

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held May 1, 2013

Attendees: Chairman Elia Germani, Commissioner Mary Bray, Commissioner Paul Roberti, Cindy Wilson-Frias, Alan Nault, Sharon Colby Camara, Amy D'Alessandro, Nicholas Ucci, Nault, Dilip Shah and Luly Massaro. Staff Patricia Lucarelli was not present.

Chairman Germani called the open meeting to order at 11:15 A.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.

1725 – Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas and Water Utility Service – The Commission reviewed the George Wiley Center's Request to Extend the Winter Moratorium on utility shutoffs to June 1, 2013 and the responsive comments filed by National Grid, Pascoag Utility District and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.

Commissioner Bray explained there was a systematic program delay with the startup of LIHEAP payments application process. There was insufficient time to process the applications and the time needed was unknown. Realistically, it could take two to three weeks. She opined that those A-60 customers who are about to be terminated, should be given time for their LIHEAP application to be reviewed. Commissioner Bray supported extending the moratorium.

[Commissioner Bray requested Lewis Babbitt, OER representative, to explain on the status of the LIHEAP application process and how this attributed to the delay.]

[Thomas Teehan of National Grid explained that some customers' applications have been approved, while other customers have filed their application and is in the process. He suggested that the company could work with those customers upon notification to the company.]

Chairman Germani noted that customers with high balances will not benefit from the LIHEAP funds. The moratorium is based upon an emergency and he opined that there is no eminent peril to the public's safety. He noted that there is no emergency.

Commissioner Roberti agreed with the Chairman that no emergency exist. National Grid however, can use management discretion. He opined that the company, on its own initiative, could sort this out with the customer and prioritize who will be terminated.

After review, Commissioner Germani moved to deny the George Wiley's request to extend the moratorium to June 1 on the basis that no there is no emergency. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion. Commissioner Bray supported extending the moratorium until May 16. Commissioner Bray opposed. **Vote 2-1.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.