

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**LEAST COST PROCUREMENT STANDARDS**

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## **CHAPTER 1 – Least-Cost Procurement**

### **1.1. Purpose**

- A. Least-Cost Procurement comprises System Reliability Procurement, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement as provided for in R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7 and Supply Procurement as provided for in R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.8.
- B. System Reliability Procurement, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement, and Supply Procurement are distinct activities with the common purpose of meeting electrical and natural gas needs in Rhode Island in a manner that is optimally cost-effective, reliable, prudent, and environmentally responsible.
- C. Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7(a), the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) adopts standards and guidelines for System Reliability Procurement and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement. To the extent possible, these standards shall apply to any System Reliability Procurement and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement as defined below, including proposals of such procurement outside of the System Reliability Procurement Plans and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Plans described below
- D. Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7(c)(2), the PUC adopts standards for System Reliability Procurement Plans and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Plans. Standards for Plans shall apply to the Plans described in Chapters 3 and 4.
- E. The PUC’s guidance on rate design, goals for the electric system, and benefits and costs shall apply to both electric and natural gas System Reliability Procurement and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement, as defined below and to the extent possible.<sup>1</sup>

### **1.2. Definitions**

#### **A. Energy Efficiency Procurement**

Procurement of a resource that provides electric or gas energy supply through measures that use less energy to meet demand while providing the same end-use performance.

#### **B. Conservation Procurement**

Procurement of a resource that avoids of energy use by reducing end-use performance or that avoids energy costs by displacing high-cost energy use with low-cost energy use.

#### **C. System Reliability Procurement**

Procurement of a resource that meets the reliability needs of, or optimizes the performance of, the electric or natural gas delivery system while reducing or avoiding procurement of an alternative resources that increases the capacity of the delivery system.

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<sup>1</sup> The application would not apply to instances in which realities and conditions in the gas utility are not reasonably analogous to the electric utility. Per the definition of System Reliability Procurement, the application would not apply to all gas system procurement proposals (for example the annual Gas Infrastructure, Safety, and Reliability Plans) or gas supply procurement, but would only apply to portions of those proposals that met the procurement definitions in Section 1.2.

#### D. ~~Electric~~ Distribution System Needs

Electric distribution system needs shall include, but are not limited to: system capacity (normal and emergency), voltage performance, reliability performance, protection coordination, fault current management, reactive power compensation, asset condition assessment, distributed generation constraints, and operational considerations. Note that not all system needs can be addressed by NWAs.

#### E. ~~Optimization of Grid~~ Distribution System Performance

~~Optimizing grid performance refers to a~~ Activities undertaken to improve the performance and efficiency of the electric distribution system by the distribution company. Performance improvements can include enhanced reliability, peak load reduction, and increased capacity utilization for more efficient use of assets. More efficient delivery of electricity can include optimization of operations and reduced system losses. Costs and data requirements associated with these optimization activities should be considered.

#### F. Cost-effectiveness

The measure of a resource's benefits divided by costs as defined in the Rhode Island Benefit Cost Test.

#### G. ~~Rhode~~ Island Benefit Cost Test (RI Test)

All rows in the first column of the Rhode Island Benefit Cost Framework (RI Framework) provided in Appendix B of the Stakeholder Working Group Process Report to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission in Docket No. 4600<sup>2</sup> and adopted by the PUC as in Docket No. 4600A Public Utilities Commission's Guidance on Goals, Principles and Values for Matters Involving The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid.<sup>3</sup>

#### H. Cost Test

An assessment practice that compares a set of costs and benefits that relevant to a defined point of view.

#### I. Cost of Supply

The cost of electric or natural gas energy supply that includes all rows in the Rhode Island Benefit Cost Framework that are costs caused by or associated with the procurement of energy supply, whether internal or external to the market cost of energy.

#### J. Cost of Energy Efficiency

The cost of electric or natural gas energy efficiency that includes all rows in the Rhode Island Benefit Cost Framework that are costs caused by or associated with the procurement of energy supply, whether internal or external to the market cost of efficiency.

#### K. Three-Year Least-Cost Procurement Report

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<sup>2</sup> See [http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/4600-WGReport\\_4-5-17.pdf](http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/4600-WGReport_4-5-17.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/4600A-GuidanceDocument-Final-Clean.pdf>.

Least-Cost Procurement findings and recommendations of the Office of Energy Resource (OER) and the Energy Efficiency Resource Management Council (Council) filed triennially, either jointly or separately, to the PUC pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7(c)(1).

L. Three-Year Least-Cost Procurement Plan

M. Annual Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Plan

### 1.3. Standards

A. Least-Cost Procurement shall be cost-effective, reliable, prudent, and environmentally responsible. Least-Cost Procurement that is specifically Energy Efficiency Procurement shall also be lower than the cost of additional energy supply.

