

State of Rhode Island

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on January 12, 2022

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 2:00 P.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, Alan Nault, Todd Bianco and Luly Massaro.

I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. A quorum was present.

II. **Docket No. 3628 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – This docket relates to National Grid’s Electric Service Quality Plan. On July 8, 2021, the Company filed Petition to Classify March 1, 2021 and March 2, 2021 as Major Event Days for purposes of calculating reliability performance standards under the 2016 Amended Electric Service Quality Plan.

After review, the Commission agreed that a decision will not financially impact the Company and agreed to wait until the Company submits its annual report for further examination on how the service quality plan is operating. Commissioner Anthony moved to find that the Commission does not need to rule on this request and that National Grid should file the stated terms of the Service Quality Plan when it files its annual report on May 1, 2022. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

III. **Docket No. 5188 – Commission Initiated Review of The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** - This docket was opened to review the funding of National Grid’s Storm Contingency Fund. In Docket No. 5127, as part of its response to Record Request 1, the Company noted that “the CTC account balance has been and will likely continue to be in a credit position” which was consistent with Ms. Hammer’s testimony that “between the Hydro Quebec revenues and the DOE proceeds there’s no expectation that the contract termination charge would turn positive any time in the near future.” (Hr’g Tr. at 66 March 26, 2021). In the discussion prior to the vote to continue certain funding mechanisms to the Storm Contingency Fund (Docket No. 4686), the Chairman raised a suggestion that redirecting CTC credits from the transition credit on the bill to the Storm Fund may be one possible solution. In this docket, National Grid and the Division were asked to comment on this idea. In its response, National Grid stated, in part, “It is within the PUC’s discretion to redirect the credit that the Company will receive from NEP and credit the amount to the Storm Contingency Fund rather than credit customers on bills via the non-bypassable transition charge. Such a redeployment of the CTC, however, would require a tariff change to allow and provide for updated

specifications for this type of change.” The Division, in its response stated “The Division is not opposed to redirecting CTC credits to the storm fund but does not view this as a complete solution. Given the size of the deficit , the redirection of CTC credits alone will not be enough to address the deficit. In addition, given the potential that the CTC charge may not always result in credits, this may not be a consistent source of funding.”

After deliberation, Chairman Gerwatowski moved that National Grid be directed to submit a revised tariff with its retail rate filing to redirect the CTC credit to the storm fund. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairman Gerwatowski moved that the schedules filed in the retail rate filing should reflect this change of the CTC credits to the storm fund. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The Commission directed staff to set a schedule for the Commission to seek information from National Grid and the Division on an appropriate recovery factor for April 1, 2022.

- IV. Docket No. 5088 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – This docket relates to the 2021 Renewable Energy Growth (REG) Program. Pursuant to the provisions of the Rhode Island Renewable Energy Growth Program, R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6- 20(b), National Grid submitted a list of Commercial-Scale Solar (including Solar Carport) and Large-Scale Solar projects selected by the Company in its Third Enrollment REG Program Open Enrollment. National Grid requests approval of the Certificates of Eligibility for the projects selected. After review, Gerwatowski moved to approve the Certificates of Eligibility filed on December 21, 2021. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- V. Docket No. 5200 – MTA Realty and Investments LL (Company)** - The Company applied for eligibility of the PROVYARDN02860SOLAR187.5RE generation unit, a 0.1875 MW AC (0.233 MW DC) solar facility located in Pawtucket, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. PUC consultant recommended approval. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept PUC consultant recommendation. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- VI. Docket No. 4800 – Suez Water Rhode Island, Inc. (Suez)** – On November 5, 2021, the Commission considered Suez’s first Distribution System Improvement Charge filing and approved it with additional directives. At this Open Meeting, the Commission, on its own motion, reconsidered the part of the decision that stated: “Suez Water Rhode Island, Inc., or its successor, shall make its next filing for the period ending December 31, 2021 no later than January 18, 2022” to determine if the order should instead state “Suez Water Rhode Island, Inc., or its successor, shall make its next filing for the period ending January 31, 2022 no later than February 15, 2022.”

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to amend the Commission’s November 15 decision to state “Suez Water Rhode Island, Inc., or its successor, shall make its next filing for the period ending January 31, 2022 no later than February 15, 2022.” The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anthony and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VII. Docket No. 5216 – MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services (Verizon) – On December 21, 2021, Verizon filed a petition for a waiver of NANPA’s decision to deny Verizon’s Request for Number Block Release of 1500 consecutive telephone numbers. The Company seeks a waiver so that it can immediately serve a customer, the US Naval War College. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the request for a waiver. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VIII. Approval of Minutes of Open Meetings held on November 5, 2021, November 29, December 6, 2021 - Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion, and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

IX. There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the Open Meeting at 2:25 P.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/131269453>.