

**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 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. The order was expanded and extended several times, most recently on May 28, 2020 ([http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5022-PUC-COVID19-Ord23836%20\(6-2-20\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5022-PUC-COVID19-Ord23836%20(6-2-20).pdf)). Absent a vote to continue the order or modify the May 28, 2020 order, it will terminate at 12:01 a.m. on July 17, 2020. The PUC will consider whether to continue or modify the order on July 13, 2020.

The PUC invites written public comments which may be submitted to [luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov](mailto: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 July 7, 2020** but will consider all comments submitted in time for review prior to the July 13, 2020 open meeting.

The PUC specifically requests comment on the following: (1) whether a moratorium on service terminations should continue for all categories of customers, e.g., non-residential, standard customers, and protected customers; (2) whether there should be a lifting of the moratorium for a particular category of customer; and (3) the appropriate duration of any extension of a moratorium on service terminations.

In determining whether to further extend or modify this order, the PUC will consider whether the State of Rhode Island is still under a state of emergency; the then-current phase of economic reopening and the associated rules; whether businesses are open; and whether collections have significantly impaired or are likely to impair the ability of the utilities, particularly non-investor-owned utilities, to meet financial obligations, among any other relevant information made 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  
June 30, 2020