

**State of Rhode Island**

**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held on September 26, 2023**

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held September 26, 2023 at 10:00 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, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, John Harrington, Alan Nault, Todd Bianco, Christopher Caramello and Luly Massaro.

- I. Commissioner Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. A quorum was present.
  
- II. **Docket No. 23-01-EL - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Company)** - This docket relates to the Company's Last Resort Service rates submitted pursuant to the LRS Procurement Plan approved by the Commission in Docket No. 22-02-EL. The Company filed on July 25, 2023, proposed base Last Resort Service (LRS) rates for the Residential Group for the period of October 2023 through March 2024, the Commercial Group for the period of October 2023 through March 2024, and the Industrial Group for the period of October 2023 through December 2023. Intervenor, the Office of Energy Resources proposed to allocate \$3,000,000 of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction proceeds to Rhode Island Energy to provide relief to low-income customers enrolled in the A-60 rate class during the winter billing period.

The Chairman provided background on the state's energy resources, portfolio generation resources and procurement of last resort service. There are two mitigation initiatives that will be applicable this winter. There is the legislation to exempt customers from the 4% gross earnings tax this winter. As of result, RI Energy will not be billing the GET to customers during the winter period and will implement this as the law dictates. Also, there is the allocation of the RGGI funds applicable to low-income customers over three months. At this meeting, the Commission will deliberate on the allocation of the RGGI funds and RI Energy's proposed LRS rates. The following motions were made:

(1) Chairman Gerwatowski moved to direct Rhode Island Energy to utilize the \$3.0 million of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative funds transferred by the Office of Energy Resources and Governor Daniel McKee to provide an equal monthly credit to all customers in the A-60 rate class on their December 2023, January 2024, and February 2024 bills. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** The monthly bill credit will be approximately \$27 for each of the three months. Rhode Island Energy will reconcile any over- or under-collection in the same manner as it performed the reconciliation for the previous RGGI credits.

(2) Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve all the proposed factors, charges and adjustment for usage on and after October 1, 2023. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

III. **Docket No. 23-24-REG - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Company).** The Company filed its annual Renewable Energy Growth (RE Growth) Program Factor and RE Growth Reconciliation Factors for effect October 1, 2023. The filing is submitted pursuant to state law and in accordance with the Company's approved tariff, RIPUC No. 2219, RE Growth Program Cost Recovery Provision. The Division has examined the filing and finds that the proposed factors are correctly calculated in compliance with state law and the Commission approved tariff. After review, Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the Company's proposed factors as filed consistent with the Division's recommendation. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

IV. **Docket No. 23-27-EL - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Company)** - On August 15, 2023, the Company submitted its annual Pension and Postretirement Benefits Other than Pensions (PBOP) Adjustment Factor (PAF) filing. The PAF provides for the reconciliation of the Company's actual Pension and PBOP expense for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2023 and the allowance included in distribution rates. The filing is submitted pursuant to the Pension Adjustment Mechanism Provision approved by the Commission.

A matter of process and timing arose with the PAF reconciliation. Presently, the PAF is a 12-month reconciliation period ending March 31. In response to a data request, the Company responded that it would be efficient to base the reconciliation on a calendar year which aligns with PPL's fiscal year. The following motions were made:

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve a nine-month factor to re-align the Pension and BPOP calculations with the Company's fiscal year. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to require the Company to submit a revised tariff to reflect the change from the fiscal year of April – March to a calendar year. The revised tariff should also reflect that the first reconciling period will cover the period from April 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. The Company shall make a compliance filing by noon tomorrow. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

V. **Docket No. 5209 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Company)** - This docket relates to the Company's Fiscal Year 2023 Electric Infrastructure, Safety and Reliability (ISR) Plan approved by the PUC in this docket. The Company submitted its annual reconciliation for FY 2023 Electric ISR

Plan and proposed ISR reconciling factors for effect October 1, 2023. This filing provides for recovery of the actual plant in service for discretionary and non-discretionary capital investment and associated cost of removal, the actual vegetation management operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses, and the actual inspection and maintenance program and other O&M expenses for the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

The Commission reviewed the record. After discussion, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the Settlement between RI Energy and the Division, filed on September 22, 2023, and to direct the company to file a revised revenue requirement and reconciliation factors by the end of day on September 26, 2023. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VI. There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the Open Meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/133062112>