

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held February 9, 2018

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 1:30 P.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate and/or vote on the following dockets.

Present: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Linda George, Margaret Hogan, Alan Nault, Todd Bianco and Luly Massaro.

- I. Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 1:37 P.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.
- II. **Approval of Minutes of Open Meetings held on January 26, 2018 -**
Commissioner Gold moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 4774 – In re: The RI Distributed Generation Board and Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – The PUC reviewed the record relating to the proposals submitted by the RI Distributed Generation Board and National Grid. The proposals were submitted pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 39-26.6-1 et seq., the Renewable Energy Growth (RE Growth) Program. The proposals included 1) the Rhode Island Distributed Generation Board’s (DG Board) November 15, 2017 Report recommending ceiling prices and renewable energy growth classes which will be eligible for the ceiling prices in the 2018 RE Growth Program year and 2) National Grid’s November 15, 2017 proposed modifications to the Company’s RE Growth Program Tariffs and Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules. After deliberations, the following motions were made:
 - a. Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the DG Board’s proposed 2018 RE Growth Program Ceiling Prices as submitted on November 15, 2017 and as revised in the January 22, 2018 memorandum by Sustainable Energy Solutions reflecting revisions due to the federal tax reform act and federal tariff changes. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
 - b. Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC direct National Grid to submit, in their June 30 RE Growth factor filing, a budget that reflects the retrospective remuneration recovery to be based on actual tariff payments rather than estimated tariff payments and to be a looking back calculation. Commissioner Anthony further moved to direct National Grid to file a compliance tariff reflecting this decision. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
 - c. Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC accept National Grid’s proposed performance metrics for tracking purposes only, with no financial reward associated with it, and that National Grid report and track on the performance of

the metrics. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- d. Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC approve National Grid's tariff change for Minimum Bill Credit as proposed in the Company's November 17, 2017 filing. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
 - e. Commissioner Gold moved to approve National Grid's revised definitions for Bill Credit Recipient for Residential and Non-residential Customers. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**
 - f. Chairperson Curran moved to accept National Grid's RE Growth Tariffs as filed, and the Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules for Residential and Non-Residential Customers as filed. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IV. **Docket No. 4800 – In re: Suez Water Rhode Island's Application to Change Rate Schedules** – Suez Water submitted proposed rates to collect additional operating revenue in the amount of \$1,024,856 to support a total cost of service of \$5,838,744 for effect March 1, 2018. Commissioner Gold moved to suspend the rates for up to eight months to conduct discovery and hearing on the rate application. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- V. **Docket No. 4069 – In re: Rules and Regulations Governing a Long-Term Contracting Standard for Renewable Energy (Regulation)** – It is moved that the Commission initiate a rulemaking proceeding to propose an amendment to the current Regulation via the Direct Final Rules process pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-35-2.11. The Direct Final Rule process may be used by an agency to promulgate a rule it does not expect to be controversial. The proposed amendment to the rules will add a definition to the word FERC under the Definitions Section of the Regulation. Commissioner Anthony moved to initiate a rulemaking proceeding. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- VI. There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Curran adjourned the Open Meeting at 3:10 P.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be viewed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>.