

**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 and March 30, 2020, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) voted to enter emergency orders, effective through April 15, 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 15, 2020 for all customers. Absent a vote to continue the order or modify the orders, they will both terminate at 12:01 a.m. on April 16, 2020. The PUC will consider whether to continue or modify the order on April 13, 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 April 9, 2020, but will consider all comments submitted in time for review prior to the April 13, 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 people are still under a “stay at home order,” the unemployment rate in Rhode Island, if known, and 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 information make available to the PUC. More specific questions for the utilities are included in the orders.

The docket and related information are available for examination at the PUC’s office. 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: <http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5022page.html>.

Luly E. Massaro
Commission Clerk
April 2, 2020