

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on April 13, 2020

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets

In attendance: Chairperson Margaret Curran and Todd Bianco. Remotely, Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Anthony, Patricia Lucarelli, Margaret Hogan, Cynthia Wilson-Frias and Alan Nault and Luly Massaro.

Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. A quorum was present.

I. Minutes of Open Meetings held on March 3, 2020, March 16, 2020 & March 17, 2020. - Commissioner Gold moved to approve the Minutes of the Open Meetings. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

II. **Docket No. 5022 – Suspension of Service Terminations and Certain Collections Activities During the COVID-19 Emergency** - On March 16, 2020 and March 30, 2020, the PUC voted to enter emergency orders, effective through April 15, 2020, to prohibit regulated electric, natural gas, water, and sewer utilities to cease termination of service for nonpayment, cease sending past due accounts to collection agencies, and to refrain from sending termination notices with shut-off dates prior to April 15, 2020 for all customers. Absent a vote to continue the order or modify the order, the March 16, 2020 order and March 30, 2020 order will each terminate at 12:01 a.m. on April 16, 2020.

At this open meeting, the PUC considered whether the emergency orders, issued March 16, 2020 and March 30, 2020, should be continued or modified. The PUC considered the utilities' submissions regarding their financial obligations and the comment of the Division to continue the PUC orders to postpone collections activities and terminations. After consideration, Chairperson Curran moved to continue the prior orders until May 8, 2020. The PUC requested that National Grid provide, in its financial submission, a percentage of the collections by rate class for the period commencing March 16, 2020. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

III. **Docket No. 1725 – Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas, and Water Utility Service** - Given the PUC's action in Docket No.5022, discussion of this docket was rendered moot.

IV. **Docket No. 4963 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid (Company)** – In accordance with tariff RIPUC NG-GAS No. 101, Section 1, Schedule B, Sheet 1, the Company submitted proposed semi-annual BTU content

- factor for effect the period May 2020 through October 2020. National Grid proposed to use a BTU content factor of 1.027 to convert volumetric meter readings to therms for this period. The Division submitted a memorandum finding the filing to be consistent with the approved tariff. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the proposed BTU content factor of 1.027 as submitted. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- V. **Docket No. 5024 – Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC)** – NBC submitted a request to waive the credit card fee to facilitate customer payments during the COVID-19 Emergency, until June 30, 2020. NBC's existing tariff require that a customer pay a convenience fee of \$2.95/transaction for a maximum transaction amount of \$400. The Division submitted a memorandum recommending approval. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to grant NBC's request. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- VI. **Docket No. 2379(K4) – Novo Energy Services LLC (Company)** –The Company applied for registration to transact as a gas marketer in Rhode Island. The Division recommended approval. Chairperson Curran moved to approve the registration. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- VII. The Open Meeting adjourned at 2:24 P.M. A video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>