

State of Rhode Island

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on October 25, 2023

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held October 25, 2023 at 3:15 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, Patricia Lucarelli, Alan Nault and Christopher Caramello.

- I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 3:15 P.M. A quorum was present.

- II. **Docket No. 4800 - Veolia Water Rhode Island (Company)** - In this docket, the Commission approved a Distribution System Improvement Charge (DSIC) tariff designed to recover capital investment costs up to the percentage cap allowed in the tariff. On August 11, 2023, the Company filed its earnings calculation and to amend the DSIC surcharge for effect November 5, 2023. The Division filed a memorandum summarizing its review, finding Veolia Water’s filing comports with the approved DSIC tariff and recommended approval. Finding the filing to be in order, the following motions were made:
 - (1) Commissioner Anthony moved to approve Veolia Water’s Distribution System Improvement Charge of 75.% effective on or after November 5, 2023. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
 - (2) Commissioner Anthony moved to approve Veolia Water’s revised tariff filed on October 13, 2023 reflecting the August 11, 2023 filing to increase the Distribution System Improvement Charge. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- III. **Docket No. 23-23-NG – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy** – This docket relates to Rhode Island Energy’s annual Distribution Adjustment Charge (DAC) Filing and annual Gas Cost Recovery (GCR) Filing. The DAC provides for the funding and reconciliation of costs associated with the Company’s identifiable specific programs. The GCR filing reflects customer-specific factors necessary for the company to recover the projected gas costs allocated to firm sales customers for the period November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023. The Company has proposed to revise the DAC and GCR factors for effect November 1, 2023. The Company’s proposed rates represent a reduction in rates. There was extensive discovery from the Commission and Division. The Division recommended approval and there was not opposition to Company’s proposal. After review, the following motions were deliberated:

- (1) Chairman Gerwatowski moved that the factors reflected in the Revised Testimony and Schedules of Peter Blazunas and Tyler Shields, PRB/TGS 1-S Revised – Summary of DAC and GCR Factors, are approved effective for usage on and after November 1, 2023. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- (2) Chairman Gerwatowski moved that the proposal to recover the deferred customer charge ordered in Docket No. 22-13 from the Rate 11 and Rate 13 Classes beginning in April 2024 through October 2024 as set forth in Schedule PRB/TGS-15 Page 2 of 2 is approved. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- (3) Chairman Gerwatowski moved that the calculations of ratepayer savings and corresponding incentive reflected in the Gas Procurement Incentive Annual Report provided in Attachment EPM-2 of the Testimony of the in the Gas Portfolio Management Panel relating to the period April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023 are approved. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- (4) Chairman Gerwatowski moved that the calculations or ratepayer savings and corresponding incentive reflected in the Natural Gas Portfolio Management Plan provided in Attachment EPM-4 of the Testimony of the Gas Portfolio Management Panel relating to the period from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 are approved. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- (5) Chairman Gerwatowski moved the BTU factor of 1.026 per ccf is approved. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- (6) Chairman Gerwatowski moved that The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy shall continue to track variable costs incurred in meeting peak hour requirements and report those costs in the 2024 DAC and, if significant, reallocate them from the GCR reconciliation process and include them in the DAC reconciliation process. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- (7) Chairman Gerwatowski moved that the proposed amendment to the RIPUC NG-GAS No. 101, Schedule A, Section 3.4 -Pension Adjustment Factor is approved. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- (8) Chairman Gerwatowski moved that The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy shall provide the information in Attachment GSP-1 in Excel format with formulas intact to the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers when GCR is filed. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

IV. There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the Open Meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/133127485>.