

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN RE: SUSPENSION OF SERVICE TERMINATIONS :
AND CERTAIN COLLECTIONS ACTIVITIES : DOCKET NO. 5022
DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY :**

NOTICE TO SOLICIT WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

On March 16, 2020, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) voted to enter an emergency order, effective immediately, through March 31, 2020, to prohibit regulated electric, natural gas, water, and sewer utilities to cease termination of service for nonpayment, cease sending past due accounts to collection agencies, and to refrain from sending termination notices with shut-off dates prior to April 1, 2020 for nonresidential customers. Absent a vote to continue the order or modify the order, the March 16, 2020 order will terminate at 12:01 a.m. on April 1, 2020. The PUC will consider whether to continue or modify the order on March 30, 2020.

The PUC invites written public comments which may be submitted to luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov or Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk, RIPUC, 89 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI 02888. The PUC requests comments be submitted on or before March 26, 2020, but will consider all comments submitted in time for review prior to the March 30, 2020 open meeting.

In making its decision, the PUC will consider whether the State of Rhode Island is still under a state of emergency, whether businesses are open, whether collections have significantly impaired or are likely to impair the ability of the utilities, particularly non-investor-owned utilities from meeting financial obligations, among any other relevant information made available to the PUC.

The PUC has requested the utilities provide the following information on or before March 26, 2020:

- i. Whether collections have dropped off for nonresidential customers over the past two weeks compared to prior months and prior years?
- ii. If so, please quantify the extent of the reduction.
- iii. What effect has any such reduction had on the utility's cash flow?
- iv. Has the utility been unable to meet any obligations, or does it expect to be unable to meet any financial obligations in the next two weeks if it cannot commence termination of service as a collections option.

The docket and related information are available for examination at the PUC's office.

The docket can also be accessed at <http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5022page.html>.

However, interested parties should contact the PUC's office at 401-780-2107 prior to seeking access to the documents to ensure the office is open during the State of Emergency. The docket can also be accessed at:

Luly E. Massaro
Commission Clerk
March 18, 2020