

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS
89 JEFFERSON BOULEVARD
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02888**

**In Re: Review Of Standard Residential)
Electric Billing Format To)
Facilitate Price Comparison)
Among The Charges Of)
Nonregulated Power Producers)
And The Standard Offer Service)
Pursuant To R.I.G.L. § 39-26.7-4)**

Docket D-16-78

Hearing Date: February 24, 2017

REPORT AND ORDER

WHEREAS: R.I.G.L. § 39-26.7-4(a) directs the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) to initiate a docket on or before September 1, 2016, for the purpose of redesigning the standard billing format for residential customers of electric distribution companies to better enable such residential customers to compare pricing policies and charges of nonregulated power producers (“NPPs”) to the distribution companies standard-offer service rate. The Division was charged with issuing a final decision in such docket not later than six (6) months after its initiation.

WHEREAS: On February 8, 2017, The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid”) filed a Petition with the Division proposing to modify the standard billing format for residential customers to “include a price comparison of the Standard Offer Service (“SOS”) rate to the rate of [NPPs] to better enable residential customers to compare pricing policies and charges of

NPPs to the SOS rate as required by the recently enacted Nonregulated Power Producer Consumer Bill of Rights, R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 39-26.7.” Specifically, National Grid proposed that the standard residential electric billing format be revised on the second page to include the following language:

Customers can choose to purchase their electric supply from a non-regulated power producer (NPP). National Grid will continue to deliver electricity to you, and will respond to service calls, emergencies, and provide storm restoration. To compare offers, the rate for National Grid’s electric supply, known as Standard Offer Service (SOS), is \$XXX effective XX/XX/XXXX. The SOS rate is scheduled to change on XX/XX/XXXX. Please note: The electric NPP must submit the enrollment at least X business days prior to your next scheduled meter read date, which is XX XX. For more information, visit www.ripuc.ri.gov.

The proposal further noted that “X” in the above paragraph represented dates and prices that would change over time.

WHEREAS: The Division held a properly noticed and scheduled public hearing on February 24, 2017, at 2:00 p.m., in the Division’s 2nd Floor Hearing Room located in its offices at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island. The following appearances were entered:

Appearances:

Robert Humm, Esq.
National Grid

Leo Wold, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Advocacy Section of the Division

WHEREAS: The Advocacy Section of the Division recommended approval of the petition. No one appeared to oppose the petition. No member of the public submitted any comments in writing concerning the petition.

WHEREAS: After considering the proposed language and the information provided to it during the public hearing, the Division finds the “price to compare” language proposed by National Grid’s Petition to satisfy the requirements of R.I.G.L. § 39-26.7-4(a) with respect to those electric distribution companies whose customers are able to purchase their electric supply from NPPs, and hereby approves National Grid’s petition as it was filed. Thus, the format approved by the Division shall read as follows:

Customers can choose to purchase their electric supply from a non-regulated power producer (NPP). National Grid will continue to deliver electricity to you, and will respond to service calls, emergencies, and provide storm restoration. To compare offers, the rate for [name of distribution company]’s electric supply, known as Standard Offer Service (SOS), is \$XXX effective XX/XX/XXXX. The SOS rate is scheduled to change on XX/XX/XXXX. Please note: The electric NPP must submit the enrollment at least X business days prior to your next scheduled meter read date, which is XX XX. For more information, visit www.ripuc.ri.gov.

The letter “X” in the above paragraph represents dates and prices that will change from time to time.¹

Accordingly, it is:

(22683) ORDERED:

¹ While the instant petition was filed by The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid—Electric, the Division is fully aware that there are at present two other electric distribution companies currently serving portions of Rhode Island not served by National Grid. The Division is also, of course, aware that R.I.G.L. § 39-1-27.3 specifically exempts the Pascoag Utility District (“Pascoag”) from having to offer its customers retail access to power from NPPs. Similarly, at present Block Island Power Company (“BIPCO”) customers do not have access to power from NPPs for the simple reason that the island is not fully connected to the grid. Those circumstances could change in the future. Should that happen, the names of those companies could be substituted for that of National Grid for the purpose of modifying those companies’ standard billing format for residential customers should those companies’ customers become eligible to procure electric supply from NPPs. The companies would, however, have to petition the Division for approval of the modifications to their standard residential electric billing formats.

1. That the petition of The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid—Electric is hereby approved. The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid—Electric shall modify the second page of its standard billing format for residential customers by adding the following statement:

Customers can choose to purchase their electric supply from a non-regulated power producer (NPP). National Grid will continue to deliver electricity to you, and will respond to service calls, emergencies, and provide storm restoration. To compare offers, the rate for [name of distribution company]’s electric supply, known as Standard Offer Service (SOS), is \$XXX effective XX/XX/XXXX. The SOS rate is scheduled to change on XX/XX/XXXX. Please note: The electric NPP must submit the enrollment at least X business days prior to your next scheduled meter read date, which is XX XX. For more information, visit www.ripuc.ri.gov.

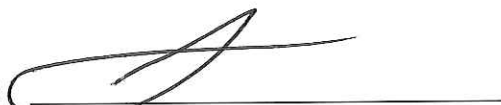
The letter “X” in the above paragraph represents dates and prices that will change over time.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND, FEBRUARY 28, 2017.



William K. Lueker, Esq.
Deputy Chief of Legal Services
Hearing Officer

APPROVED:



Macky McCleary
Administrator



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick R.I. 02888
(401) 941-4500

FAX (401) 941-9207
TDD (401) 941-4500

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF JUDICIAL REVIEW
(PROVIDED PURSUANT TO R.I.G.L. §42-35-12)

Please be advised that if you are aggrieved by this final decision (report and order) of the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) you may seek judicial review of the Division’s final decision by filing an appeal with the Rhode Island Superior Court. You have thirty (30) days from the mailing date (or hand delivery date) of the Division’s final decision to file your appeal. The procedures for filing the appeal are set forth in Rhode Island General Laws, Section 42-35-15.

Proceedings for review may be instituted by filing a complaint in the Superior Court of Providence or Kent Counties. Copies of the complaint must be served upon the Division and all other parties of record in your case. You must serve copies of the complaint within ten (10) days after your complaint is filed with the Superior Court.

Please be advised that the filing of a complaint (appeal) with the Superior Court does not itself stay enforcement of the Division’s final decision. You may however, seek a stay from the Division and/or from the Court.

The judicial review shall be conducted by the Superior Court without a jury and shall be confined to the record. The Court, upon request, shall hear oral argument and receive written briefs.