

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held November 29, 2013**

**Attendees: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Paul Roberti, Commissioner Herbert DeSimone, Cindy Wilson-Frias and Dilip Shah.**

**Chairperson Curran 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.**

**1725 – Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas and Water Service (Termination Rules)** – The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) considered a letter, received on November 19, 2013, from the Honorable Gordon D. Fox requesting for the renewal of the PUC’s previously adopted emergency regulations to restore gas and electric services to both protected and standard gas and electric utility customer. After review and discussion, Chairperson Curran moved to find that there exists an imminent peril to public health, safety, and welfare because the cold weather has descended on Rhode Island earlier and harsher than usual, and because there are continuing economic problems in Rhode Island. Accordingly, the PUC finds it necessary to adopt emergency regulations to address the situation. It is moved that the PUC adopt the following emergency regulation:

“From November 29, 2013 through December 31, 2013, 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 two of the following conditions:

- (a) for a customer owing less than \$1000, 20% 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, 15% 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) the customer requesting a payment plan under this provision, Part V, Section 4(G), either did not participate in one of the plans listed in Part V, Section 4(G)(a)-(c) in a prior year or did participate and currently has a balance due on his or her account that is the same or less than that customer had upon enrollment in a prior year plan listed in Part V, Section 4(G)(a)-(c), unless the customer makes an additional down payment sufficient to bring the customer’s balance to the level equal to or less than the starting balance when the customer previously participated.

In addition to the down payments specified above, customers must pay current bills within the time period allowed by National Grid. A formal commitment to receive funds from any social service agency by December 31, 2013 for either all or part of the down payment required above shall be considered as compliance with the provisions of this rule provided that the customer has satisfied the other conditions set forth above.”

Commissioner Roberti moved to adopt emergency regulation. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The open meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.