



**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** State of Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and Division of Public Utilities and Carriers

**FROM:** Steven J. King, PE, Managing Director, Quonset Development Corporation

**SUBJECT:** **Docket No. 22-01-NG: Investigation into the Future of the Regulated Gas Distribution Business in Rhode Island in Light of the Act on Climate**

**DATE:** October 21, 2022

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As the manager and operator of the state-owned Quonset Business Park, which is home to over 200 companies and nearly 13,000 employees, the Quonset Development Corporation ("QDC") is particularly interested in the future of the regulated gas distribution business as it pertains to industrial customers. National Grid (now Rhode Island Energy) recently completed a significant upgrade to the service main that supplies natural gas to the Quonset Business Park. The Business Park is home to some of the largest consumers of natural gas in the State, including Toray Plastics and General Dynamics Electric Boat, and the impacts of transitioning to either of the identified primary alternatives will be vastly different for the industrial and manufacturing sectors than it will be for other users. These impacts may include loss of effectiveness of equipment used in manufacturing processes, and short- and long-term costs, which may result in negative effects to the overall sustainability of business models.

QDC respectfully requests that the Public Utilities Commission integrate industrial and manufacturing stakeholders into the technical assessment and policy development processes, and that the specific impacts to industrial users be thoroughly considered throughout the process stages. Reliable energy supply is the fuel that drives the industrial manufacturing operations of our tenants. Future alternatives will need to be as robust, reliable, predictable, and cost-effective as current supplies to ensure the retention of these businesses and the high-quality, high-paying jobs that they provide.