

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on June 12, 2019

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Monday, June 12, 2019 at 1:00 P.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, John Harrington, Todd Bianco, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro.

- I. Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 1:31 P.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Dockets 4770 & 4780 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid –** National Grid submitted a request for an extension of time to file the Updated Advanced Meter Functionality (AMF) Business Case under Article II.C, Section 16(a) of the Amended Settlement Agreement approved by the PUC. National Grid seeks an extension from June 7, 2019 to August 16, 2019. Chairperson Curran moved to grant the request and Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 4935 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid –** The PUC will review of the record regarding National Grid’s March 1, 2019 proposed 2020 Standard Offer Service Procurement Plan and 2010 Renewable Energy Standard Procurement Plan (Plans). The Division submitted a position recommending approval of the Company’s proposals. Noting that the 2020 Plans are the same and represent a continuation of the 2019 Plans, Chairperson Curran moved to approve National Grid’s 2020 Plans. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IV. **Docket No. 4898 – Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) –** The PUC reviewed the record relating to Narragansett Bay Commission’s November 8, 2018 tariff filing to change the frequency of its billings for consumption charges. Under the proposed tariff, NBC will continue to bill most of its customers for consumption monthly but will bill some customers for consumption on a quarterly basis. The proposal will allow NBC to avoid billing some customers based on estimates of consumption. The PUC expressed concern that NBC’s has been charging a rate since February, that is different from the tariffed rate approved by the PUC and concern with NBC’s investment in a billing upgrade that did not allow NBC to bill in conformance with tariff. Chairperson moved to allow the requested billing frequency sought in the tariff filing. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

V. **Docket No. 4890 – Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC)** – This docket relates to the Narragansett Bay Commission’s application to increase its sewer use fees to generate additional revenues to cover for increased operation and maintenance expense. On May 17, 2019, a Settlement Agreement executed between Narragansett Bay Commission and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers was submitted for consideration. The PUC deliberated the record and the following motions were made:

1. Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the revenue requirement for chemicals hypochlorite and bisulfite using the actual bid prices as agreed to NBC at the hearing. The actual bids prices were provided by NBC in response to PUC’s Record Request 1. The price for hypochlorite in Account 54322 is increased by \$134,632 and for bisulfite in Account 54327 is increased by \$4,283. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
2. Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the revenue requirement for electricity purchases, in Account 54090, using the actual bid prices received by NBC and as agreed by NBC at the hearing and provided in response to PUC’s Record Request 10. NBC is directed to calculate the two-year average for electricity purchases using electricity purchases in FY 2018 and expected purchase of 31,402,077 kWh for FY19 as stated in PUC’s Record Request 10 and in response Division’s Data Request 3-35. NBC shall update the revenue requirement to reflect the actual bid prices it received in the average of the most recent two year of electricity purchases. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
3. Commissioner Anthony moved to reject the inclusion of net personnel services in the calculation of operating reserve. Commission Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
4. Commissioner Anthony moved to require NBC to update its revenue requirement to reflect the updated rate case expense agreed to by NBC in its rebuttal. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
5. Commissioner Anthony moved to conditionally approve the Settlement Agreement subject to the modifications to the revenue requirement that have been approved in the previous motions. If the parties agreed to the modifications, the parties shall file an amended settlement and compliance tariff for PUC’s consideration at the June 17 Open Meeting. If parties reject the modifications, the parties shall notify the PUC by June 14. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
6. Given the issues of affordability and regulatory oversight and about NBC’s flow chart provided in PUC Record Request 2, the PUC agreed hold a technical session to get a better understanding of how NBC accounts for its revenues and funds different accounts, specifically, the flow of funds from the debt service to the stabilization account, and thus, eventually to the CIP and the O&M accounts. Data requests will be issued prior to the technical session. **Vote 3-0.**

7. Commissioner Anthony moved that NBC be ordered to amend its tariff to address the change in section 835-RICR-20-00-1.4.16 of its regulation and file a tariff advice to comply with NBC's specification set forth in its response to PUC Data Request 3-8. Chairperson moved, and Commissioner Gold seconded the motion. **Vote 3-0.**

VI. There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Curran moved to adjourn the Open Meeting at 1:31 P.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be viewed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>.