.
- c. There would be no cost avoided as the Training & Compliance Analyst will design and run the computer-based simulator. The benefits of real-time computer-based simulation far outweigh those of paper. The risk in running sub-standard paper-based simulation as opposed to state-of-the-art real time simulation is an order of magnitude of safety and reliability.
- d. The \$0.12 million is a total cost allocated to Rhode Island.

PUC 2-4

Request:

Page 24 of the Gas Capital Investment Plan (Bates 124) describes \$0.25 million for “engineering and infrastructure costs associated with peak shaving requirements for Aquidneck Island.” Please describe in more detail what this sentence is referring to and what the peak shaving requirement for Aquidneck Island are.

Response:

A “peak shaving requirement” is the amount of gas supply provided via non-interstate pipeline sources to ensure sufficient supply to serve customers on the coldest days during the winter period. When The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (the Company) forecasts that demand requires it, the Company dispatches “peak shaving” supplies to ensure sufficient supply to serve customer load. On Aquidneck Island, the Company’s peak shaving supplies currently are portable Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) resources. The Company has committed to be prepared to use these peak shaving supplies to serve Aquidneck Island customers when weather conditions reach 45heating degree days (HDD). The Company’s engineering and infrastructure costs associated with these peak shaving supplies are for the site preparation and development of the portable LNG site, including wetland studies, paving or a pervious solution to house the equipment, ultrasonic flowmeter for odorant, and a three phase 480V transformer.