

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held August 12, 2016

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

Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 11:30 A.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.

4265 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid – The PUC reviewed National Grid's June 3, 2016 request for approval of the Fourth Amendment to the Power Purchase Agreement between National Grid and Orbit Energy Rhode Island. The Fourth Amendment to the Power Purchase (PPA) dated as of May 27, 2016, modifies the critical milestone date set forth in clause (vi) of Section 3.1(a) of the PPA to achieve the Commercial Operation Date.

Commissioner DeSimone moved to grant the request for approval noting that, according to the filing, Orbit has in place all the required permits to construct the facility. It is important to note that the amendment does not alter the bundled price of the PPA and the project is still forecasted to be below market. The project is in the public's interest.

Counsel Wilson-Frias stated that given the fact that this contract was approved in 2011, that in approving this filing the PUC would approve another one-year extension, and the representations are that the project is now expected to be commercially operational in 2017, if Orbit were to subsequently seek a fifth contract extension, then Orbit should be required to come in and make a showing to the PUC as to why that would be appropriate. Commissioner DeSimone found this reasoning persuasive and moved to adopt Legal Counsel's recommendation.

Commissioner Gold concurred that this project is in the public's interest. Commissioner Gold was curious and wanted to learn more about 1) the specific challenges that cause this delay bringing the plant into operation; 2) the specific plans for where the plant will get its feedstock, costs, and quality control challenges; and 3) the quality of the compost, how much compost will be produced, analysis of compost, and how it will be marketed. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion. Chairperson Curran concurred and moved to approve the motion with the modification suggested by Counsel. The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4631 – National Grid – The PUC reviewed National Grid's July 15, 2016 Tariff Advice Filing to Amend the Net Metering Provision RIPUC No. 2150. The amendment is necessary to comport with R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.4-2 and 39-26.4-3 as reflected in Bill H 8354 Substitute A. The Division filed a memorandum finding the tariff to be consistent with the statute and recommended approval. Commissioner Gold moved to approve the tariff as submitted effective August 12, 2016. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

2262(I10) – Alliance Group Services, Inc. (Company) – The Company filed a request to cancel its authority to conduct business as a supplier of telecommunications services. Commissioner DeSimone moved to grant the request. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The Open Meeting adjourned at 11:48 A.M.