
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on February 28, 2019

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Thursday, February 28, 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 10:08 A.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes of Open Meeting held on November 20, 2018, December 20, 2018 and February 15, 2019** – After review, Commissioner Gold moved to approve the Minutes of Open Meetings. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 4934 – Investigation into Gas Outage on Aquidneck Island** - The PUC received Rhode Island Senate Resolution 188 requesting that the PUC investigate the causes of the gas outage on Aquidneck Island in January 2019. It was noted that this is generally a matter that is investigated by the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) and in fact, the Division has initiated a summary investigation. The PUC does not want to create duplicative efforts. The PUC wants to make sure all issues are covered in the Division’s investigation and will indicate this to the Division. Given the Resolution from the Senate, Chairperson Curran moved to open this docket to comply with the Resolution. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** The PUC, through its Counsel Margaret Hogan, will provide some guidance listing issues that will be shared and refined with the Division and other parties. The PUC wants to hear from the Division on what its investigation is to date and the PUC is looking for 30 days status reports.
- IV. **Docket No. 4809 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – The PUC reviewed the record relating to National Grid’s January 8, 2019, proposed Standard Offer Service Rates for the Residential Group and Commercial Group for the period April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019 and for the Industrial Group for the period April 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. The Division submitted a memorandum finding the rates to be correctly calculated and in compliance with the Standard Offer Service Procurement Plan approved by the PUC in this docket. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the proposed rates as submitted by the Company. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** In last year’s Order No. 23366, the PUC directed National Grid to submit an acquisition plan to arrange for a last-resort power supply. Looking to the consideration what the design of the successor

service to standard offer service will be, the PUC requested an update on this.

- V. **Docket No. 4793 – Block Island Power Co.** – The PUC considered the Settlement Agreement executed between the Block Island Power Co. and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers that was submitted for consideration. The Settlement Agreement calculated the effect on the Company’s revenue requirements because of the Tax & Jobs Act. Commissioner Gold moved to accept the Settlement Agreement as submitted. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VI. **4890 – Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC)** – Motions to intervene were submitted in this docket relating to NBC’s general rate filing. The deadline to intervene has passed. The Rhode Island Office of State Treasurer, Seth Magaziner, moved to intervene and submitted direct testimony and The George Wiley Center intervened and submitted comments. NBC submitted a reply to both motions to intervene, but it did not oppose them. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to grant the motions to intervene. Chairperson Curran allowed late intervention on the finding that the intervenors indicated that it would not broaden the scope of the docket. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VII. **4904 – Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC)** – NBC submitted on November 20, 2018, a tariff filing to change its credit card transaction fees. The Division submitted a memorandum finding the tariff change to be reasonable and supported approval as submitted. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to accept the filing. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.** It was noted that in the upcoming rate case, the PUC will seek information on the expense associated with other forms of payments and treatment of those expenses.

- VIII. **4919 – Lincoln Water Commission** – A petition was submitted by the Lincoln Water Commission for non-regulatory request for approval of a *de minimus* change to its water system to permit a water main extension outside its service area, specifically to connect to Anchor Auto Group/Benoit Realty, LLC’s premises located in North Smithfield. The Division recommended that the petition be granted. After review, Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the petition. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- IX. **4933 – City of Newport Water Division** – Newport Water submitted an application to implement a Multi-Year Rate Filing. Newport Water seeks to implement rate changes to collect total revenues in the amount of \$19,843,202 in the Phase I for effect March 15, 2019. Chairperson Curran moved to suspend the proposed tariffs for up to eight months beyond the effective date for the purpose of conducting discovery and hearing into the proposal. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- X. **4920 – TG Developers LLC** – TG Developers LLC submitted an application for certification of the TG Developers Solar Carport – 33 Appian Way generation unit, a 0.082 MW AC solar facility located in Smithfield, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy

Resource. PUC Consultant's recommended approval with the conditional requirement that the applicant provide evidence of commercial operation date when achieved and NEPOOL GIS number when assigned. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to grant conditional eligibility as recommended by PUC Consultant. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- XI. There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Curran adjourned the Open Meeting by acclamation at 10:38 A.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>.