

**State of Rhode Island**

**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held on December 21, 2021**

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 10:30 A.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets.

In attendance: Chairman Ronald Gerwatowski, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Commissioner John Revens, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Patricia Lucarelli, John Harrington, Alan Nault, Todd Bianco , Emma Rodvien and Luly Massaro.

- I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Docket No. 5195 – Pascoag Utility District** – The Commission reviewed the record regarding Pascoag Utility’s Demand Side Management (DSM) Program for 2022. After discussion, the following motions were made:

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve Pascoag Utility’s 2022 DSM Programs and associated budget as filed. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve a factor of \$0.0023 per kwh in accordance with R.I.G.L §39-2.1.2 of which \$0.002 per kWh to be applied to the DSM programs and \$0.0003 per kWh to be administered by the RI Commerce Corporation for renewable energy programs. The factor will be applied to energy consumed on or after January 1, 2022. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Anthony noted that the record suggested the District might be looking to increase ratepayer funding for the weatherization and home energy audit program. If so and when they do, the Commission will be looking for what is the business case for that ratepayer investment and specifically, cost effectiveness of the proposal from the societal view. Also, whether the benefits and costs to customers are aligned. If benefits are largely realized outside the electric sector, the Commission will be looking at justification the District is making for that ratepayer investment.

- III. **Docket No. 5194 – Pascoag Utility District** – Pascoag Utility submitted proposed rate changes arising out of the reconciliation of its tariff adjustment provisions for the Power Supply Service, Transmission Charge and Purchase Power Restricted Fund Credit Reconciliation effective for consumption January 1, 2022. After review of the record, the following motions were made:

Chairman Gerwatowski moved that Pascoag Utility District's Power Supply Service factor of \$0.06451 per kWh for usage on or after January 1, 2022 be approved. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairman Gerwatowski moved that Pascoag Utility's Transmission factor of \$0.03915 per kWh for usage on or after January 1, 2022 be approved. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairman Gerwatowski moved that Pascoag Utility's Purchase Power Restricted Fund Credit factor of \$(0.00214) per kWh for usage on or after January 1, 2022 be approved. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve Pascoag Utility District's supply procurement plan as required by R.I.G.L. §39-1-27.8. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- IV. **Docket No. 5201 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** - Pursuant to the Long-Term Contracting for Renewable Energy Recovery Provision (LTC Recovery Provision), National Grid submitted proposed LTC Recovery Factor on November 15, 2021. The Company proposed an LTC Recovery Factor of 0.290¢ per kWh, applicable to all customers, effective for usage the period January 2022 through June 2022. The Division submitted a memorandum summarizing its review, finding the LTC Recovery Factor calculations are correct and supported approval of the proposed factor.

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the proposed LTC factor effective for usage for the period January 2022 through June 2022. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- V. **Docket No. 5073 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – National Grid submitted on August 26, 2021, Terms and Conditions for Municipal Aggregators and Nonregulated Power Producers to incorporate provisions to implement a purchase of receivables program that was approved by the Commission. Chairman Gerwatowski summarized the changes to the Terms & Conditions and made the following motions:

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to amend the Terms & Conditions Exhibit 1A, page 18 of 76, consistent with National Grid's Response to PUC 1-7 to clarify that the intent is to amortize the implementation costs over a three-year period, but the ongoing administrative costs would not be amortized over a three-year period. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Gerwatowski moved to require National Grid to file with the Commission for approval any “negotiated uniform set of rules and procedures that apply to all participating customers in the company’s POR program” as identified on Exhibit 1A, page 14 of 76. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Gerwatowski moved to approve National Grid’s Terms and Conditions, including the updated Attachment E to the Billing and Service Agreement as modified today. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

As a reporting requirement to be incorporated in the Order, National Grid shall update the information contained in PUC 1-1 (March 3, 2021) through Q3-2021 and then to update the table each quarter commensurate with the Docket No. 2515 Open Access Reports. Once a municipal aggregation enrolls customers, the Company shall present the information consistent with its presentation in PUC 1-2 (21).

- VI. Docket No. 5190 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – National Grid submitted for approval, the Company’s 2022 Renewable Energy Standard Procurement Plan. The filing included a Motion for Protective Treatment of Confidential Information, identified as the Sales Recap. The Division submitted comments summarizing its review, noting that the proposed 2022 Plan does not include any adjustment to the currently approved Plan and recommended approval of the Plan as filed. After review, the following motions were made:

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to grant the Motion for Protective Treatment filed by the Company. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve National Grid’s 2022 Renewable Energy Plan as filed by the Company. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VII. Docket No. 5153 – JT LLC (Company)** - The Company applied for eligibility of the McQuade Ace Hardware generation unit, a 0.150 MW AC (0.200 MW DC) solar facility located in Westerly, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Commission consultant recommended conditional approval subject to the applicant submitting documentation verifying achievement of commercial operation and assignment of NEPOOL GIS id number. Chairman Gerwatowski to accept the consultant’s recommendation to conditionally approve the application. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VIII. Docket No. 5191 – Graystone of Warwick LLC (Company)** - The Company applied for eligibility of the WILCO02886SOLAR200RE generation unit, a 0.2

MW AC (0.231 MW DC) solar facility located in Warwick, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Commission consultant recommended approval. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept the consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve the application. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- IX. Docket No. 5203 – Maxsip Telecom Corporation (Maxsip) -** The Company applied for approval as a Class VI Telecommunication Supplier (VoIP services). The application included a request for confidential treatment of the Company's financial statements, identified as Exhibit 2. The Division filed a memorandum finding the application to be in conformance with the filing requirements and supported approval of the application. After review, the following motions were made:

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to grant the request for confidential treatment submitted by Maxsip. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the application as recommended by the Division. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- X. Docket No. 5189 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid –** National Grid proposed Annual Energy Efficiency Plan, budgets, and associated energy efficiency charge (EE) for electric and gas programs. The Company requested approval of the plan and rates effective January 1, 2022. Chairman Gerwatowski noted the hearings in this case has continued into January. When the filing was submitted, it was anticipated that this docket would be completed by end of year. Staff conducted procedural conferences where the parties agreed to extend the hearing until January. The company indicated its preference to leave in place the current rate in January and once the program is approved, the Commission will approve a rate that calculates the recovery over an eleven-month period instead of a twelve-month period. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to suspend the original rates that were filed for the electric and gas programs until the Commission completes its review. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** The Commission had a discussion of the existing record.

- XI.** There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the Open Meeting at 11:50 A.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>.