

February 5, 2021

VIA E-FILING and COURIER

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

Re: In Re: Commission's Review of the Benefits and Costs of Net Metering Credit Calculation Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.4-3: Docket No. 5010

Dear Ms. Massaro:

On behalf of The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (the Company), enclosed for filing with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) please find the Company's response to PUC 8-1, which was issued by the Commission on January 26, 2021.

Consistent with the instructions issued by the Commission on March 16, 2020, and updated on October 2, 2020, this filing is being made electronically. Five (5) hard copies of this filing will be submitted to the Commission on Monday, February 8, 2021, with two (2) hard copies being three-hole punched.

If you have any questions, please contact me at: 781-907-2126. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Laura C. Bickel
RI Bar # 10055

Enclosures

cc: Docket No. 5010 Service List

Docket No. 5010 Service List as of 9/10/2020

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The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid
 RIPUC Docket No. 5010
 In Re: Commission’s Review of the Benefits and Costs of Net Metering Calculation
 Responses to Commission’s Eighth Set of Data Requests
 Issued on January 26, 2021

PUC 8-1

Request:

In PUC 6-4 in Docket No. 5010, the Commission asked National Grid to provide a table with historic MDC values and “an explanation of how National Grid estimated that MDC rate, using what data.” With this data request, the Commission sought to understand how National Grid calculates MDC values. While National Grid did clarify that the MDC values are calculated using a spreadsheet tool developed by ICF International, Inc., it did not explain how that tool works or what specific data it uses. To respond to the Commission’s original request, please submit the following:

- (a) A copy of the ICF International spreadsheet tool used by National Grid to calculate MDC values.
- (b) Either within the spreadsheet tool or in a separate document, note where in the spreadsheet tool each of the “Company-specific inputs of historic and projected capital expenditures and loads, as well as a carrying charge calculated from applicable tax rates and FERC Form 1 accounting data” are input into the tool, and explain the specific origins of that data.

Response:

- a) Please find attached the ICF International spreadsheet tool used by National Grid to calculate MDC values.
- b) The below table summarizes the source of inputs requested by the PUC. The tool and attached PDF documentation has more detailed information, including formulas and sources.

Topic	Tab	Cell	Source
Historic Capital Expenditures	Summary Schedule 1	D14	NECO FORM 1 P206 L75c
Projected Capital Expenditures	Summary Schedule 1	E14	NECO FORM 1 P206 L75c
Historic Incremental Load	Summary Schedule 1	D24	2017 Company Specific Forecast Data. Peak forecast data used should be consistent with the company planning policy (for example if transmission investment is based on extreme weather expectations, the extreme weather peak forecast should be used. For consistency with the historical data, the forecast should be at the generation level.
Projected Incremental Load	Summary Schedule 1	E24	Forecast Peak MWs from NE PEAK 2015 Report, Appendix A

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Historical Carrying Charge	Summary Schedule 1	D19	See "Carrying Charge Schedule 3 (DS)" with individual sources listed for formula components.
Projected Carrying Charge	Summary Schedule 1	E19	Equal to Historical Carrying Charge.

With respect to the historic and projected incremental load values, the AESC 2018 study recommended that the marginal distribution cost calculations conducted by National Grid should use a peak forecast inclusive of energy efficiency's impacts on peak demand.¹ When that recommendation was tested in the avoided T&D tool, the resulting calculation of avoided marginal distribution cost was more than \$1000 per kW. The peak forecast omitting energy efficiency impacts was therefore used in the calculation. While this was not the recommendation of the AESC 2018 study, it provides a more conservative value for the calculation of the benefits of energy efficiency measures that impact peak demand in the absence of investment forecasts that account for the higher investment required in a counterfactual without energy efficiency.

Functionally this modeling choice accounts for the way that the T&D tool takes into account five years of historical and five years of projected peak loads in the calculation. The historical and forecasted peak demand data used account for the cumulative impact of past energy efficiency installations' impact on peak demand. Therefore, when the input forecast includes the impact of energy efficiency, the future peaks are reduced due to the cumulative effect of energy efficiency relative to the past. When forecasted investments in distribution infrastructure are divided by those lower peak forecasts the resulting marginal per-unit values are significantly higher than when the forecast of peak demand that does not account for energy efficiency is used. This treatment of investments and peak demand forecasts was used in both the Rhode Island and Massachusetts benefit cost analyses for the most recent energy efficiency program plans. These calculations and assumptions will be revisited as the AESC 2021 study concludes in Q2 2021 in advance of the 2022 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan development.

¹ AESC 2018, Section 10.2 page 208, <https://www.synapse-energy.com/sites/default/files/AESC-2018-17-080-Oct-ReRelease.pdf> provides helpful discussion of the considerations of the historical and forecasted distribution investment and peak demand data.