

State of Rhode Island

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on March 13, 2023

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held Monday, March 13, 2023 at 1:30 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, John Harrington, Alan Nault, Christopher Caramello, Emma Rodvien, Todd Bianco and Luly Massaro.

- I. Commissioner Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Docket No. 22-52-RES- - RI Abrava Way Solar, LLC (Company)** – The Company submitted an application for eligibility of the RI Abrava Way Generation Unit, a 2.9 MW AC (3.86665 MW DC) solar energy facility located in Lincoln, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. PUC consultant recommended approval of the application. Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the consultant’s recommendation. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 22-02-EL - Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy -** On May 24, 2022, the Rhode Island Energy filed a proposal to continue the 2021 Last Resort Service Procurement Plan (LRS Plan) for the 2023 LRS Plan because the Company proposes no changes. The Chairman noted that the Commission has been looking at the procurements that have been occurring and wants to look at how the plan will work with municipal aggregations. The Commission has been doing the approvals one procurement at a time. The Division has recommended that the Commission approve the whole plan subject to further review on the plan. A technical session is scheduled in May. After review, Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the plan subject to further review. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IV. **Docket No. 22-39-REG - Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy and Rhode Island Distributed Generation Board -** This docket relates to the Commission’s review of proposals by Rhode Island Energy and Rhode Island Distributed Generation Board (DG Board) for the 2023 Renewable Energy Growth Program (RE Growth) submitted pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 39-26.6-1 et seq. Rhode Island Energy submitted proposed modifications to the Company’s RE Growth Program and Tariffs and Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules. The DG Board recommended ceiling prices, renewable energy growth classes and capacity targets for the 2123 RE Growth Program year. After review, the following motions were made:

DG Board's RE Growth Ceiling Prices, Targets and Classes

- (1) Commissioner Anthony moved that the Commission find that proposed classes are consistent with the Renewable Energy Growth Program law. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** No party objected to the classes this year and they remain unchanged.
- (2) Commissioner Anthony moved that the Commission find that the targets should be approved. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** No parties opposed the targets level this year.
- (3) Commissioner Anthony moved that the Commission find that the ceiling prices were set in a manner that is consistent with the Renewable Energy Growth law; Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** They were set using the CREST model as in the past.

Commissioner Anthony moved that the Commission adopt the set of ceiling prices that include the assumption that post-tariff revenue will be available. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Anthony stated that one issue the Division challenged this year was the transfer of the bonus depreciation but the consultant for the DG Board, Mr. Kennerly, pointed out that the IRS rules are not complete and are complex. Not sure how it will work and be of value to developers. Commissioner Anthony asked to include in the order that the Commission expects to see this issue return and addressed in next year's filing. Chairman Gerwatowski agreed and appreciated the Division raising this issue but also appreciated Kennerly's explanation.

RI Energy's RE Growth Tariffs and Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules

- (4) Commissioner Anthony moved that the Commission approve RI Energy's proposed tariffs that incorporates the post-tariff revenue assumptions and the Company's name change. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- (5) After discussion, Commissioner Counsel framed a vote for consideration that the Commission approve the Company's enrollment rules subject to the following modifications: 1) to limit the reallocation of MW capacity from a competitively bid class to Small Solar until after the final enrollment of the Program Year as was past practice prior to Program Year 2022 and 2) to approve the revised Enrollment Rule language provided in RR-2 as clarified by the March 7, 2023 email. Commissioner Anthony moved to adopt Counsel's motion as stated. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- V. **Docket No. 22-48-REG - Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy**
- The Commission considered Rhode Island Energy's proposed tariff advice to amend (1) the Company's electric tariff entitled Renewable Energy (RE) Growth

Cost Recovery Provision and (2) the Company's electric tariff entitled Long-Term Contracting for Renewable Energy Recovery Reconciliation (LTCRER) Provision, for effect March 20, 2023. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the revised tariffs filed by Rhode Energy on February 14 consistent with the Division's recommendations which changes the interest rate on both the REG Growth Cost Recovery Provision and the LTCRER Provision from the National Grid Money Pool rate to the customer deposit rate, along with other wording changes recommended by the Division. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VI. There being no further discuss, the Chairman adjourned the Open Meeting adjourned at 2:50 P.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/132642295>.