B. When preparing any cost test or resource assessment, including the RI Test, the following principles will be applied:

- i. ~~Efficiency as a Resource.~~ EE is one of many resources that can be deployed to meet customers' needs. It should, therefore, be compared with both sSupply-side and demand-side alternative energy resources should be compared in a consistent and comprehensive manner.
- ii. ~~Energy Policy Goals.~~ Rhode Island's cost-effectiveness **Cost tests** should be created using the RI Framework and account for ~~its~~ applicable policy goals, as articulated in legislation, PUC orders, regulations, guidelines, and other policy directives. **Cost tests should show which RI Framework categories are applicable to the cost test and which are not.**
- iii. ~~Hard to Quantify Impacts.~~ Efficiency assessment practices **Cost tests should account for all relevant, important impacts, even those that are difficult to quantify and monetize.** Where applicable cost or benefit categories cannot be quantified, such categories should be qualitatively assessed.
- iv. ~~Symmetry.~~ Efficiency assessment practices **Cost tests** should be symmetrical, for example, by including both costs and benefits for each relevant type of impact.
- v. ~~Forward Looking.~~ Analysis of the impacts of ~~efficiency~~ investments should be forward-looking, capturing the difference between costs and benefits that would occur over the life of ~~efficiency measures~~ the **investments** with those that would occur absent the ~~efficiency investments~~. Sunk costs and benefits are not relevant to a cost-effectiveness analysis.
- vi. ~~Transparency.~~ Efficiency assessment practices **Cost tests** should be completely transparent, and should fully document and reveal all relevant inputs, assumptions, methodologies, and results.

C. Cost-Effective

- i. **The PUC shall determine cost-effectiveness in a manner consistent with the PUC's Guidance Document issued in Docket No. 4600A.**
- ii. The distribution company shall assess the cost-effectiveness of measures, programs, and portfolios **of Least-Cost Procurement** according to the ~~Rhode Island Benefit Cost Test (RI Test) that was approved by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in Docket 4600.~~ **All categories of the RI Test are applicable, although some categories may have no or unknown value.** The distribution company shall, ~~after consultation with the Council, propose~~ **provide the specific benefits and costs from**

~~the Rhode Island Benefit Cost Framework to be reported, and benefit- and cost-factors to be included, in determining the RI Test ratio. and include them in Energy Efficiency Plans. These benefits should include resource impacts, non-energy impacts, distribution system impacts, economic development impacts, and the value of greenhouse gas reductions, as described below. The accrual of specific non-energy impacts to only certain programs or technologies, such as income-eligible programs or combined heat and power, may be considered.~~

- iii. ~~With~~ respect to the value of greenhouse gas reductions, the RI Test shall include the costs of CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation as they are imposed and are projected to be imposed by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The RI Test shall also include any other utility system costs associated with reasonably anticipated future greenhouse gas reduction requirements at the state, regional, or federal level for both electric and gas programs. A comparable benefit for greenhouse gas reduction resulting from natural gas or delivered fuel energy efficiency or displacement may be considered. The RI Test may include the value of greenhouse gas reduction not embedded in any of the above. The RI Test may also include the costs and benefits of other emissions and their generation or reduction through Least Cost Procurement.
- iv. Benefits and costs that are projected to occur over the term of the ~~Energy Efficiency Plans Least-Cost Procurement~~ investment shall be stated in present value terms in the RI Test calculation using a discount rate that appropriately reflects the risks of the investment of customer funds in Least-Cost Procurement. ~~e~~Energy efficiency; in other words, a discount rate that indicates that energy efficiency is a low-risk resource in terms of cost of capital risk, project risk, and portfolio risk. ~~The discount rate shall be reviewed and updated in the Energy Efficiency Plans, as appropriate, to ensure that the applied discount rate is based on the most recent information available.~~

D. ~~Reliable~~

- i. ~~The distribution company shall assess the~~
  - a. ~~ability of Least-Cost Procurement investment to meet the energy supply or delivery system needs.~~
  - b. ~~which previous investments, including identical or similar investments, support the conclusion that a new investment is reliable.~~
  - c. ~~risks~~ associated with ~~each investment alternative~~ (for example, the ability to obtain licensing and permitting, significant risks of stranded investment, the potential risk reduction of a more incremental approach, sensitivity of alternatives to differences in load forecasts, and emergence of new technologies,-etc.);
  - d. implementation issues; and
  - e. ~~risks associated~~ with customers' ~~behavior~~, responsiveness, and ability to potentially modify usage at certain times and seasons.
- ii. ~~When applicable, the distribution company shall assess an investment's:~~
  - a. ~~ability~~ to meet the ~~specific~~ identified system needs;
  - b. ~~review~~ of anticipated reliability as compared to alternatives;
  - c. operational complexity and flexibility; and
  - d. resiliency of the system.

