

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held October 13, 2017

Attendees: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Sharon Colby Camara, Alan Nault, Todd Bianco and Luly Massaro.

Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). A quorum was present

Approval of the Minutes of Open Meetings held on September 22, 2017 and October 5, 2017. Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Gold seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4672 - National Grid – National Grid filed on September 8, 2017 proposed Mid-Year Modification to Tariffs, Rules and SolarWise Program for the Renewable Energy Growth Program. Specifically, National Grid seeks clarification changes to the tariff and to discontinue all aspects of the SolarWise Program except for the SolarWise Marketplace website as of October 15, 2017. The Division filed a memorandum summarizing its findings and recommending approval of National Grid's proposed tariff modifications.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Anthony moved to approve National Grid's request to discontinue the SolarWise Program and require National Grid to provide additional information prior to engaging in the rebranding of the Marketplace website and associated new marketing activities through additional data requests. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Anthony reflected that on September 22, 2017, the PUC approved an RE Growth Program factor that included a budget of approximately \$92,000 for Solar Wise and Marketplace related activities in Docket No. 4707. This approval was for spending on a program that was previously approved by the PUC as just and reasonable. The PUC should make a determination prior to engaging in new activities whether spending on those new activities is just and reasonable. The PUC needs to understand what has been spent in the last six months, what will be spent in the next six months, on what activities and the value anticipated for those activities. The PUC can work with staff to develop data requests to issue next week and could revisit the spending in the Marketplace in a month or so.

The discontinuance of the SolarWise program raised confusion with the timing of the factors and budgetary proposal. Counsel Wilson-Frias suggested that the PUC may want to require National Grid to file a budget proposal to match the RE Growth Program year (April 1 – March 1) on or before January 1 each year for effect April 1. The reconciliation would be filed June 30th for effect either August 1 (simultaneous with ISR) or October 1. The PUC can put the matter for consideration at a future open meeting agenda to discuss the timing of

budgetary filings or any new filings requirements in conjunction with Renewable Energy Growth Program.

2379(B4) – The Energy Link, LLC (Company) – The Company submitted an application for registration as a gas marketer in Rhode Island. The Division filed a recommendation to approve the application. Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the application. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. **Vote 3-0.**

2262(A9) – NECC Telecom, Inc. (Company) – The Company filed a request to cancel its authority to operate as carrier of telecommunication service in Rhode Island. Commissioner Gold moved to cancel the authority of NEEC Telecom. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Renewable Energy Eligibility Applications Dockets

Applications for eligibility as a renewable energy resource were submitted by the following companies. PUC Consultant filed memorandum recommending eligibility be granted with a conditional requirement that the Companies provide the Commission with written documentation verifying Commercial Operation and provide evidence of the Generation Unit's NEPOOL-GIS Asset Identification Number:

- **4716 – Exeter Solar Power LLC's** application for eligibility certification of the Exeter Solar Power I generation unit, 0.999 MW solar facility located in Exeter, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- **4717 – North Smithfield Solar Power I LLC's** application for eligibility certification of the North Smithfield Solar Power I – DG generation unit, 0.900 MW solar facility located in North Smithfield, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- **4718 – Compass Circle Solar, LLC's** application for eligibility certification of the 310 Compass Circle Solar – Building 314 generation unit, 1.25 MW solar facility located in North Kingstown, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- **4720 – Compass Circle Solar, LLC's** application for eligibility certification of the 320 Compass Circle Solar – Building 315 generation unit, 0.999 MW solar facility located in North Kingstown, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- **4721 – North Smithfield Solar Power I LLC's** application for eligibility certification of the North Smithfield Solar Power I – NM generation unit, 1.600 MW solar facility located in North Smithfield, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource.

Applications for eligibility as a renewable energy resource were by the following Companies. PUC Consultant recommended approval of the applications as submitted by:

- **4722 – ERWR Whitcomb Solar, LLC's** application for eligibility certification of the Whitcomb Farm Solar generation unit, a 2.2 MW solar facility located in Essex Junction, Vermont as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- **4723 – WE 90 Technology Solar, LLC's** application for eligibility certification of the Technology Drive Solar generation unit, a 2.0 MW solar facility located in Brattleboro, Vermont as a New Renewable Energy Resource.

- **4724 – Ames & Irene Roderick’s** application for eligibility certification of the 100 Bobbin Mill Road generation unit, a 0.05 MW solar facility located in Newport, Vermont as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- **4725 - Ames & Irene Roderick’s** application for eligibility certification of the IRA Rentals Solar generation unit, a 0.037 MW solar facility located in Newport, Vermont as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- **4726 – SunGen Sharon 1, LLC’s Ames & Irene Roderick’s** application for eligibility certification of the SUN GEN 1 SOLAR generation unit, a 2.2 MW solar facility located in Sharon, Vermont as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- **4727 – SA Solar Services, LLC’s** application for eligibility certification of the St. Albans Solar Farm generation unit, a 2.2 MW solar facility located in St. Albans, Vermont as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- **4728 – Claire Solar Partners, LLC’s** application for eligibility certification of the Claire Solar Farm’s generation unit, a 2.2 MW solar facility located in South Burlington, Vermont as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- **4729 – Clarendon Solar Farm, LLC’** application for eligibility certification of the Clarendon Solar Farm generation unit, a 2.0 MW solar facility located in North Clarendon, Vermont as a New Renewable Energy Resource.

After review, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the five (Rhode Island generation units) applications for eligibility with the conditional requirements recommended by the PUC Consultant, GDS Associates, and approve the remaining eight (Vermont generation units) as submitted. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The Open Meeting adjourned at 10:19 A.M.