

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

Title of Rule: Standards of Acceptable Performance for Emergency Preparation and Restoration of Electric Distribution and Gas Distribution Companies

Rule Identifier: 815-RICR-00-00-5

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Adoption

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: April 19, 2024

Hearing Dates: May 16, 2024

End of Public Comment: May 24, 2024

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws § § 39-2-27

R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-2-26

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The proposed rule codifies statutory requirements relating to the acceptable standards of performance for emergency preparation and restoration of electric distribution and gas distribution companies pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 39-2-26 and 39-2-27. The statute requires gas and electric utilities to annually file emergency response plans with the Division. The rules address the requirements for those submissions.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed adoption until May 24, 2024 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Thomas Kogut
Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02888
thomas.kogut@dpuc.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed adoption shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: May 16, 2024

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Location: 89 Jefferson Blvd.
Hearing Room B
Warwick, RI, 02888

The seating capacity of the room will be enforced and, therefore, the number of persons participating in the hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-780-2107 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

The Regulation, proposed in response to a statutory requirement that electric and gas utilities file annual Emergency Response Plans with the Division is necessary for the Division to review and enforce terms of this statutory requirement. There is no additional cost to the Division in administering provisions of the rule, and care was taken to avoid any additional utility costs beyond what is required by statute. The regulation only applies to regulated gas and electric utilities with virtually all of the requirements exclusively applying to the state's lone dominant gas and electric utility.

Summary of State Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact to the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers as the Division has the ability to administer the provisions the proposed rule with current FTEs. Additionally, the operations of both the Division and Public Utilities Commission are not funded by general revenue but rather almost exclusively funded by restricted receipts through annual utility assessments.

City or Town Impact: There is no fiscal impact to Rhode Island cities and towns as the proposed rule imposes no administrative or fiscal burden on municipalities.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staff person listed above.