

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held March 30, 2016

Attendees: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Herbert DeSimone, Patricia Lucarelli, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Amy D'Alessandro, Sharon Colby Camara, Alan Nault, Todd Bianco and Luly Massaro.

Chairperson Curran called the open meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.

Minutes of Open Meetings held on February 25, 2016 and March 3, 2016 – After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the minutes. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

3729 – Nextlink Wireless, Inc. – Nextlink Wireless submitted a request to cancel its authority to conduct business as a supplier of telecommunications service. The Division supports the Company's request. Commissioner DeSimone moved to rescind the authority of Nextlink Wireless. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

4598 – Interstate Navigation Co. – Interstate Navigation filed on January 28, 2016, a rate filing proposal to increase its high speed ferry rates by \$1.00 each way for its Point Judith to Block Island Fast Ferry operation. Interstate also sought expedited approval of the proposed fast ferry rates and waivers of the hearing and investigation requirement of R.I.G.L. § 39-3-11 and §39-3-12 and waiver from the rate filing requirements of Part Two of the PUC's Rules. The Division filed memorandum indicating that it does not object to the proposed rates and recommends approval of the revised rates as submitted. Noting that Interstate's high speed ferry service is discretionary and does not constitute a lifeline service, the PUC found that good cause exist to allow the rate change to go into effect without hearing and investigation under R.I.G.L. § 39-3-11 and §39-3-12. Commissioner DeSimone moved to grant Interstate Navigation's waiver request and approve the \$1.00 rate increase as submitted. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

4592 – National Grid – National Grid filed on March 21, 2016, Electric Infrastructure, System and Reliability Compliance Filing reflecting the PUC's open meeting decision on February 25, 2016. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the compliance filing. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Curran and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

4599 – National Grid – National Grid filed on February 15, 2016, its annual Retail Rate Filing. National Grid proposes rate changes arising out of the reconciliation of various tariff provisions. After review of the record, the PUC by unanimous **Vote 2-0**, ruled on the following issues:

- 1) Approve National Grid's revised retail rates as submitted on March 21, 2016.
Vote 2-0.

- 2) To improve the review process going forward, National Grid shall submit all workpapers in support of the retail rate filing to the Division in electronic form, with all formulas intact, at the same time it makes its filing with the PUC. In the event further revisions need to be made, the Company shall submit supporting workpapers at the time all revisions are filed with the PUC. **Vote 2-0.**
- 3) That the over-collection of pension and OPEB expense shall be refunded in the Company's pension adjustment reconciliation filing. **Vote 2-0.**

4556 – National Grid – National Grid filed on February 24, 2016, its Renewable Energy Standard Charge and Reconciliation Filing. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the Company's proposed Renewable Energy Standard Charge of \$0.00288 per kWh which represents a reduction from the current charge. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

4589A – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid – National Grid filed on March 9, 2016, Renewable Energy Growth Program Compliance Filing reflecting the PUC's open meeting decision of February 10, 2016. . After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the compliance filing. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Curran and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

3628 – National Grid – Discussion of this docket was postponed to next open meeting.

4590 – National Grid – National Grid filed on March 18, 2016, Gas Infrastructure, System and Reliability Compliance Filing reflecting the PUC's open meeting decision on February 25, 2016. . After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the compliance filing. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Curran and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

4038 – National Grid - National Grid filed on a Request for Modification of its Natural Gas Portfolio Management Plan incentive sharing mechanism on March 3, 2016. The filing was supplemented on March 21, 2016. Specifically, National Grid proposes to (1) eliminate the guaranteed minimum benefit to customers, and increase the NGPMP minimum sharing threshold for the Company from \$1 million to \$2 million, (2) change the margin sharing split once actual margins generated reach the \$2 million threshold, such that that the Company will earn a lesser incentives in years in which margins are high, and (3) modified the reporting requirement to reflect the new schedule for submitting the quarterly NGPMP reports. The Division filed a memorandum summarizing its review and analyses. The Division finds the proposed modifications is reasonable and will provide greater benefits to ratepayers while still maintaining reasonable incentive for the Company to continue to maximize asset optimization benefits for ratepayers. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve National Grid's request. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

2379(R3) – Anderson Energy Solutions, LLC – Anderson Energy submitted an application for authority to transact as a Gas Marketer. The Division filed a memorandum recommending approval. Chairperson moved to approve the application.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeSimone and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

The open meeting adjourned at 10:25 A.M.