

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held April 27, 2017**

**Attendees:** Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Herbert DeSimone, Commissioner Marion Gold, Linda George, Margaret Hogan, Alan Nault, Sharon Colby Camara, Todd Bianco and Luly Massaro.

**Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). A quorum was present.**

**4690 – Block Island Power Company (BIPCo)**– This docket relates to PUC’s review of BIPCo’s request to recover purchase power costs and associated transmission costs through the implementation of proposed Standard Offer and Transmission Tariffs and to revise its current rates to reflect the new tariff language. At this meeting, the PUC considered BIPCo’s Compliance Filing that were submitted pursuant to the PUC’s bench decision at the April 14, 2017 hearing. The Division filed a memorandum finding the Standard Offer and Transmission Rates are correctly and reasonably calculated and should be approved for effect May 1, 2017. After review and discussion, Commissioner Gold moved to approve BIPCo’s compliance tariffs. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**4684 – Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Resource Management Council (EERMC)** – The PUC reviewed the record regarding the EERMC’s proposed recommended Energy Efficiency Targets and proposed amendments to the Least Cost Procurement Standards for Years 2018-2020 submitted on December 22, 2016 and subsequently amended on April 7, 2017. After review and discussion, the following motions were made:

Energy Efficiency Targets

Commissioner Gold moved to approve the gas and electric energy savings Targets to support development of the Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for year 2018-2020 as filed by the EERMC on December 20, 2016. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Energy Efficiency Standards

The EERMC proposed revisions to the Standards as suggested by PUC staff on April 7, 2017. The PUC Staff, EERMC and parties are in agreement with the amendments except with the following:

1. *The Use of both the RI Test and the Total Resource Cost (TRC) Test (p. 4)*  
Commissioner Gold supported EERMC’s proposal to provide a comparison of the TRC and RI Test for the 2018 year but not lock in an annual requirement and do a separate comparison for each year thereafter. She contended that a comparison of the two methods in the 2018 review would provide insights, and if needed, the PUC could request further comparisons be made for other years. Chairperson Curran supported the Staff’s recommendation, contending it would

be better to require a comparison for each of the three years. If at some point further comparisons seemed unnecessary, the PUC could then eschew any additional ones. Commissioner DeSimone supported Chairperson Curran, noting that we don't know the full details of the new RI Test and that it would be prudent to compare it to the TRC for the first 3-years, 2018-2020. Chairperson Curran moved to keep the Staff's amended language. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote of 2-1.** Commissioner Gold dissented.

2. *Non-Wires Alternative (NWA) (p. 12)*

The EERMC contended the suggested language by PUC Staff was redundant and should be deleted. Finding the language not redundant, Chairperson Curran supported the Staff's language as follows:

NWA, including partial NWA, may be procured to meet distribution system needs of both load and generation.

Commissioner Gold agreed finding the language did not appear to impact the substance of the provision. Commissioner DeSimone supported the Staff's language. **Vote 3-0.**

3. *Performance Incentive (PI) transparency requirement for Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement (SRP) (p. 10,19)*

Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the following combined language of the EERMC and Staff:

The PI shall state clearly each specific objective it is designed to direct the utility to achieve, and the reason it is needed to do so. The design of the PI shall be clear and focused, have clear metrics for determining performance, not duplicate incentives, and not provide multiple or different incentives for attaining the same objective.

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

Chairperson Curran moved to approve the EERMC's proposed revisions to the Standards as amended by PUC Staff and outlined in the above motion by the majority. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The Open Meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.