- iii. The distribution company shall supply any other information that the company believes supports a finding that an investment is reliable.
- E. Prudent
- i. The distribution company shall assess:
    - a. how the investment supports the goals of the electric or natural gas system and the purposes of Least-Cost Procurement.
    - b. potential for synergy savings based on alternatives that address multiple needs;
    - c. how the entire investment proposal affects the risks of ratepayers and the distribution company.
    - d. risks associated with each investment alternative ~~(for example, the ability to obtain licensing and permitting, significant risks of stranded investment, the potential risk reduction of a more incremental approach, sensitivity of alternatives to differences in load forecasts, and emergence of new technologies, etc.);~~
    - e. implementation issues; and
    - f. risks associated with customer behavior, responsiveness and ability to potentially modify usage at certain times and seasons;
  - ii. The distribution company shall provide rate impacts to a range of customer types and usage levels.
  - iii. The distribution company may provide additional costs tests to support a finding that an investment is prudent.
  - iv. The distribution company shall supply any other information that the company believes support a finding that an investment is prudent.
- F. Environmentally Responsible
- i. ~~Environmental responsibility is indicated by the procurement of energy savings;~~ The distribution company shall assess how investment complies ~~with State environmental policies;~~ and the properly valuation ~~of greenhouse gas reduction environmental~~ costs and benefits.
- G. Less than the Cost of Supply
- i. The distribution company shall assess the cost of energy supply and the cost of ~~e~~Energy ~~e~~Efficiency Procurement measures, programs, and portfolios using all applicable costs enumerated in the ~~Rhode Island Benefit Cost-RI Framework approved by the PUC in Docket No. 4600A and the Rhode Island Test, as updated periodically and approved by the PUC.~~ The distribution company shall, ~~after consultation with the Council propose~~ provide specific costs ~~to be~~ included in the cost of energy supply and energy efficiency. ~~in Energy Efficiency Plans. These costs should include applicable resource impacts, non-energy impacts, distribution system impacts, economic development impacts, greenhouse gas impacts, among others. The accrual of applicable specific non-energy costs to only certain programs or technologies, such as income eligible programs or combined head and power, may be considered.~~
  - ii. The cost of supply shall, at a minimum, include costs associated with generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity. Additional energy supply shall mean supply that would be incremental to marginal energy supply.

- iii. The distribution company shall describe which costs in the ~~RI Framework-cost-effectiveness test~~ were included in the cost of supply and which costs are included in the cost of energy efficiency. For any ~~impacts~~ **categories** that are not included in either the cost of supply or the cost of energy efficiency, the distribution company shall describe why they are not included.

1.4. **Performance Incentive Plan**

- A. Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7(e) and § 39-1-27.7.1, the distribution company shall have an opportunity to earn a shareholder incentive that is dependent on its performance in implementing the approved Annual Plan.
  - i. The distribution company, in consultation with the Council, will propose in its Three-Year Plan and subsequent Annual Plans a Performance Incentive (PI) Plan that is designed to promote superior distribution company performance in cost-effectively and efficiently securing for customers all efficiency resources lower cost than supply.
  - ii. The PI should be structured to reward program performance that makes significant progress in securing all cost-effective efficiency resources that are lower cost than supply while, at the same time, ensuring that those resources are secured as efficiently as possible.
  - iii. The distribution company PI model currently in place in Rhode Island should be reviewed by the distribution company and the Council. The distribution company and Council shall also review incentive programs and designs in other jurisdictions, including those with penalties and increasing levels of incentives based on higher levels of performance.
  - iv. The PI may provide incentives for other objectives that are consistent with the goals, including, but not limited to, comprehensiveness; customer equity; lifetime net benefits; increased customer access to capital; and market transformation.
- B. The PI should be sufficient to provide a high level of motivation for excellent distribution company performance annually and over the three-year period of the Three-Year Plan, but structured so that customers receive most of the benefit from energy efficiency implementation.
- C. The PI shall state clearly each specific objective it is designed to direct the distribution company to achieve and the reason it is needed to do so. The design of the PI shall be clear and focused, have clear metrics for determining performance, not duplicate incentives, and not provide multiple or different incentives for attaining the same objective.

## **CHAPTER 2 – Three-Year Least-Cost Procurement Report**

### **2.1. Intent**

- A. This Chapter provides standards and guidelines for System Reliability and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement findings and recommendations filed with the PUC pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7(c)(1).

### **2.2. Purpose**

- A. The Three-Year Least-Cost Procurement Report (Report) shall serve as guidance for Least-Cost Procurement proposed by the distribution company over the following six years. This includes proposals within and beyond plans defined in Section 1.2.K and J.

### **2.3. Content**

- A. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Targets
  - i. The Report shall contain findings and recommendations of savings targets for electric and natural gas through Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement over a six-year time period, .
  - ii. The report shall identify high-level strategies for achieving savings targets over at least a three-year period.
- B. The Report shall provide discussion of how the savings targets are cost-effectiveSystem Reliability Procurement Recommendations
  - i. The Report shall contain recommendations for processes, including screening criteria, for identifying System Reliability Procurement investments that potentially meet Least-Cost Procurement Standards.
  - ii. The report shall identify strategies and technologies that potentially contribute to System Reliability Procurement.
- C. Performance Incentive Plans
  - i. The Report shall identify recommendations for performance incentives that the distribution company is eligible to earn through Least-Cost Procurement.
- D. Least-Cost Procurement Standards
  - i. The Report shall identify recommendations for updates to Least Cost-Procurement Standards.
- E. Recommended Rulings
  - i. The Report shall state any findings OER and the Council recommend the PUC adopt by order.
- F. Stakeholder Processes
  - i. The Report shall contain, as attachment, minutes of public Council meetings at which the Report was discussed.
  - ii. The Report shall contain, as attachment, any visual presentations related to the development of the Report made at public Council meetings.

