

May 26, 2006

**VIA HAND DELIVERY & ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Luly E. Massaro, Division Clerk  
RI Division of Public Utilities & Carriers  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888

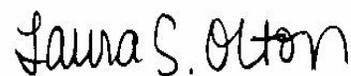
**RE: Docket D-06-13 - Joint Petition of The Narragansett Electric Company and Southern Union Company for Approval of Purchase and Sale of Assets Responses to Division Data Requests 8-3 and 8-7**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Enclosed please find five (5) copies of responses from The Narragansett Electric Company, d/b/a National Grid, to the eighth set of data requests issued by the Division on May 22, 2006, in the above-captioned proceeding. This set includes responses to data requests 8-3 and 8-7.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (401) 784-7667.

Very truly yours,



Laura S. Olton

Enclosures

cc: Docket D-06-13 Service List

Division Data Request 8-3

Request:

Re: the response to Division Data Request 2-16, please document National Grid's experience to date with respect to:

- a) The costs and time requirements for training gas system employees to perform electric system repairs during periods of emergencies; and
- b) The costs and time requirements for training electric system employees to perform gas system repairs during periods of emergencies;

Response:

a) For National Grid's (the "Company") New York gas operations and other support functions in both New York and New England, the Company does not typically train crews to perform both gas and electric system repairs. However, National Grid conducts a one-day training session for employees to provide assistance to crews who need to perform electric system repairs during emergencies. The session is designed to train employees such as meter readers and other employees in support functions who are not involved with actual system repairs in their regular jobs. The training allows these employees to provide assistance when there are wires down from a storm, accident, or other similar emergency events. They also can serve as guides to crews not familiar with the area.

The employees are not trained to perform the actual system repairs or work on electrical facilities. Rather, the employees are used to respond to "wires down" calls until trained crews can arrive at the scene. Employees are trained to recognize dangerous conditions, including recognition of electric, telephone, or cable wires. They then take the necessary steps to assure the area is secured until repair crews arrive. This type of activity would normally occur during storms when repair crews are spread out through the service territory making repairs. But, this can also occur when they happen to be the first to arrive at the scene of an emergency under other conditions as well.

National Grid has not developed a refined estimate of the cost to train New England Gas field employees. However, a "ballpark" estimate would be approximately \$75,000 (\$32/hr X 8hrs X 225 employees plus materials). Gas employees also might be assigned during emergencies to other non-technical construction and office support emergency assignments. Those assignments, however, would not require any formal training.

b) Gas emergencies are of a completely different nature and do not arise in the same context as electric emergencies. For example, electrical emergencies tend to relate to downed wires from events such as storms. Gas emergencies, however, tend to result

Division Data Request 8-3 (continued)

from reported gas leaks or a dig-in. In New York, National Grid has not attempted to use electric employees to respond to such emergencies. In addition, the Company has not trained electric employees to perform any gas system repairs because of special qualifications that are needed. However, there may be opportunities for employees in electric operations to provide public safety assistance by securing areas, assisting with materials deliveries, or providing transportation and office support, as necessary. Activities of this kind on the gas side would not require special training.

Division Data Request 8-7

Request:

Please identify any new contractual arrangements between National Grid and Southern Union's remaining Massachusetts gas utility operations that will be necessary to ensure the reliability of gas service:

- c) For the Rhode Island gas utility operations acquired by National Grid
- d) For Southern Union's remaining Massachusetts gas utility operations

Response:

At this time, no contractual arrangement between National Grid and Southern Union's remaining Massachusetts gas utility operations will be needed to ensure the reliability of gas service for the Rhode Island gas utility operations acquired by National Grid.

## Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the cover letter and materials accompanying this certificate were mailed or hand-delivered to the parties listed below.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanne M. Scanlon

Date: May 26, 2006

### **National Grid & Southern Union - Docket D-06-13 Updated Service List as of 5/15/06**

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<b>File an original &amp; four (4) copies w/:</b> Luly E. Massaro, Division Clerk Division of Public Utilities & Carriers 89 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI 02888	<a href="mailto:Lmassaro@puc.state.ri.us">Lmassaro@puc.state.ri.us</a>	401-780-2107 401-941-1691