

State of Rhode Island

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on December 7, 2022

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held December 7, 2022 at 9:30 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, John Harrington, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Todd Bianco, Emma Rodvien and Alan Nault.

- I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. A quorum was present.

- II. **The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy's (RIE) Net Metering Program Reconciliation costs in the 2020, 2021, and 2022 Annual Retail Rate Filings – Dockets No. 5005, 5127, and 5234.** This matter relates to the Commission review of RIE's Net Metering Charge factors proposed by the Company in its 2020, 2021, and 2022 Retail Rate Filing (Dockets No. 5005, 5127, and 5234). In these dockets, the Commission reviewed RIE's request to recover the annual costs of credits paid to net metering program participants during calendar years 2019, 2020, and 2021 through increases to the Net Metering Charge. In Dockets No. 5127 and 5234, the Commission voted to approve the proposed Net Metering Charge subject to refund pending further examination of the Company's administration of the net metering program. The Commission discussed the status of the docket and procedural steps going forward.

Chairman Gerwatowski noted inconsistencies between how the statute reads and how the Company applies the credits. We are at a point where we need to separate out what happened in the past from going forward. The consensus to correct the crediting mechanism going forward basis is to establish a new docket and cross reference the old dockets because there is a lot of information that has been provided and we can refer to that. Ideally, to make sure that what the Company is doing aligns with the statute.

Commissioner Anthony noted that the clearest way to fix it is to open a new docket to assist the Company with understanding how net metering credits is going to work going forward. She had anticipated a proposal by the Company, however, there was no concrete proposal. Wants to make it clear that we are not closing out our investigation or understanding of how we are going to treat the accumulation of net metering credit that are on the books.

The Chairman noted that staff schedule a preliminary conference and set a procedural schedule for the Company to make a proposal. No motion was taken.

- III. **Investigation into the Future of the Regulated Gas Distribution Business in Rhode Island in Light of the Act on Climate – Docket 22-01-NG.** On November 23, 2022 PUC Staff provided Commissioners with a memorandum including a recommendation and stakeholder comments regarding the scope of this proceeding. The Commissioners discussed the staff's recommendation and the public comments, including the purposes for the docket, the workplan, and the issues to consider within the docket scope. After discussion, it was the consensus to adopt the Staff's recommendation. No vote was taken.
- IV. The Open Meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/132382697>.