### **2.4. Timing**

- A. OER and the Council shall file the Report on or before March 1, 2008 and triennially on or before March 1, thereafter through March 1, 2024.

- B. OER and the Council shall notify the PUC of any good cause for delaying the filing, and with agreement from the distribution company and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.
- C. Findings and recommendations for System Reliability Procurement may be filed separately from those for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement. Recommendations for Least-Cost Procurement Standards identified pursuant to 2.2.E may be filed separately from System Reliability and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement findings and recommendations.

**2.5. PUC Orders**

- A. The PUC will order the adoption of three-year targets for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement that are consistent with the Standards herein.
- B. The PUC will order adoption of any other recommendations supported by the Report and consistent with Least-Cost Procurement, and all applicable statutes, rules, and policies.

## **CHAPTER 3 – Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Plans**

### **3.1 Intent**

- A. This Chapter provides standards and guidelines for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Plans filed with the PUC pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 39-1-27.7(c)(4) and (5).

### **3.2 General Plan Design and Principles**

- A. Energy Efficiency Plans<sup>4</sup> should be designed, where possible, to complement the objectives of Rhode Island's energy efficiency; renewable energy; and clean energy programs, and describe their interaction with them, including, but not limited to, the System Reliability Procurement Plan; the Renewable Energy Standard; the Renewable Energy Growth Program; the Net Metering Program; and the Long-Term Contracting for Renewable Energy Standard. Energy Efficiency Plans should also be coordinated, where possible, with other applicable energy procurement, planning, and investment programs, including, but not limited to, Standard Offer Supply Procurement.
- B. Innovation. Energy Efficiency Plans should address new and emerging issues as they relate to Least Cost Procurement (e.g., CHP, strategic electrification, integration of grid modernization, gas service expansion, distributed generation and storage technologies, energy efficiency services for non-regulated fuels, etc.), as appropriate, including how they may meet State policy objectives and provide system, customer, environmental, and societal benefits.
- C. Comprehensiveness. The distribution company should consistently design programs and strategies to ensure that all customers have an opportunity to benefit comprehensively through types of measures or depth of services, realizing both near-term and long-lived savings opportunities where appropriate, from expanded investments in this low-cost resource. The programs should be designed and implemented in a coordinated fashion by the distribution company, in active and ongoing consultation with the Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council (Council).
- D. Equity. The portfolio of programs proposed by the distribution company should be designed to ensure that different sectors and all customers receive opportunities to participate and secure efficiency resources lower cost than the cost of supply.
- E. Build on prior plans. Energy Efficiency Plans shall describe the recent energy efficiency programs offered by the distribution company and highlight how the Energy Efficiency Plans supplement and expand upon these offerings at the appropriate level of detail, including, but not limited to, new measures, implementation strategies, measures specifically intended for demand or load management, and new programs as appropriate.
- F. Build on prior programs. Distribution company program development shall proceed by building upon what has been learned to date in distribution company program experience, systematically identifying new opportunities and pursuing

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<sup>4</sup> Energy Efficiency Plans refers to both the EE Procurement Plan (or Three-Year Plan) and EE Program Plan (or Annual Plan), as applicable.

comprehensiveness of measure implementation, as appropriate and feasible.

