

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: Investigation into the Future of the Regulated Gas :
Distribution Business in Rhode Island in Light of the : DOCKET NO. 22-01-NG
Act On Climate :

Notice of Technical Conference and Public Participation

The Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will hold a Technical Conference on Thursday, February 9, 2023 beginning at 10:00 AM in Hearing Room A of the Public Utilities Commission Offices at 89 Jefferson Boulevard in Warwick, Rhode Island. On December 7, 2022, the PUC adopted a scope for this docket (Future of Gas) which can be accessed, along with other docket information at the docket webpage <https://ripuc.ri.gov/Docket-22-01-NG>. To begin the process, the PUC has invited panelists to speak about the future of the gas distribution system in Rhode Island and how to align emissions caused by the use of the gas system with the greenhouse gas emissions requirements of the Act on Climate. The full agenda for the meeting is provided below.

At this Technical Conference, the PUC will engage with the panelists about the topics described below. In addition, at the close of each panel there will be a process through which members of the public in attendance may submit questions to the PUC staff to be asked of the panelists. Whether all the questions can be addressed at this session will depend upon time available and number of questions submitted. However, the PUC notes this Technical Conference is not a public comment hearing. The meeting will take place in Hearing Room A and may also be viewed via the PUC's live stream at <https://video.ibm.com/channel/WqQyXw296dg>. This is only the first Technical Conference of many which will take place in this docket, including at least one which will allow for public comment.

Meeting Agenda

† *Indicates that time will be allotted for the submittal of questions from the public in attendance*

10:00 – 10:20 AM	Introductory Comments from the Commissioners
10:25 – 10:50 AM	Status of the Natural Gas Distribution System – <i>Rhode Island Energy</i>
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	† <u>Abandon or Replace</u> : Panelists will discuss pathways for meeting the greenhouse gas emissions reduction mandate of the Act On Climate within the natural gas sector, the challenges of feasibility and risk, and the important impacts on society.
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Break
1:30 – 3:00 PM	† <u>Critical Consumer Issues</u> : The PUC must consider a number of near term and long-term strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by natural gas consumption such as a moratorium on new gas services, programs to transition to cleaner or alternative fuels, and abandonment of the gas distribution system. Panelists will discuss their expectations for the transition, including issues of timing, fairness, and reliability, as well as key concerns that must be addressed.
3:05 – 3:15 PM	Next Steps for the Docket