

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on November 22, 2019

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Friday, November 22, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets.

Present: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Margaret Hogan, John Harrington, Todd Bianco, Alan Nault, and Luly Massaro.

I. Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. A quorum was present.

II. **Docket No. 4237 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid –** National Grid submitted its 2019 Contact Voltage Annual Report on September 18, 2019. The Division submitted a memorandum summarizing its review and finding the report meets the statutory requirements, incorporates all previous recommendations of the Division and multiple Commission Orders. The Division recommended continuation of the 20 percent survey of the Designated Contact Voltage Risk Areas (CVRAs). After review, Chairperson Curran moved to accept the Report finding that it complies with directives and confirmed that continuation of 20 percent of the designated CVRAs is appropriate. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

III. **Docket No. 4809 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid –** National Grid's submitted proposed Standard Offer Service Rates for the Industrial Group for the months of January 2020 through March 2020. The Division submitted a memorandum summarizing its review and finding the proposed Standard Offer rates are correctly calculated and comply with the PUC Order No. 23366. The Division recommended approval of the Industrial Group SOS rate as proposed. Chairperson Curran moved to approve the SOS rates as submitted. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

IV. **Docket No. 4933 – Newport Water Division -** This docket relates to the PUC's review of Newport Water' application to implement a multi-year rate plan through a two-step rate increase. The PUC reviewed the recent filings submitted pursuant to PUC's Open Meeting decision on October 18, 2019. The following motions were made:

A) Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the Revised Settlement Agreement as filed on November 7, 2019 and approve the multi-year rate increases. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.** The Revised Settlement Agreement includes two recent deposits in the amount of \$1,560,419 that have been made to the restricted debt service account. This amount resulted

from excess borrowed funds from Newport Water's 2013 Series A to finance the construction of a new water treatment plant at Lawton Valley and to make improvements at the Station One water treatment plant. The Revised Settlement applies this amount to reduce future debt service in FY 2020 and FY 2021.

B) Commissioner Anthony moved to approve Newport Water's Compliance Tariff Filing submitted on November 12, 2019. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

C) Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC require NWD to negotiate with its Trustee, US Bank, to attempt to recovery the additional expense incurred by the parties arising from the Trustee's failure to correctly transfer NWD's fund. Through discovery, this additional expense amount is \$10,062. Any funds recovered from the Trustee shall be placed in NWD restricted debt service account. NWD shall report to the PUC the result of its negotiation with the Trustee. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

V. **Renewable Energy Resource Eligibility Applications:**

Docket No. 4972 – Kearsarge Acushnet LLC's application for eligibility certification of the Kearsarge Acushnet generation unit, a 1.416 MW solar facility located in Acushnet, Massachusetts as a New Renewable Energy Resource; and **Docket No. 4971 – Kearsarge Turner Falls LLC's** application for eligibility certification of the Kearsarge Turners Falls generation unit, a .996 MW solar facility located in Turners Falls, Massachusetts as a New Renewable Energy Resource. The PUC considered both Dockets 4972 & 4971 together. PUC consultant reported that these facilities are participating in a virtual net metering arrangement for Massachusetts-based off-takers. The PUC had previously ruled that remote and virtual net metering facilities are not eligible under the RI Renewable Energy Standard (Kearsarge GB, Docket 4858 and Kearsarge Uxbridge, Docket 4891). In conformance with prior rulings that remote and virtual net metering facilities located outside of Rhode Island are not eligible under the RI Renewable Energy Standard, Chairperson Curran moved to deny the applications. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 4942 – GD West Greenwich Victory I, LLC's application for eligibility certification of the GD West Greenwich Victory I, LLC generation unit, a 1.75 MW AC solar facility located in West Greenwich, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. PUC consultant recommended conditional approval subject to the applicant submitting documentation verifying commercial operation date and the assignment of NEPOOL- GIS Id number. Chairperson Curran moved to grant conditional eligibility as recommended by PUC consultant. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VI. **Docket No. 2379(I4) – Twin Eagle Resource Management, LLC** applied for registration as a gas marketer in Rhode Island. The Division recommended

approval. Chairperson Curran moved to approve the application. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VII. There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Curran moved to adjourn the Open Meeting at 10:21 A.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>.