



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick RI 02888
(401) 941-4500

Chairman Ella Germani
Commissioner Kate F. Racine
Commissioner Brenda K. Gaynor

MEMORANDUM

To: Regulated Utilities and their Attorneys
From: Cynthia Wilson
Date: March 21, 2003
Re: Notice Requirements Regarding Rate Changes

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the Commission's requirements as to notice of rate changes. In accordance with R.I.G.L. § 39-3-11(a):

No change shall be made in the rates, tolls, and charges which have been filed and published by any public utility in compliance with the requirements of § 39-3-10, except after thirty (30) days notice to the commission and to the public published as provided in §39-3-10, which shall plainly state the changes proposed to be made in the schedule then in force, and the time when the changed rates, tolls, or charges will go into effect.

R.I.G.L. § 39-3-10 requires proposed rate changes to be filed with the administrator. The Commission is required to publish a notice in the newspaper giving ten (10) days notice of a hearing regarding a proposed rate change.

In order to ensure consistency among the utilities, in reference to Commission Rule of Practice and Procedure 1.8, the Commission is requiring each utility requesting approval of a rate change from the Commission to comply with the following procedures:

- (1) File the proposed rate change with the Commission no less than thirty (30) days prior to the proposed effective date.
- (2) Publish a notice of the proposed rate change in a newspaper of general circulation to the impacted region no later than two weeks prior to the hearing on the matter or in the alternative, send notice to ratepayers during the billing cycle immediately preceding the hearing. (See Rule 1.8(b)). The notice should comply with Commission Rule of Practice and Procedure 1.8(c). If no hearing date has been set as of the date of notice, the party may indicate that the Commission will be setting a hearing date and will publish same in the newspaper.
- (3) File a copy of the notice with a certification of the date of publication with the Commission.

Nothing contained within this memorandum is intended to supersede the notice requirements contained in Commission Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.4. If notice is provided in accordance with Rule 2.4, the utility will be deemed to have complied with the requirements contained herein.

Please feel free to contact me at 941-4500, ext. 147 with any questions.