

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held June 27, 2016

Attendees: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Herbert DeSimone, Commissioner Marion Gold, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Alan Nault, Sharon Colby Camara and Todd Bianco.

Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.

Open Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2016 – After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the minutes and Chairperson Curran seconded the motion. **Vote 2-0.** Commissioner Gold abstained.

4600 – Investigation Into the Changing Electric Distribution System – The PUC considered the application for membership to the stakeholder’s committee filed by Direct Energy Business, LLC, Direct Energy Services, LLC and Direct Energy Solar (collectively, Direct Energy) on June 20, 2016. After review, the PUC unanimously approved Direct Energy’s application for membership to the stakeholder’s committee. **Vote 3-0.**

4550 – Pawtucket Water Supply Board – The PUC considered Pawtucket Water’s June 22, 2016 Compliance Tariffs. The compliance tariffs were submitted pursuant to the PUC's June 14, 2016 open meeting decision authorizing the collection of additional revenues. The Division filed a memo recommending approval and acceptance of the compliance tariffs. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the compliance tariffs. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion. **Vote 2-0.** Commissioner Gold abstained.

4621 – SeaStreak LLC – The PUC considered SeaStreak’s June 9, 2016 tariff filing for RIDOT-Sponsored ferry transportation service between Providence and Newport. The Division submitted a memorandum recommending approval subject to SeaStreak LLC filing a Water Carrier Certificate of Operating Authority (Certificate) with the PUC. PUC Counsel, Ms. Wilson-Frias, noted that the Certificate should be issued tomorrow by the Division. After review, the PUC found that the ferry service provided does not constitute a lifeline service, the proposed rates are reasonable and good cause exists to waive the 30 day notice and hearing. The PUC conditionally approved SeaStreak’s tariff filing upon receipt of a copy the Certificate. **Vote 3-0.**

4617 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid – The PUC reviewed National Grid’s May 11, 2016 Revenue Decoupling Reconciliation Filing. The Division filed a memorandum summarizing its review and recommending approval of the reconciliation filing. The filing represents a 3% decrease to ratepayers. Commissioner DeSimone voiced concerns regarding the four plants that closed causing a 12% decrease to deliveries versus the forecast in the industrial group. After review, the PUC unanimously approved National Grid’s reconciliation filing. **Vote 3-0.**

4587 – National Grid – The PUC reviewed National Grid’s May 16, 2016 Long-Term Contracting for Renewable Energy Recovery (LTCRER) tariff filing. The Division filed a memorandum summarizing its review and recommending approval of the proposed LTCRER factors. The Division’s memo stated that all the contracts/projects are above market and that this would represent a 50 cent increase a month on the residential bills. Commissioner DeSimone asked about a status update on the Champlain project which he stated was forecasted to be under market. Attorney Wilson-Frias stated that she would prepare a data request to get the update on the Champlain project. After review, the PUC unanimously approved National Grid’s proposed LTCRER tariff filing. **Vote 3-0.**

4605 – National Grid – The PUC reviewed the record regarding National Grid’s proposed 2017 Standard Offer Service Procurement Plan and 2017 Renewable Energy Standard Procurement Plans for year 2017. After review, the PUC ruled on the following issues:

- 1) Chairperson Curran moved to approve National Grids’ 2017 Renewable Energy Standard Procurement Plan. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion. **Vote 2-0.** Commissioner Gold abstained.
- 2) Chairperson Curran moved reject National Grid’s 2017 Standard Offer Service Procurement Plan and to keep the 2016 Standard Offer Service Procurement Plan in place. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and further moved to extend the 75-day notice requirement when the Request for Proposal is affected by a holiday. The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.** Commissioner Gold abstained.

The Open Meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.