- G. **Plan** based on potential assessments. The distribution company shall use the Council's Opportunity Report, as issued on July 15, 2008, or other assessments of potential, as resources in developing its Three-Year Plan. The distribution company shall include in its Three-Year Plan an outline of proposed strategies to supplement and build upon these assessments of potential.
- H. Unlocks capital and effectively uses funding sources. Energy Efficiency Plans shall include a section outlining and discussing new strategies to make available the capital needed to effectively overcome barriers to implement projects in addition to direct financial incentives provided in order to cost-effectively achieve the Least Cost Procurement mandate. Such proposed strategies shall move beyond traditional financing strategies and shall include new capital availability strategies and partnerships that effectively overcome market barriers in each market segment in which it is feasible to do so.
- I. Integration. Energy Efficiency Plans shall address how the distribution company plans to integrate gas and electric energy efficiency programs to optimize customer energy efficiency and provide benefits from synergies between the two energy systems and their respective programs.
- J. Three-Year Plans shall be developed to propose strategies to achieve the energy efficiency savings targets that shall be proposed by the Council and approved by the PUC for that three-year period, and if necessary, document the factors and conditions that impede meeting the savings targets.. Such strategies shall secure energy, capacity, and system benefits and also be designed to ensure the programs will be delivered successfully, cost-effectively, and cost-efficiently over the long term. In addition to satisfying other provisions of these Standards, the Three- Year Plan shall contribute to a sustainable energy efficiency economy in Rhode Island, respond to and transform evolving market conditions, strive to increase participation, and provide widespread consumer benefits.
- K. Energy Efficiency investments shall be made on behalf of all customers. This will ensure consistency with existing program structure under which all customers pay for, and benefit from, Rhode Island's efficiency programs.
- L. Efficacy. All efforts to establish and maintain program capability shall be done in a manner that ensures quality delivery and is economical and efficient. The Utility shall include wherever possible and practical partnerships with existing educational and job training entities.
- M. **Parity**. While it is anticipated that rough parity among sectors can be maintained, as the limits of what is cost-effective are identified, there may be more efficiency opportunities identified in one sector than another. The distribution company should design programs to capture all resources that are cost-effective and lower cost than supply. The distribution company should consult with the Council to address ongoing issues of parity
- N. Cost-effectiveness. The distribution company shall propose a portfolio of programs ~~in the Annual Plan~~ that is cost-effective. Any program with a benefit-cost ratio greater than 1.0 (i.e., where benefits are greater than costs), should be considered cost-

effective. The portfolio must be cost-effective and programs ~~should~~ **must** be cost-effective, ~~except as noted below.~~

- iii. The distribution company shall be allowed to direct a portion of proposed funding to conduct research and development and pilot program initiatives. These efforts will ~~not be~~ subject to cost-effectiveness considerations **consistent with the PUC's guidance on pilots provided in the Guidance Document issued in Docket No. 4600A.** ~~However, t~~ The costs of these initiatives shall be included in the assessment of portfolio-level cost-effectiveness.
- iv. The distribution company shall allocate funds to the Council and OER as specified in R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-2-1.2. ~~These allocations will not be subject to cost-effectiveness considerations. However, t~~ These costs shall be included in the assessment of portfolio-level cost-effectiveness.

### 3.3 **Three-Year Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Plan**

#### A. Purpose

- i. The Three-Year **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Plan (Three-Year EE Plan)** shall propose overall **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement** budgets, ~~and efficiency savings goals,~~ and program focus and strategies ~~for~~ the three years of implementation beginning with January 1 of the following year. These budgets and goals shall be illustrative and provisional,<sup>5</sup> and shall guide Annual Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Plans (**Annual EE Plans**) over the three-year period.
- ii. The Three-Year EE Plan shall identify the strategies and an approach to planning and implementation of programs that will secure all cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation resources that are ~~lower cost than supply, prudent and reliable,~~ and consistent with the ~~definitions-~~ **Least-Cost Procurement Standards** provided herein.
- iii. **All aspects related to the design and setting of a shareholder incentive for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement shall be determined in the Three-Year EE Plan.**

#### B. Content

- i. **The Three-Year Plan shall contain sections that describe the following:**
  - a. **Consistency with the requirements of Section 1.3,**
  - b. Strategies and Approaches to Planning,
  - e. **Cost Effectiveness**
  - d. ~~Prudence~~ and
  - e. ~~Reliability~~
  - f. ~~Environmental Responsibility~~
  - g. ~~Cost of Additional Supply~~
  - h. Funding Plan and Initial Goals.

- (1) The distribution company shall develop a funding plan using, as

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<sup>5</sup> As the Three-Year Plan is illustrative and provisional, variances between Annual Energy Efficiency Plans and Three-Year Plans due to changes in factors such as, but not limited to, sales forecasts, funding sources, avoided costs, and evaluation results may be acceptable, subject to PUC review of Utility explanation for those variances.

necessary, the following sources of funding to meet the budget requirement of the Three-Year Plan and fulfill the statutory mandate of Least Cost Procurement. The distribution company shall utilize, as necessary and available, the following sources of funding for the efficiency program investments:

- (i) the existing System Benefits Charge (SBC);
  - (ii) revenues resulting from the participation of energy efficiency resources in ISO-New England's forward capacity market (FCM);
  - (iii) proceeds from the auction of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) allowances pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-82-6;
  - (iv) funds from any state; federal; or international climate or cap and trade legislation or regulation, including, but not limited to, revenue or allowances allocated to expand energy efficiency programs;
  - (v) a fully reconciling funding mechanism, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7, which is a funding mechanism to be relied upon after the other sources as needed to fully fund cost-effective electric and gas energy efficiency programs to ensure the legislative mandate to procure all cost effective efficiency that is lower cost than supply is met; and
  - (vi) other sources as may be identified by the Council, the Office of Energy Resources (OER), and the distribution company.
- (2) The distribution company shall include a preliminary budget for the Three-Year Plan, covering the three-year period, that identifies the projected costs, benefits, and initial energy saving goals of the portfolio for each year. The budget shall identify, at the portfolio level, the projected cost of efficiency resources in cents/lifetime kilowatt-hours (kWh) or cents/lifetime million British thermal units (MMBtu). The preliminary budget and initial energy saving goals may be updated, as necessary, in the distribution company's Annual Energy Efficiency Plan.

ii. Multi-year strategies

- a. The distribution company will identify investment strategies for which implementation and budget requests (or revenue collection) are expected to span multiple years.
- b. In addition to the budgets and targets required in Section 3.2.A.viii.b, the distribution company will separately provide budgets and targets for multi-year strategies.

iii. Performance Incentive Plan Structure, pursuant to Section 1.5.

