

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on October 30, 2018 @ 2:30 P.M.

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on October 30, 2018 at 2:30 P.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate and/or vote on the following dockets.

Present: Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Margaret Hogan, Todd Bianco, Sharon Colby Camara, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro.

- I. Commissioner Gold called the Open Meeting to order at 2:30 A.M. A quorum was present.

- II. **Docket No. 1725 – Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas, and Water Utility Service (Termination Rules)** – The George Wiley Center submitted a request for restoration of service with different down payments and terms for residential utility customers. The PUC received comments from the General Assembly, National Grid and the George Wiley Center. After review, the following motions were made:
 1. Commissioner Anthony moved that PUC find that public safety requires an order, effective immediately, to provide for restoration of gas and electric service for residential customers at a reduced level of down payment than what is required by the PUC’s Termination Rules. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**
 2. Commissioner Anthony moved that terms of restoration, from October 31, 2018 through December 31, 2018, are amended for any residential customer whose utility service has been terminated by National Grid for non-payment or who has a Termination date scheduled will be entitled to have such service restored by National Grid upon satisfaction of the following conditions:
 - (a) for a customer owing less than \$1000, 10% of the balance owed must be paid and the remainder of that balance must be paid within 18 months;
 - (b) for a customer owing at least \$1000 but less than \$2500, 10% of the balance owed must be paid and the remainder of that balance must be paid within 24 months;
 - (c) for a customer owing \$2500 or more, 10% of the balance owed must be paid and the remainder of that balance must be paid within 36 months unless the Company chooses to extend such time period;
 - (d) to participate in a payment plan under this Order, as per, Part V, Section 4(G) of the Rules, the customer either (1) did not participate in one of the plans listed in a prior year or (2) did participate and currently has a balance due on his or her account that is the same or less than the balance that

customer had upon enrollment in the prior year plan listed in the Rules, or (3) did participate last year and currently has a higher balance but makes an additional down payment to bring the current balance down to or below the balance at enrollment last year.

Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**

3. Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC rule to allow eligible customers enrolled in the Arrearage Management Plan (AMP) to enroll in the AMP with payment of 10% of unpaid balance from October 31, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**
4. Commissioner Anthony moved that at the time a customer seeks a payment plan under the terms adopted by this order, if the customer is on the non-income eligible rate, National Grid, shall determine whether the customer is eligible for the income-eligible rate and if so, enroll the customer in the appropriate income eligible rate for either gas or electric service. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**

III. **Docket No. 4890 – Narragansett Bay Commission** – Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) filed a rate application to collect additional operating revenues in the amount \$6,388,424 or 6.33%, to support a total revenue requirement of \$107,249,751 for effect November 9, 2018. Commissioner Gold moved to suspend NBC’s proposed rates for eight months beyond the effective date of November 9, 2018 in order to conduct discovery and hearing on NBC’s proposal. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**

IV. **Docket No. 4755 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – The Division filed a request to extend the suspension period for an additional 30 days (beyond October 30, 2018) of National Grid’s Energy Efficiency Incentive proposal (the Combined Heat and Power System for the Naval Station Project). The Division requires more time to review outstanding discovery and prepare reply comments to National Grid’s proposal. Commissioner Gold moved to grant the Division’s request. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**

V. **Docket No. 4846 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – The PUC reviewed the record relating to National Grid’s 2018 Distribution Adjustment Charge (DAC) Filing and associated DAC factors for effect November 1, 2018. After deliberation, the following motions were made:

1. Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC approve National Grid’s DAC factors as proposed in Schedule AEL-1S. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**
2. Commissioner Anthony moved that National Grid include a credit of \$62,142 in the FY19 Gas Infrastructure, Safety and Reliability (ISR) reconciliation filing as described on page 2 of National Grid’s reply comment dated October 19, 2018. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**

VI. **Docket No. 4872 – National Grid** – The PUC reviewed the record related to the National Grid’s 2018 Gas Cost Recovery (GCR) Filing and associated GCR factors for effect November 1, 2018. After deliberation, the following motions were made:

1. Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC approve the High Load GCR charge and Low Load GCR charge as proposed by National Grid as proposed in Schedule AEL-1. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**
2. Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC approve the FT-2 Marketer Demand charge, FT-1 Transportation Storage and Peaking charge, Weighted Average System Capacity charge as proposed in Schedule AEL-5. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**
3. Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC approve the GPIIP incentive in the amount of \$17,789. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**
4. Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC approve the average NGPMP incentive of \$499,017.91 Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**
5. Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC approve the BTU conversion factor of 1.03 as proposed by National Grid on September 26, 2018. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**
6. Regarding the Cumberland LNG Tank, Commission Anthony moved to allow certain incremental costs accrued by the Company resulting from the failure of the LNG tank in Cumberland pending of the finding of a separate proceeding to examine the prudence of the company’s maintenance practices in connection with the tank failure. By this motion, the PUC reserves its right to consider the prudence of any incremental costs as a result of the decommissioning of the LNG tank. The Division shall conclude its investigation and report to the PUC no later than April 1, 2019. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**
7. Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC approve Incremental Fixed Costs and allow further review of these costs to be examined without prejudice to the Division recommending adjustments to the GCR in 2019 relating to these fixed costs. The Division should submit a recommendation to the PUC no later than April 1, 2019. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**
8. Commissioner Anthony moved to acknowledge concern raised in the Company’s GCR and long-range gas supply plans. The PUC acknowledges the Division’s request for a more formal proceeding. By February 1, 2019, the parties will submit a joint memorandum in Docket 4816, outlining each of their recommendations for improving the long-range gas supply plans as it relates to the annual GCR filings. The parties will specify areas where topics they do not agree and why. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**

VII. **Renewable Energy Eligibility Application Dockets**

The following companies submitted eligibility applications. PUC consultant recommended conditional eligibility be granted with the requirement that the applicant verify Commercial Operation when achieved and evidence of designated NEPOOL-GIS Asset Identification Number. After review, Commissioner Gold moved to approve the eligibility applications with the conditional requirements recommended by PUC consultant. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 2-0.**

- **Docket No. 4859 – WED Plainfield III, LLC’s** application for eligibility certification of the WED Plainfield III, LLC generation unit, a 3.0 MW wind facility located in Johnston, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- **Docket No. 4860 -WED Plainfield II, LLC’s** application for eligibility certification of the WED Plainfield II generation unit, a 3.0 MW wind facility located in Johnston, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- **Docket No. 4861 – WED Plainfield, LLC’s** application for eligibility certification of the WED Plainfield, LLC generation unit, a 3.0 MW wind facility located in Johnston, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy Resource. PUC consultant recommends conditional eligibility be granted with the requirement that the applicant verify Commercial Operation when achieved and evidence of designated NEPOOL-GIS Asset Identification Number.

The following companies submitted eligibility applications. PUC consultant recommended approval as submitted. After review, Commissioner Gold moved to approve the eligibilty applications and Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

- **Docket No. 4875 – Lyndonville West Solar, LLC’s** application for eligibility certification of the Lyn Solar West (1) generation unit, a 0.480 MW AC solar facility located in Lyndon, Vermont, as a New Renewable Energy Resource. PUC consultant recommends approval of application.
- **Docket No. 4876 – Lyndonville East Solar, LLC’s** application for eligibility certification of the Lyn Solar East (2) generation unit, a 0.495 MW solar facility located in Lyndon, Vermont, as a New Renewable Energy Resource. PUC consultant recommends approval of application.

VIII. There being no further business to discuss, the Open Meeting adjourned at 3:07 P.M.