

Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson
Senior Counsel
PPL Services Corporation
JHutchinson@pplweb.com

280 Melrose Street
Providence, RI 02907
Phone 401-784-7288



January 31, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

**RE: Docket No. 5154 – Rhode Island Energy Petition For Approval
To Create Regulatory Assets Related to COVID-19 Impacts
Notice of Withdrawal**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Pursuant to 810-RICR-00-00-1.12(C) of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission") Rules of Practice and Procedure, on behalf of Rhode Island Energy,¹ enclosed is the Company's Notice of Withdrawal of Rhode Island Energy's Petition For Approval To Create Regulatory Assets Related to COVID-19 Impacts filed with the Commission on April 30, 2021, in Docket No. 5154.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 401-316-7429.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson".

Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson

Enclosures

cc: Docket No. 5154 Service List

¹ The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy ("Rhode Island Energy" or the "Company").

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a Rhode Island Energy
Petition for Approval to Create
Regulatory Assets Related to COVID-19 Impacts**

Docket No. 5154

**NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF RHODE ISLAND ENERGY'S
PETITION FOR APPROVAL TO CREATE REGULATORY ASSETS RELATED TO
COVID-19 IMPACTS**

Rhode Island Energy¹ submits this Notice of Withdrawal of the Company's request for approval of its Petition For Approval To Create Regulatory Assets Related to COVID-19 Impacts (the "Original COVID-19 Petition"), which resulted in the opening of this docket. The Company makes this filing in accordance with 810-RICR-00-00-1.12(C) ("Rule 1.12(C)") of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission's (the "Commission") Rules of Practice and Procedure, which provides:

A participant desiring to withdraw an application or petition filed with the Commission may file a notice of withdrawal with the Clerk. Such notice shall state the reasons for the withdrawal and conform to the requirements of this rule and §§ 1.6 and 1.8 of this Part. A certificate shall accompany every notice showing service on all participants. Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission for good cause, such notice shall, twenty (20) days after the filing thereof, be deemed to have effected the withdrawal of the application or petition, including amendments, if any; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not be construed as effecting without express permission of the Commission, withdrawal of any application or petition in any proceeding in which a hearing has been held or convened.

The Company filed the Original COVID-19 Petition with the Commission on April 30, 2021, requesting Commission authorization to create regulatory assets for the future

¹ The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy ("Rhode Island Energy" or the "Company").

consideration and recovery of specific incremental expenses the Company incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic from March 9, 2020, when Executive Order 20-02 was issued, through such date as the Commission determined that the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic had dissipated such that the Company could resume normal collection activities for arrearages. These incremental expenses, referred to in the Original COVID-19 Petition as the “COVID-19 Costs” included: (1) the increased cost of customer accounts receivable that the Company will be unable to collect as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the executive orders and Commission orders restricting the Company’s collection activities as a result of the pandemic, resulting in increased net charge-offs; (2) lost revenue from unassessed late payment charges; and (3) charges to the Company for other fees that the Company has waived pursuant to the Commission’s orders in R.I.P.U.C. Docket No. 5022.

Subsequent to this filing, on May 4, 2021, PPL Corporation, PPL Rhode Island Holdings, LLC, (“PPL Rhode Island”), National Grid USA (“National Grid”), and the Company filed a joint petition with the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (the “Division”) seeking approval of PPL Rhode Island’s acquisition of 100% of the outstanding shares of common stock of the Company (the “Transaction”), which was assigned Docket No. D-21-09. The Transaction closed on May 25, 2022, at which time PPL Rhode Island took ownership and control of the Company, simultaneously rebranding it as Rhode Island Energy.

The Commission has not taken any action on the Company’s Original COVID-19 Petition in this docket. The information contained in the Original COVID-19 Petition, which was filed while the Company was still under National Grid ownership, is now stale. Also, subsequently, in Docket No. 5022, the Commission authorized utilities who do not have the waived credit card, debit card, and related fees (“Electronic Transaction Fees”) included in their

cost of service the opportunity to file for rate recovery on a going forward basis through a specific ratemaking mechanism that would be in effect through the utility's next rate case.² As such, on January 31, 2024, Rhode Island Energy is filing a new Petition For Approval To Create Regulatory Assets For Waived Electronic Transaction Fees Related to COVID-19 Impacts (the "New COVID-19 Petition") pursuant to the Commission's orders in Docket No. 5022. The Company has updated the Electronic Transaction Fees in the New COVID-19 Petition.

For the above reasons, the Company seeks to withdraw without prejudice its Original COVID-19 Petition in this docket pursuant to Rule 1.12(C) to facilitate the opening of a new docket for the New COVID-19 Petition. The Company hereby reserves all its rights to seek recovery in the future of any of the other COVID-19 Costs, set forth in the Original COVID-19 Petition, namely the increased costs of accounts receivable related to the pandemic and the lost revenue from unassessed late payment fees, as applicable. The Company has notified the Division and the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office of this Notice of Withdrawal.

Respectfully submitted,

**The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a Rhode Island Energy**

By its attorney,



Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson, RI Bar # 6176
Rhode Island Energy
280 Melrose Street
Providence, RI 02907
(401) 316-7429

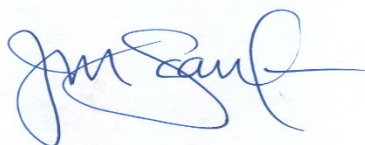
January 31, 2024

² See Order No. 24424 at 7, *In Re: Suspension Of Service Terminations And Certain Collections Activities During The Covid-19 Emergency*, Docket No. 5022 (June 6, 2022).

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the cover letter and any materials accompanying this certificate was electronically transmitted to the individuals listed below.

The paper copies of this filing are being hand delivered to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and to the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.



Joanne M. Scanlon

January 31, 2024
Date

**Docket No. 5154 – Petition for Approval to Create Regulatory Assets Related to COVID-19 Impacts
Service List as of 1/31/2024**

Name/Address	E-mail Distribution	Phone
The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson, Esq. 280 Melrose St. Providence, RI 02907	JHutchinson@pplweb.com ;	401-784-7288
	COBrien@pplweb.com ;	
	SBriggs@pplweb.com ;	
	JBCurrie@RIEnergy.com ;	
	JScanlon@pplweb.com ;	
Nicholas Vas, Esq. Dept. of Attorney General	nvaz@riag.ri.gov ;	401-222-2424
Christy Hetherington, Esq. Division of Public Utilities	Christy.hetherington@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	John.bell@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	Leo.wold@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	Margaret.L.hogan@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	Ellen.golde@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk Public Utilities Commission 89 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI 02888	Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov ;	401-780-2107
	Cynthia.WilsonFrias@puc.ri.gov ;	
	Alan.nault@puc.ri.gov ;	
	Todd.bianco@puc.ri.gov ;	
Christopher Kearns, Commissioner RI Office of Energy Resources	Christopher.Kearns@energy.ri.gov ;	401-574-9119