

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: THE NARRAGANSETT :
ELECTRIC COMPANY 2023 ANNUAL : **DOCKET NO. 22-33-EE**
ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN :

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION'S
FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS DIRECTED TO OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES
(Issued November 14, 2022)
(Responses due November 28, 2022)

1.1. Referencing Rhode Island Energy's response to PUC 1-2, RIE lists a number of grants funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that cite energy efficiency as an eligible use but that are not available to utilities. Is OER exploring opportunities to either apply for or assist eligible recipients in applying for the listed grants for energy efficiency related projects? If so, would any such funding be available to offset either ratepayer funding or customer contributions required for the proposed 2023 EE Plan.

There will be no federal funds available for the 2023 EE Plan. OER will be pursuing all state-based energy funding formula opportunities from the federal Department of Energy (DOE) to the State Energy Offices (SEO) from both the Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction Act laws. These federal funds aren't expected to be available and deployed until Q3-Q4 of 2023 or early 2024. The timing is dependent on the release of the federal DOE guidance and applications to SEO.

OER is not applying for the competitive grants listed in Rhode Island Energy's response. OER isn't an eligible applicant to apply for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities Program. OER has notified the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) on this funding opportunity, and we will be working to publicize and provide application assistance to RIDE and eligible schools looking to apply in 2023.

1.2. The Commission understands that the Federal government is making funds available to states through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and that some of the provisions of these acts cite energy efficiency as an eligible use of the funds. The Commission is interested in understanding whether any of those funds would be available to offset either ratepayer funding or customer contributions required for the proposed 2023 EE Plan. For example, the following sections appear to relate to energy efficiency:

- a. Section 50121 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), titled Home Energy Performance-Based Whole House Rebates Efficiency Grants, appropriates \$4.3B for a state energy office rebate program for whole-house energy saving retrofits.**
- b. Section 50122 of the IRA, titled High Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program, appropriates \$4.275B for the US Department of Energy to provide homeowners**

- and owners of multifamily buildings rebates for qualifying electrification projects, and \$3.8b for rebates carried out in tribal communities or for low-or moderate-income households.
- c. Section 50123 of the IRA, titled State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Grants, appropriates \$200 million for states to develop and implement training and education of contractors involved in the installation of home energy efficiency and electrification.
 - d. Section 50131 of the IRA, relating to assistance for latest and zero building energy code adoption, appropriates \$1 billion in funding for state energy program grants to assist states and local communities adopting updated building energy codes for residential and commercial buildings.

Is OER aware of whether any funding appropriated under either the IRA or IIJA would be available to offset either ratepayer funding or customer contributions required for the proposed 2023 EE Plan?

Please see response to 1.1.