



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Peter F. Neronha
Attorney General

December 23, 2022

Luly Massaro, Clerk
Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02888
Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov

***In Re: The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy's Advanced Metering
Functionality Business Case
Docket No. 22-49-EL***

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Enclosed please find for filing an original and five (5) copies of the Attorney General's Motion to Intervene in the above-referenced docket.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nicholas Vaz

Special Assistant Attorney General
nvaz@riag.ri.gov

Enclosures

Copy to: Service List

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC CO. :
d/b/a RHODE ISLAND ENERGY'S ADVANCED : **Docket No. 22-49-EL**
METERING FUNCTIONALITY BUSINESS CASE :

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND'S
MOTION TO INTERVENE**

NOW COMES Peter F. Neronha, Attorney General of the State of Rhode Island (“Attorney General”), and hereby moves to intervene with full-party status in the above-captioned proceeding in accordance with Rule 1.14(B) of the Public Utilities Commission’s (the “Commission”) Rules of Practice and Procedure (the “Commission Rules”).

I. Standard of Review

Commission Rule 1.14(B) states that “any person claiming a right to intervene or an interest of such nature that intervention is necessary or appropriate may intervene in any proceeding before the Commission.” 810-RICR-00-00-1.14(B). Further, such right or interest may be:

- a. A right conferred by statute.
- b. An interest which may be directly affected and which is not adequately represented by existing parties and as to which movants may be bound by the Commission’s action in the proceeding. (The following may have such an interest: consumers served by the applicant, defendant, or respondent; holders of securities of the applicant, defendant, or respondent.)
- c. Any other interest of such a nature that movant’s participation may be in the public interest.

810-RICR-00-00-1.14(B)(1)-(3). As explained below, the Attorney General has a statutory right to intervene and is in a unique position to represent the interests of the State and the public such that intervention is both necessary and appropriate.

II. Basis for Intervention

On November 18, 2022, The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (“Rhode Island Energy” or the “Company”) filed a Business Case with the Commission concerning its plan for full-scale deployment of Advanced Metering Functionality (“AMF”) across the State. The Company has indicated that its filing is being made pursuant to Article II, Section C.16.a of the Amended Settlement Agreement approved by the Commission at its Open Meeting on August 24, 2018 in Docket Nos. 4770 and 4780. Additionally, this AMF filing was anticipated by and considered in a settlement agreement dated May 19, 2022 by and among PPL Corporation, PPL Rhode Island Holdings, LLC (collectively, “PPL”), and the Attorney General (the “Settlement Agreement”). As part of the Settlement Agreement, PPL committed to the following:

PPL will include in its plan for deployment of Advanced Meter Functionality (“AMF”):

- i. costs that are no more than the estimated costs in total as proposed by Narragansett in Docket No. 5113, and Narragansett will not seek to recover from customers costs in excess of that amount, which costs shall remain subject to regulatory review and approval; and
- ii. a cost-benefit analysis that is at least as positive as the cost-benefit analysis included in the current Docket No. 5113, and bear the risk of lesser actual realized benefits.

In this docket, the Attorney General seeks to represent the interests of the ratepayers and the public as a whole. He is in a unique position to represent these interests and should be permitted to do so. The Attorney General is, pursuant to § 42-9-6 of the General Laws of Rhode Island of 1956, as amended, the “legal advisor of all state boards, divisions, departments, and commissions and the officers thereof...” He is also the public officer charged with representing the State of Rhode Island, the public interest, and the people of the State. This includes representation with respect to environmental, electric or gas industry matters, as well as consumer protection matters.

Additionally, the Attorney General “has a common law duty to protect the public interest.” State v. Lead Indus., Ass'n, Inc., 951 A.2d 428, 471 (R.I. 2008) (*quoting* Newport Realty, Inc. v. Lynch, 878 A.2d 1021, 1032 (R.I. 2005)).

It should also be noted that the Attorney General has been granted full-party status in prior proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission involving public utility operations and rates. Moreover, the legislature and courts have recognized role of the Attorney General as an intervenor on behalf of the state or its citizens as customers of the public utility. *See e.g.* R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-19(b), *see also* Narragansett Elec. Co. v. Harsch, 117 R.I. 395, 405 n. 6 (1977).

Participation by the Attorney General in the instant proceeding is sanctioned by law and consistent with the public interest. The Attorney General seeks to intervene to ensure that the Company's AMF plan is fully vetted and that any potential impacts are carefully considered. Additionally, the Attorney General has conferred with the Company and the Company has indicated that it does not object to the Attorney General's intervention as a full party in this docket.

III. Conclusion

For the reasons set forth herein, the Attorney General respectfully requests that the Public Utilities Commission grant his Motion to Intervene in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

PETER F. NERONHA
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

By his Attorney,

/s/ Nicholas M. Vaz
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Dated: December 23, 2022

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 23rd day of December 2022, the original and five hard copies of this Motion were sent, via electronic mail and first-class mail, to Luly Massaro, Clerk of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02888. In addition, electronic copies of the Motion were served via electronic mail on the service list for this Docket on this date.

/s/ Ellen Golde