- a. The distribution company may propose an incentive structure specific to the energy efficiency and conservation strategies in the Three-Year Plan.

iv. Testimony

- a. The distribution company will prefile testimony on the following:

- (3) Cost-Effectiveness of measures, programs, and portfolios
- (4) Prudence and
- (5) Reliability
- (6) Environmental Responsibility
- (7) Cost of Additional Supply compared to measures, programs, and portfolios

b. Prefiled testimony will also state what approvals for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement the distribution company requesting from the PUC.

#### C. PUC Orders

- i. The PUC will approve three-year savings goals and strategies for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement programs and portfolios that meet the Standards herein.
- ii. The PUC will approve three-year budgets for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement.
- iii. The PUC will approve a three-year performance incentive plan for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement.
- iv. The PUC will order adoption of any other recommendations supported by the Plan and consistent with Least-Cost Procurement, and all applicable statutes, rules, and policies.

#### D. Timing

- i. PLACEHOLDER FOR FILING DEADLINES

### 3.4 Annual Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Plans

#### A. Purpose

- i. Annual EE Plans set a detailed budget for ~~the Annual Plan~~ meeting the savings goal set in Three-Year EE Plans, covering the annual period beginning the following January 1, that identifies the projected costs; benefits; and energy saving goals of the portfolio and of each program. The budget shall identify, at the portfolio level, the projected total resource cost of efficiency resources in cents/lifetime kWh or cents/lifetime MMBtu.
- ii. The annual detailed budget update shall include the projected costs, benefits, and energy saving goals of each program, as well as the total resource cost of efficiency resources in cents/lifetime kWh or cents/lifetime MMBtu.
- iii. Annual EE Plans may include proposals for system benefit charge rate changes.
- iv. The Annual Plan shall identify the energy cost savings and bill impacts that Rhode Island ratepayers will realize through its implementation.
- v. The Annual Plan filings shall also provide for adjustment, as necessary, to the remaining years of the Three-Year Plan based on experience, ramp-up, and assessment of the resources available.

#### B. Content

- i. Principles of Program Design. The Annual Plan shall identify and contain programs proposed for implementation by the distribution company pursuant to

the Three-Year Plan and which demonstrate consistency with the principles of program design described above in Section 1.3.2.

- ii. **The Three-Year Plan shall contain sections that describing consistency with the requirements of Section 1.3.**
- iii. The distribution company shall include a detailed budget for the Annual Plan, covering the annual period beginning the following January 1, that identifies the projected costs; benefits; and energy saving **goals** of the portfolio and of each program. The budget shall identify, at the portfolio level, the projected total resource cost of efficiency resources in cents/lifetime kWh or cents/lifetime MMBtu.
- iv. The Annual Plans filed October 15 or November 1 will reflect program implementation experience and anticipated changes, shifts in customer demand, changing market costs, and other factors, including a discussion of market transformation impacts as noted above in Section 1. The annual detailed budget update shall include the projected costs, benefits, and energy saving **goals** of each program, as well as the total resource cost of efficiency resources in cents/lifetime kWh or cents/lifetime MMBtu.
- v. ~~The Annual Plan shall identify the energy cost savings and bill impacts that Rhode Island ratepayers will realize through its implementation.~~
- vi. **Program Descriptions**
  - a. The distribution company shall, as part of its Annual Plan, describe each program, how it will reach its target market, and how it will be implemented. In these descriptions, the distribution company shall demonstrate, as appropriate, how the program is consistent with the principles of program design described above.
  - b. In addition to these basic requirements, the Annual Plan shall address, where appropriate, the following elements:
    - (1) comprehensiveness of opportunities addressed at customer facilities;
    - (2) integration of electric and natural gas energy efficiency implementation and delivery (while still tracking the cost-effectiveness of programs by fuel); energy efficiency opportunities for delivered fuels customers should be addressed to the extent possible;
    - (3) integration of energy efficiency programs with renewables and other System Reliability Procurement Plan elements;
    - (4) promotion of the effectiveness and efficiency levels of codes, standards, and other market transforming strategies; if the distribution company takes a proactive role in researching, developing and implementing such strategies, it may, after consultation with the Council, propose a mechanism to claim credit for a portion of the resulting savings;
    - (5) implementation, where cost-effective, of demand response and load management measures or other programs that are integrated into the electric and natural gas efficiency program offerings; such

measures/programs will be designed to supplement cost-effective procurement of long-term energy and capacity savings from efficiency measures; and

