

Good Energy L.P.
232 Madison Ave.
New York, NY 10016

September 15, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

RI Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Re: Comments on Docket 4978 - 2021 Last Resort Service Procurement Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed Last Resort Service rates set to go into effect on October 1, 2022.

Staff at Good Energy have reviewed the testimony thus far filed in this docket. Based on this exchange of information and discussions with the parties, Good Energy believes that some additional clarifying information regarding the status and intent of the approved aggregation programs may be helpful in making a determination on the best course of action.

As has been noted, Good Energy currently represents seven (7) Rhode Island municipalities¹ in their effort to create and implement municipal aggregation programs. The development of these programs predates the municipalities' filing of the plans by as much as a year, meaning that the effort of these municipalities has been underway for up to four (4) years. The fact that their programs' launch will likely occur during this price fluctuation for Last Resort Service is a coincidence.

It is also critical to note that there are limits on some of the information that we can currently provide. Good Energy has been conducting an extensive bidding process to identify and work with suppliers that are interested in serving the aggregation programs. While the process remains confidential, Good Energy is under order by the Commission to file the results of the bidding process and the subsequent Electricity Services Agreement (ESA). Many of the parties in this docket overlap with those that had intervened in the review of the aggregation programs and will thus be notified when a supplier is under contract and a program has an intended launch date.

It is the intent of these approved programs to launch as soon as possible. Based on the current status of discussions with suppliers, it is expected to be during the next twelve (12) months. Due

¹ All documents including plans and Commission orders are found in the following dockets: Barrington (#5047), Central Falls (#5042), Narragansett (#22-10-EL), Newport (#5212), Portsmouth (#5169), Providence (#5061), and South Kingstown (#5062).

to the required opt-out period and customer enrollment process necessary to facilitate a launch, a program would not be able to launch in less than three (3) months from date of execution of the ESA.

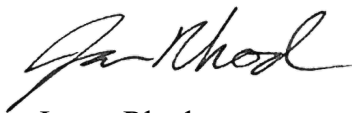
The primary impact of this launch window is that if the PUC were to approve a rate modification for the Oct '22 - Mar '23 period that requires future recovery from customers, it is highly likely that there would be aggregation customers that would receive a benefit from the artificially lower rate during one period and would not be available for recovery for some portion of the subsequent rate period. Of course, it is not just aggregation program participants that would fall into this category. An individual who switched to any competitive supplier would have a similar impact. An individual who moved away from the distribution territory during or after the first rate period would see the same impact. An individual who moved into the distribution territory during the recovery period would overpay for supply without the benefit of the previously lowered rates.

One concerning item that has been raised would be any attempt to recoup deferred costs from customers departing Last Resort Service. It is our belief that it would be both impractical and unfair. RI Energy has indicated the impracticality of tracking cost differentials at the account level, and we defer to their analysis of the strains it would put on their billing system. The proposal is unfair because of the market pressure it creates to keep customers enrolled in Last Resort Service. No matter what the recouping mechanism is called, it is going to be interpreted as a fee to leave Last Resort Service. This fundamentally disrupts the competitive market and disadvantages market competition with a government regulated product. This is counter to the policy preferences set by the General Assembly to foster a competitive market.

Good Energy does not have an opinion with respect to the use of the different funding sources to reduce the cost of supply, so long as it is applied without regard to the source of electricity supply. No matter who a customer chooses for supply options, the global and regional market pressures that have been identified as leading to this increase in price are still applicable. Providing funding only to Last Resort Service customers would also be an unnecessarily discriminatory market distortion.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Rhodes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

James Rhodes
Attorney for Good Energy

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the cover letter and any materials accompanying this certificate was electronically transmitted to the individuals listed below. Paper copies of this filing are being sent via USPS to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission.



 James Rhodes

September 15, 2022

 Date

**Docket No. 4978 – Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy –
 2021 Last Resort Service Procurement Plan
 Service List updated 8/29/2022**

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