

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

IN RE: Petition Filing by the Narragansett Electric Company Proposing :
to Amend Section VII, Meter Accuracy and Testing, of the : Docket No. D-04-16
Division's Rules Prescribing Standards for Electric Utilities :

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING

On June 3, 2004, the Narragansett Electric Company filed a petition with the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers ("Division"), pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-35-6 and Rule 13(b) of the Division's Rules of Practice and Procedure, requesting the Division to initiate a rulemaking procedure to adopt a proposed amendment to the Division's current *Rules Prescribing Standards for Electric Utilities* ("Rules").

The Division's Rules currently prescribe certain in-service testing plans for single phase, network, and polyphase watt-hour meters under both periodic test schedules and selective test plans. In its petition, Narragansett is requesting to include a third alternative testing plan based on standards developed and prescribed by the American National Standards Institute ("ANSI"). Narragansett is not proposing to eliminate the present testing standards as Narragansett recognizes that they may continue to apply to other utilities. According to Narragansett, the ANSI testing plan has several advantages over the current testing requirements, including improved quality and collection of meter performance data, an improved ability to monitor meter performance trends to ensure the accuracy of meter populations, and lower implementation and execution costs for in-service meter testing.

Predicated on the details provided in Narragansett's petition, the Division has determined that initiating a rulemaking procedure regarding this matter is in the public interest. Accordingly, the Division will conduct a public hearing on **July 26, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.**, in the Division's hearing room, at 89 Jefferson Boulevard in Warwick, Rhode Island.

The proposed amendments to the Rules are on file at the Division's office, located at 89 Jefferson Boulevard in Warwick, Rhode Island. Copies of the proposed amendments may be obtained by calling the Division's Clerk at (401) 941-4500, ext 107, or in person at the offices of the Division. The proposed amendments can also be accessed at www.ripuc.org/docket/d-04-16page.html.

The Division has concluded that the proposed revisions to the Rules will, if adopted by the Division, not have a significant adverse economic impact on any small business or on any city or town.

Interested persons wishing to offer data, views, or arguments on the proposed amendments to the Rules may do so either orally on the day of the hearing or by submitting their comments in writing to the following address prior to the date of the hearing:

John Spirito, Jr., Esq.
Hearing Officer
Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

Reference is made to Rhode Island General Laws, Sections 42-35-1, 42-35-2, 42-35-3, 42-35-6, 39-1-3, 39-1-15, 39-1-38 and 39-3-33.

THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE HANDICAPPED. INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED MUST NOTIFY THE DIVISION'S CLERK AT (401) 941-4500, EXT. 107 AT LEAST SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE HEARING DATE.

Thomas F. Ahern, Administrator
June 18, 2004