(6) integration with non-wires alternatives.

vii. **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan**

a. The distribution company shall include an M&E Plan in its Annual Plan

b. This M&E Plan shall address at least the following:

(1) savings verification, including, where appropriate, analysis of customer usage; such savings verification should also facilitate participation in ISO-NE's forward capacity market;

(2) issues of ongoing program design and effectiveness;

(3) any other issues, for example, efforts related to market assessment and methodologies to claim savings from market effects, among others;

(4) a discussion of regional and other cooperative M&E efforts the distribution company is participating in, or plans to participate in; and

(5) longer-term studies, as appropriate, to assess programs over time.

c. The distribution company shall include in its M&E Plan any changes it proposes to the frequency and level of detail of distribution company program plan filing and subsequent reporting of results.

viii. **Reporting Requirements**

a. The distribution company, in consultation with the Council, will propose the content to be reported and a reporting format that is designed to communicate clearly and effectively the benefits of the efforts planned and implemented, with particular focus on energy cost savings and program participation levels across all sectors, to secure all EE resources that are lower cost than supply.

ix. **Multi-year strategies**

a. The distribution company will identify investment strategies for which implementation and budget requests (or revenue collection) are expected to span multiple years.

b. In addition to the budgets and goals required in Section 3.2.A.viii.b, the distribution company will separately provide budgets and goals for multi-year strategies.

x. **Performance Incentive Plan Structure, pursuant to Section 1.5.**

xi. **Testimony**

a. The distribution company will prefile testimony on the following:

(1) **Cost-Effectiveness of measures, programs, and portfolios**

(2) **Prudence** and

(3) **Reliability**

(4) **Environmental Responsibility**

(5) **Cost of Additional Supply compared to measures, programs, and portfolios**

- b. Prefiled testimony will also state what approvals for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement the distribution company requesting from the PUC.

C. PUC Orders

- xii. The PUC will approve annual goals and rates for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement programs and portfolios that meet the Standards herein.
- xiii. The PUC may deny approval of measures that do not meet the standards herein and that are not critically linked to the cost-effectiveness of other investments that are otherwise consistent with the standards herein.
- xiv. The PUC will order adoption of any other proposals supported by the Plan and consistent with Least-Cost Procurement, and all applicable statutes, rules, and policies.

D. Timing

- xv. PLACEHOLDER FOR FILING DEADLINE

## **CHAPTER 4 – Three-Year System Reliability Procurement Plans**

### **4.1 Intent**

- A. This Chapter provides standards and guidelines for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Plans filed with the PUC pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 39-1-27.7(c)(4).

### **4.2 Purpose**

- A. The Three-Year System Reliability Procurement Plan (Three-Year SRP Plan) shall describe general planning principles and potential areas of focus for SRP for the three years of implementation, beginning with January 1 of the following year. ~~Such SRP Plans shall include, but are not limited to~~
- B. The Three-Year SRP Plan shall provide screening criteria for non-wires alternatives and a proposal for how such screening criteria will be included in system planning.
- C. The Three-Year SRP Plan will provide strategies and technologies the distribution company intends to employ or consider employing over the next three years pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7 and these standards.
- D. The Three Year SRP Plan will explain in summary how identical, similar, and related investments across programs contributed incrementally to the state energy policies and goals for the natural gas and electric systems.

### **4.3 General Plan Design and Principles**

- A. **In** order to adhere to the principles set forth in R.I. Gen. Laws §39-1-27.7, and to meet Rhode Island’s energy system needs in a least cost manner, the SRP Standards set forth guidelines for the incorporation of energy efficiency, distributed generation, demand response, and other energy technologies (collectively referred to as “non-wires alternatives” or NWA) into distribution company distribution planning. These guidelines seek to enable the deployment of cost-effective NWAs to achieve state policy goals, optimize grid performance, enhance reliability and resiliency, and encourage optimal investment by the distribution company.
- B. **SRP** should be integrated with the distribution company’s distribution planning process and be designed, where possible, to complement the objectives of Rhode Island’s energy efficiency; renewable energy; and clean energy programs, and describe its interaction with them, including, but not limited to, the programs described in Section 1.2.A.ii. SRP should also be coordinated, where possible, with other applicable energy procurement, planning, and investment programs, including, but not limited to, Standard Offer Supply Procurement and the Infrastructure, Safety, and Reliability Plan.

