

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held October 6, 2008

Attendees: Chairman Elia Germani, Mary Bray, Patricia Lucarelli, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro.

Chairman Germani called the open meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.

3975 – The George Wiley Center – This Commission reviewed the record relating to the George Wiley's petition to amend termination rules, specifically, amendment to allow consumers the ability to make a 10% down payment to restore and/or avoid termination of utility service. The Chairman noted that there exist an imminent peril to the public health, welfare and safety because there are approximately 3,256 households without electricity or gas service, the unemployment rate in Rhode Island is the second highest rate in the country, Rhode Island's unemployment rate continues to grow, children and elderly people are at risk because of inadequate heat, and the majority of LIHEAP funding will be allocated to oil heat customers. Chairman Germani moved that the Commission adopt an emergency regulation pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §42-35-3 in order for the Commission to provide for the immediate restoration of the utility service of a number of citizens without further delay. Commissioner Bray supported the Chairman's motion and further proposed that the rules, specifically, the Customer Payment Plans be modified to allow protected and standard customers, whose service is terminated, the opportunity to have their service restored with payment or with commitment from a heating assistance agency in accordance with the following down payment provisions:

- Require a 20% down payment on balances under \$1,000 and the remainder balance to be paid over 18 months
- Require a 15% down payment on balances of \$1,000 - \$2,499 and the remainder balance to be paid over 24 months
- Require a 10% down payment on balances of \$2,500 or more and the remainder balance to be paid over 36 months

Commissioner Bray seconded the Chairman's motion to adopt an emergency regulation and moved to approve the proposed customer payment plans. Chairman Germani concurred and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

A transcript of the Commission's October 6, 2008 open meeting discussion relating to Docket No. 3975 is available at the office of the Commission Clerk.

The open meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.