

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held January 15, 2016

Attendees: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Paul Roberti, Commissioner Herbert DeSimone, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Amy D'Alessandro, Alan Nault, and Luly Massaro.

Commissioner Roberti called the open meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.

4596 - QuantumShift Communications, Inc. – QuantumShift Communications submitted an application for authority to transact as a provider of telecommunications service in Rhode Island. The Division filed a memorandum summarizing its review and recommending approval. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the application. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4595 – Newport Water Division – Newport Water submitted a rate application seeking to collect additional revenues of \$1,304,595 for a total cost of service of \$20,151,440. The proposed rates will go into effect on January 23, 2016 unless suspended. Hearings are scheduled commence on July 19, 2016. Commissioner Roberti moved to suspend Newport Water's proposed rates in order to conduct examination and hearing into the proposal. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4373 – Interstate Navigation Co. – Pursuant to PUC Order, Interstate Navigation submitted on December 10, 2015, a compliance filing to 1) reduce the base price of fuel from \$3.25 per gallon to \$1.50 per gallon, and 2) to reduce passenger and vehicle base rates by approximately 8%. The Division filed a memorandum summarizing its review of Interstate's proposal and recommending approval as filed. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve Interstate Navigation's compliance filing. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4591 – RI Airport Corporation – The RI Airport Corporation filed on December 3, 2015, a Petition for Declaratory Judgment for determination that the RI Airport Corporation is a “public entity” within the meaning of R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.4-2(I2) (the Net Metering Statute). The Division filed a letter summarizing its review and recommending that the petition be granted. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to grant the Airport Corporation's petition. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4568 – National Grid – The PUC postponed a ruling on Green Development, LLC dba Wind Energy Development, LLC's Renew Motion for Summary Disposition of Access Fees proposed by National Grid. Atty. Wilson-Frias summarized that at yesterday's conference call with the parties, National Grid stated that it does not desire to go forward

with the hearings and wishes to withdraw its filing. The procedure to withdraw a filing is to file a motion prior to the hearing. The Company is working with the parties to file a motion timely. If National Grid files a motion to withdraw and the PUC grants the motion, then WED's motion is rendered moot.

Renewable Energy Resources Eligibility Applications Dockets - The PUC reviewed the applications as submitted in the following dockets:

- 4583 – CC&C of Middletown, LLC - Application for certification of the CC&C of Middletown Generation Unit, a 0.0689 MW solar facility located in Middletown, Rhode Island. PUC Consultant filed a memorandum summarizing his review and recommending approval of the application. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the application filed the applicant. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- 4593 – Carbon Zero, LLC - Application for certification of the Vermont Tissue Mill Dam Hydroelectric Facility, a 0.36 MW small hydro facility located in Bennington, Vermont. PUC Consultant filed a memorandum summarizing his review and recommending approval of the application. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the application and the applicant's request for approval as an independent, third party meter reader/verifier. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Prior to discussion of Docket No.4483, Atty. Cindy Wilson-Frias was excused from the Open Meeting because she worked on the mediation process in connection with this docket.

4483 – Wind Energy Development, LLC & ACP Land, LLC - The PUC reviewed the record relating to National Grid's proposed revisions to the Distributed Generation (DG) Interconnection Tariff (R.I.P.U.C. No. 2078) filed January 15, 2015. The revised DG Interconnection Tariff was submitted in compliance with the PUC's November 12, 2014 interim order. After discussion, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve National Grid's Revised DG Interconnection Tariff as updated on October 29, 2015, subject to the following modifications: 1) The Tariff shall reflect that impact study cost estimates will be valid for 120 days; 2) Section 9.2 of the Tariff shall state, "Notwithstanding any provisions contained in this section, the parties may agree to have a formal arbitrations conducted by Commission Staff"; 3) The Tariff shall include a provision stating that National Grid will conduct an accepted projects conference following each distributed generation enrollment; and, 4) Within 6 months of this decision, National Grid shall report on the status of its review of the Division's recommendation to implement a publicly available website on which the Company's distribution generator interconnection queue for facilities over 15 kW can be reviewed by any interested party. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The open meeting adjourned at 11:25 A.M.