### **4.4 Content**

- A. The Three-Year Plan shall contain sections that describe the following:
  - i. Proposed screening criteria for non-wires alternatives and a proposal for how such screening criteria will be included in system planning.
  - ii. Proposed evolutions to definitions, identification, and assessment of non-wires alternatives, which may include, but are not limited to:
    - a. observations and lessons learned from the most recent three-year period,

- b. trends in distributed energy resource technology and analytics, either grid-side or customer-side, that may influence NWA planning over the three-year period;
  - iii. anticipated scope of NWA deployment in the coming three-year period,
    - a. in-progress NWA projects projected to continue and a high-level timeline,
    - b. projected areas of focus <sup>6</sup> for distribution planning review that may result in the identification of new NWA projects;
  - iv. description of how the SRP Plan complements the objectives of Rhode Island's energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean energy programs listed in 2.1.C; ~~and~~
    - i. ~~An annual reporting plan on the implementation of the Three-Year SRP Plan and investments made under System Reliability Procurement during the Three-Year SRP Plan period, and;~~
- B. ~~The Three-Year plan will include a discussion of how the Plan is consistent with the requirements of Section 1.3.~~
- C. ~~Performance Incentive Plan Structure, pursuant to Section 1.5.~~
- i. ~~The distribution company may propose incentive structures for System Reliability Procurement for effect during the Three-Year SRP Plan.~~
- D. ~~Testimony~~
- i. ~~To the extent applicable, the distribution company will prefile testimony on the following:~~
    - a. ~~Cost-Effectiveness of measures, programs, and portfolios~~
    - b. ~~Prudence~~ ~~and~~
    - c. ~~Reliability~~
    - d. ~~Environmental Responsibility~~
  - ii. ~~Prefiled testimony will also state what approvals for the Three-Year SRP Plan the distribution company requesting from the PUC.~~

#### **4.5 PUC Orders**

- A. The PUC will approve screening requirements and implementation into system planning that meet the Standards herein.
- B. The PUC will approve annual reporting requirements that meet the standards herein.
- C. The PUC will approve a three-year performance incentive plan for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement.
- D. The PUC will order adoption of any other proposals supported by the Plan and consistent with Least-Cost Procurement, and all applicable statutes, rules, and policies.

#### **4.6 Timing**

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<sup>6</sup> It is not anticipated that this will include project specifics, which are dependent on needs and screening; those are expected in annual SRP Reports. In the absence of project specifics or budgets, this section is intended to give a picture of the expected size and scope of NWA efforts during the three-year period and a sense of whether it is expected to grow relative to current activities.

E. PLACEHOLDER FOR FILING DEADLINE

## **CHAPTER 5 – Role of the Council in Efficiency Plan Development and Approval**

### **5.1 Intent**

- A. This Chapter provides guidelines for the Council’s role in development and approval of Least-Cost Procurement Plans described in Chapters 3 and 4.

### **5.2 Guidelines**

- A. The Council shall take a leadership role in ensuring that Rhode Island ratepayers receive excellent value from the Three-Year Plan being implemented on their behalf. The Council shall do this by collaborating closely with the distribution company on design, implementation and application of the M&E efforts presented by the distribution company under the terms of Section 1.4.D and, if necessary, provide recommendations for modification that will strengthen the assessment of distribution company programs.
- B. In addition to the other roles for the Council indicated in this filing, the distribution company shall seek ongoing input from, and collaboration with, the Council on development of the Three-Year Plan and Annual Plans, and on development of annual updates, if any, to the Three-Year Plan. The distribution company shall seek to receive the endorsement of the Energy Efficiency Plan by the Council prior to submission to the PUC.
- C. The distribution company shall, in consultation with the Council, propose a process for Council input and review of its Three-Year Plan and Annual Plan. This process is intended to build on the mutual expertise and interests of the Council and the distribution company, as well as meet the oversight responsibilities of the Council and shall report it to the PUC by July 15, 2008 and triennially thereafter. This process should fully accommodate stakeholder engagement and input.
- D. The distribution company shall submit a draft Three-Year Plan and Annual Plan to the Council and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers for their review and comment annually, at least one week before the Council’s scheduled meeting prior to the filing date that year.
- E. The Council shall vote whether to endorse the Three-Year Plan prior to the prescribed filing date. If the Council does not endorse the Three-Year Plan, then the Council shall document the reasons and submit comments on the Three-Year Plan to the PUC for their consideration in final review of the Three-Year Plan.
- F. The Council shall vote whether to endorse the Annual Plan prior to the prescribed filing date. If the Council does not endorse the Annual Plan, the Council shall document its reasons and submit comments on the Annual Plan to the PUC for its consideration in final review of the Annual Plan.
- G. The Council shall prepare memos on its assessment of the cost effectiveness of the Three-Year Plans and Annual Plans, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §39-1-27.7(c)(5), and submit them to the PUC no later than three weeks following the filing of the respective Energy Efficiency Plans with the PUC.



## **CHAPTER 6 – Additional Standards for System Reliability Procurement Investment Proposals**

### **6.1 Placeholder.**

- A. This is the placeholder for a generic SRP filing, which would replace requests for approval and funding in annual SRP Plans.
- B. This is where to put any other information the PUC or parties want to include in an SRP filing that are in addition to what would be filed to meet the standards in Section 1.3. For example, some of the sections in the existing 2.5.A(i) through (ix) or 2.5.B may be useful to specifically require.
- C. If the requirements in 1.3 are enough, then we can eliminate this placeholder chapter.