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**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

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**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held September 29, 2016**

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

**Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.**

**4627 – National Grid** – After a review of the record on Conservation Law Foundation's Motion to Dismiss The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's Request for Approval of a Gas Contract and Cost Recovery and to Close the Docket, Chairperson Curran surmised that this matter was not appropriate for a Motion to Dismiss given that there are facts material to the decision which are in dispute. However, she suggested that the PUC may not need to reach that determination given that there are two other options currently before the Commission, namely, National Grid's offer to withdraw or the ability to hold the proceeding in abeyance for a period of time. Commissioner DeSimone agreed that there still exist facts material to the decision which are in dispute. However, he also noted that National Grid, by its own statements, needs to refile a cost benefit analysis as a result of the changed circumstances due to the developments in Massachusetts. He moved that the Commission stay the proceeding immediately and order National Grid to file a progress report by January 13, 2017 on the status of the Access Northeast Project in Massachusetts and the other New England States. He stated this was preferable to National Grid withdrawing its initial filing on the basis that it would create administrative waste in a future proceeding that could be avoided by simply staying the proceedings. The stay can be lifted upon a motion by National Grid or another party. Further, he moved to deny the Motion to Dismiss without prejudice. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Curran. **Vote 2-0.** Commissioner Gold was recused.

**4637 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – After a review of National Grid's August 3, 2016 Electric Pension Adjustment Factor Filing and annual reconciliation for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2016, Commissioner Gold discussed the comments filed by the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers in support of approval. She moved to approve the factor and reconciliation factor as filed. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion. **Vote 3-0.**

**4651 – The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (electric and gas)** – Chairperson Curran expressed her concern that given the fact that the filing was only made on September 23, 2016, there had not been sufficient time for the Commission and interested parties to thoroughly review a new program. She specifically stated that there had been no formal filings submitted on this matter by the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers or the low income advocates. She noted that National Grid has been enrolling

people in September and noted that if the enrollment rules approved by the PUC are different from that which the Company has been following, National Grid would have to address that with customers later. However, that was the risk the Company took in filing so close to the requested effective date. Therefore, she moved to deny the motion for expedited review and approval at this time, noting that this did not mean the PUC would need the full thirty days allowed by its rules. There was no ruling on the substance of the filing. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gold who agreed that there had not been sufficient time for review. **Vote 3-0.**

**4589A – National Grid** – After a review of National Grid’s September 7, 2016 request for approval of the Certificates of Eligibility (COEs) for commercial-scale and large scale projects selected in the Company’s Second Enrollment under the Renewable Energy Growth Program, Commissioner Gold expressed her pleasure in the number of enrollments and level of megawatts enrolled below the ceiling prices. She was interested in the project located in the area where substation upgrades are proposed and hoped that National Grid was considering, through coordination among the different departments, how to manage the distribution system so that new sources of clean energy can be located in the most efficient locations. She moved to approve the five COEs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeSimone. **Vote 3-0.**

**4539 – National Grid** – After a review of National Grid’s August 1, 2016 Electric Infrastructure Safety and Reliability (ISR) Plan Annual Reconciliation Filing for the period April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve finding the filing to be in compliance with the tariff. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion, noting that the report was detailed. She stated that in the last few years, Rhode Island, working in partnerships with National Grid and other energy stakeholders, has made tremendous progress towards a dynamic, innovative and clean energy system. The investments authorized in the Electric ISR Plan represent an incredible opportunity to upgrade and modernize our electric grid. It is the PUC’s responsibility to insure that the investments reflect the full suite of energy policy goals included in Rhode Island law, including increasing energy affordability and reliability, developing the market for clean energy and for energy innovation, diversifying energy sources, and reducing the environmental impact of our energy use. She requested that PUC staff include a discussion of the status of requests made by the Commission when the current ISR plan was approved in a future Open Meeting. For example, the request that National Grid develop a long range plan and results from the Volt/Var pilot, but possibly other matters as well. The other Commissioners agreed to the concept. **Vote 3-0.**

**4610 – National Grid** – After a review of National Grid’s filing to request the addition of the Chandonnet Site in Massachusetts to the sites eligible for funding out of the Environmental Response Fund, the amended request, and the Division’s memorandum, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the addition, noting that the site would be eligible for funding for costs incurred in FY 2016 and forward, but not those costs incurred prior to FY 2016. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner DeSimone. **Vote 3-0.**

**4628 – National Grid** –National Grid’s July 5, 2016 Tariff Filing to amend the Company’s Decorative Street and Area Lighting Service Provision, and General Street and Area Lighting Service Provision, and a proposal to implement the Company-Owned LED Streetlighting Offering was suspended by the Commission on a Motion from Chairperson Curran and second by Commissioner Gold. Chairperson Curran applauded the approach taken by the Division and Synapse Energy Economics, particularly where they noted that “[i]t is important that the Company-Owned Streetlighting Tariffs are coordinated with the initiatives in the Company’s Energy Efficiency Plan. This is the most efficient and effective way to encourage all streetlighting customers to adopt all cost-effective efficiency technologies and practices. Together, the Customer- and Company-owned LED Streetlighting Tariffs and the Energy Efficiency Plans can accomplish the State’s efficiency goals in a holistic, integrated way. As a result, it is important to take this opportunity to get the tariff right.” **Vote 3-0.**

**4626 – National Grid** – After a review of National Grid’s 2016 Renewable Energy Growth Program Factor and Renewable Energy Growth Reconciliation Factors, Commissioner Gold suggested that they are in compliance with the tariff, but requested a review of the Renewable Energy Growth tariff for future filings, particularly the treatment of the remuneration for consistency with the Long Term Contracting for Renewable Energy Recovery factor tariff. Commissioner Gold also requested a discussion of the Renewable Energy Growth program at a future open meeting with particular focus on whether National Grid is meeting targets for existing categories of renewable energy, whether interconnections are being completed in a timely manner, the status of the development of zonal incentives, whether a category could be established for energy storage, whether the PUC has the authority to develop and enforce performance metrics with respect to the remuneration National Grid can receive for administering the Renewable Energy Growth program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeSimone. **Vote 3-0.**

**4642 – Boomerang Wireless LLC** – After a review the Petition for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers for the purpose of providing wireless lifeline services to low-income households submitted by Boomerang Wireless on August 26, 2016 and the Division’s letter in support of the application, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve with a second by Commissioner Gold. **Vote 3-0.**

**4635 – Block Island Power Company (BIPCo)** – After a review of BIPCo’s Motion for Continued Recovery of Rental Costs in Fuel Adjustment Clause, Commissioner DeSimone again noted that BIPCo did a good job restoring power following the fire at the height of tourist season during a heat wave. He found that the request was well grounded in the facts and supported continuance of the tariff language approved by the PUC in August 2016. He further observed that the insurance proceeds are to be credited to the benefit of customers. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Curran. **Vote 3-0.**

**4595 – City of Newport Water Division** – After a review of Newport Water’s compliance filing made on September 22, 2016 and the Division’s memorandum recommending approval, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the compliance tariffs finding them

to be consistent with the PUC's Open Meeting ruling on September 20, 2016. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Curran. **Vote 2-0.** Commissioner Gold abstained because she had not participated in the proceedings.

The Open Meeting adjourned at 2:37 P.M.