



# Local 310 Brotherhood of Utility Workers Council

*affiliated with the* Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO  
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Warwick, RI 02886

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December 11, 2021

<b>RI DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES &amp; CARRIERS</b>	
DOCKET NO.	<u>D-21-09</u>
SPONSOR	<u>Public</u>
EXHIBIT NO.	<u>1</u>
IDENT. (DATE)	
FULL (DATE)	<u>12/14/21</u>
RECEIVED BY	<u>JS</u>

Mr. John Spirito  
Hearing Officer  
RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers  
89 Jefferson Blvd.  
Warwick, RI, 02888

Re: National Grid sale to PPL

Dear Mr. Spirito;

I'm writing to you as president of Locals 310 and 310B of the Brotherhood of Utility Workers/UWUA, AFL-CIO to offer my support for the proposed sale of National Grid's Rhode Island gas and electric interests to PPL.

For more than 85 years, the Brotherhood has represented the interests of Rhode Islanders employed by National Grid and its predecessor companies operating in the state. From its humble beginnings as a collaboration of local utilities that became the Narragansett Electric Company, to its inclusion as part of the larger New England Electric Company, to its sale to the multi-national National Grid, the Brotherhood is proud of the positive relationship it has built and maintained with the various iterations and the efforts we have made jointly to ensure Rhode Island is served by a highly skilled and dedicated workforce that is able provide safe and reliable energy throughout the state — no matter the condition.

Notwithstanding its years of collaborative effort with management, the Union would be remiss if it did not point out the unintended consequences that deregulation and the sale of Narragansett Electric to National Grid had on its Rhode Island operations, specifically the elimination of customer services within the state. While moving and consolidating certain operations may make sense in other business settings, Narragansett Electric is a public utility created and operated for the benefit of the people of Rhode Island not the corporate owners in the United Kingdom. PPL may not be headquartered in Rhode Island but at least they understand that its Rhode Island customers are entitled to be able to do business in person and to talk to someone based in Rhode Island.

In anticipation of the pending sale the Union, having done its own research about PPL's collective bargaining history, negotiated an extension of the current collective bargain agreement so that company can focus its efforts immediately on improving the operations of Narragansett Electric rather than having to concern itself with an expiring contract. In dealing with PPL leadership, the Union was impressed by PPL's plans to improve the state's infrastructure and its desire to increase its workforce within the state and to return to Rhode Island many of the jobs that were shipped out or done away with as part of the previous consolidation efforts.

While the Union may use the same language as the Company regarding the delivery of safe and reliable energy, it is important to note that the statement is a little more personal for its members. In providing service to the people of the state the members are working on behalf their families, friends, neighbors and most importantly themselves — work on electric and gas lines is dangerous and any improvements to the state's infrastructure will benefit our workers going forward.

For the above stated reasons, the BUW asks that you support the sale of National Grid's Rhode Island gas and electric interests to PPL.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

*George P. Fogarty III*

George P. Fogarty, III

President UWUA/BUW, Local 310 and 310B

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