

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on October 11, 2019

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Friday, October 11, 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, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro.

- I. Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 10:08 A.M. A quorum was present.
- II. After review, Commissioner Gold moved to approve the Minutes of Open Meetings held on June 28, 2019, July 11, 2019, July 26, 2019 and September 26, 2019. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 1725 – George Wiley Center** – The George Wiley Center submitted on September 12, 2019, a request to allow residential customer to restore utility service with different down payment and terms to pay the balance owed. Comments were received by National Grid, Pascoag Utility District, Block Island Utility District and the Division. After review, the following motions were made:

Commissioner Gold moved to find that, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-32(a), public safety requires an order, effective immediately, to provide for restoration of gas and electric service for residential customers at a reduced level of down payment than what is required by the PUC's Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas, and Water Utility Service applicable only to National Grid customers. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Gold moved to approve the following: From October 14, 2019 through December 31, 2019, 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, 10% 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, 10% 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) to participate in a payment plan under this Order, as per, Part V, Section 4(G) of the Rules, the customer either (1) did not participate in one of the plans listed in a prior year or (2) did participate and currently has a balance due on his or her account that is the same or less than the balance that customer had upon enrollment in the prior year plan listed in the Rules, or (3) did participate last year and currently has a higher balance but makes an additional down payment to bring the current balance down to or below the balance at enrollment last year.

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, 2019 for all or part of the additional down payment shall be considered compliance with the provisions of the Rules, provided that the customer has satisfied the other conditions set forth above. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Gold moved to find that Customers who are eligible for the Arrearage Management Plan under R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-2-1(d)(2) may enroll in an Arrearage Management Plan with an initial payment of 10% of the unpaid balance from October 14, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Gold moved to approve the following reporting requirements: National Grid shall prepare a table that includes, at a minimum:

- a. Number of customers enrolled
- b. For each customer, the rate class that customer is in
- c. Each customer balance at time of enrollment
- d. First enrollment or not?
- e. If not first enrollment, the balance at the time of the previous enrollment
- f. Each customer down payment (dollar and percentage)
- g. Each customer monthly payment and arrearage balance

Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- IV. **Docket No. 4892 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – National Grid submitted on September 26, 2019, its Second 2019 Renewable Energy Growth Program Open Enrollment Report requesting approval of three projects (consisting of Large-Scale Solar, Community Removed Distributed Generation Commercial Solar and Wind projects) that have been awarded a Certificate of Eligibility (COEs). Chairperson Curran moved to approve the projects selected by National Grid in the second enrollment. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- V. **Docket No. 4965 – Nautilus Goat Island Solar, LLC (Company)** – The Company applied for eligibility certification of the Nautilus Goat Island Solar, LLC generation unit, a 2.5 MW AC (3.307 MW DC) solar facility located in Burrillville, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy Resource. PUC consultant submitted a recommendation to approve the application. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the application as submitted. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- VI. **DG Interconnection – Proposed Reporting Requirements on Affected System Operator Studies** - After discussion, Commissioner Anthony moved to adopt the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities Interim Guidance – Affected System Operator Studies (Docket. No. D.P.U. 19-55) issued on September 25, 2019. <https://fileservice.eea.comacloud.net/FileService.Api/file/FileRoom/11239621>. The Interim Guidance is adopted with reporting requirements similar to those contained in the Massachusetts’ September 25, 2019 Interim Guidance with modifications applicable to The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid in Rhode Island. The modifications include:
- a. Throughout the document, change Department to PUC and omit docket numbers.
 - b. Initially, change EDC to The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid) and then throughout the remainder of the document, change EDC to National Grid.
 - c. Paragraph 2 on page 2, change biweekly to monthly
 - d. Paragraph 4 on page 3, change bimonthly to monthly
 - e. Include a sentence that all monthly written reports will be due on the 15th of the month.
 - f. Amend paragraph 9 to strike, in the second sentence, “coordinate biweekly conference calls with the Department and”
 - g. Add to the end of paragraph 9 after subpart h., “A call with PUC staff may be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time to address any questions about the written updates.”
- VII. There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Curran moved to adjourn the Open Meeting at 10:35 A.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>.