

State of Rhode Island

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on December 22, 2022

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held Thursday, December 22, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets.

In attendance: Chairman Ronald Gerwatowski, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Commissioner John Revens, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, John Harrington, Todd Bianco, Emma Rodvien, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro.

- I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Minutes of Open Meetings** – Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the Minutes of Open Meeting held November 18, 2022 and Minutes of Open Meeting held on December 7, 2022. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 5022 - Utility Financial Reporting Requirements Related to COVID-19 Pandemic** - On November 5, 2021, the Commission ordered The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (no RI Energy) to continue to file financial reports required by the Commission’s First Set of Data Requests in this docket but monthly instead of weekly (“Covid Reports”). The monthly Covid reports have been filed under Docket No. 5026. This requirement was “until further order of the Commission.” (PUC Order No. 24424). Much of the information in these reports is duplicated by the Low-Income Report that was developed by a stakeholder group following Docket No. 4770 (“Low-Income Report”). Further, while the Covid Reports had been regularly referred to and requested by policymakers and others during the active pandemic timeframe and during the distribution of ARPA funds, Commission staff has not received recent requests for the report or information unique to that report. Legal Counsel to the Commission has contacted the stakeholders to determine whether the filing of the Covid Reports could be ended. Legal Counsel also requested the stakeholders identify any portion that the stakeholder was actively relying upon if the information was not contained in the Low Income Report. No stakeholder has requested continuation of the Covid Reports. The Division, however, has requested the Company continue to provide the following categories for each electric and gas: Number of customers (residential; low income residential; Small C&I; Medium C&I; Large C&I; total); Billed Sales kWh or therms (using the same categories as the number of customers); Billed Total Revenues \$ (using the same categories as the number of customers). The Commission discussed whether the requirement to file the Covid Reports should be ended.

After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to terminate the requirement that RI Energy file the Covid Reports required by PUC Order No. 24424 with the exception of the monthly customer counts, billed sales in kWh or therms and billed total revenue by rate classes. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commission staff was directed to work with the Company and the Division to develop an efficient means to collect the monthly customer count and billed total revenue data.

- IV. **Docket No. 22-48-REG – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Company)** - The Company submitted a Tariff Advice Filing to Change the Renewable Energy Growth Program Cost Recovery Provision for effect January 1, 2023. The Commission had issued discovery to RI Energy in this case and the responses were filed this week. Pending further examination, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to suspend the filing. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- V. **Docket No. 22-02-EL – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Company)** - On May 24, 2022, the Company filed a request to approve the continuation of the 2021 Last Resort Service Procurement Plan (LRS Plan) for the 2023 LRS Plan because the Company proposes no changes. In the 2021 LRS Plan, the Company used a laddered and layered repeating procurement schedule for the Residential and Commercial Groups. This is the Company's preferred procurement method because the transactions are at different times and are dollar-cost averaged to create a blended supply rate. The Company proposes to continue to use Full Requirements Service contracts for energy and ancillary services market costs and to continue to procure 10% of the LRS obligation in the spot market. The Commission reviewed the Company's request.

After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the first quarter procurement consistent with the previously approved Last Resort Service Procurement Plan to allow continuation of the procurement of energy while the Commission conducts technical sessions to assess the risk associated with last resort service procurement under expected market conditions and the new experiences with municipal aggregation. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VI. **Docket No. 22-44-EL – Block Island Utility District d/b/a Block Island Power** - Block Island Power proposed revisions to its last resort service and transmission tariffs. The utility proposes to: (1) to add a new 12-month reconciliation period ending December each year to the utility's tariff adjustment provisions for the Last Resort and Transmission Rate and (2) to implement rate changes to the Last Resort Service and Transmission rates for the upcoming 12-month period commencing January 1, 2023. After review, the following votes were made:

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the change in the reconciliation period to a calendar year. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the Last Resort Service and Transmission Rates as revised on December 14, 2022, for effect January 1, 2023, resulting in part from the revised procurement plan. The Last Resort Service (or power supply) rate will be 10.36 cents per kWh; the transmission rate will be 7.86 cents per kWh; and the net metering rate will be 15.58 cents per kWh. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VII. **Docket No. 5192 – Block Island Utility District** – On August 19, 2022, Block Island Power submitted a tariff advice to revise its legacy net metering tariff. The proposed legacy net metering tariff would apply to single meter systems installed prior to December 31, 2020. Those systems would receive net metering credits through June 30, 2042, as long as the nameplate rating and output does not increase more than 15% during the term of the tariff.

The utility also proposed several changes which included: 1) a clarification of the definition of the net metering credit and avoided cost calculation for consistency with the new tariff that went into effect April 1, 2022, 2) the elimination of a provision limiting net metering credits to 125% of members consumption, and 3) the addition of maintenance provisions to clarifying how a member may maintain their legacy system without being forced into the new tariff terms. Following June 30, 2042, any system operating under the proposed legacy tariff will have the option to transition to the net metering tariff that was approved by the Commission for effect April 1, 2022, or its successor tariff. The Commission will review the record and vote on Block Island Power's tariff advice to revise its legacy net metering tariff.

After a summary of the travel of the docket, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the Block Island Utility Districts' Legacy Net Metering tariff as revised on December 13, 2022. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VIII. **Consent Agenda** - The following two dockets, Docket No. 4290 and Docket No. 22-33-EE were listed on a Consent Agenda but Chairman Gerwatowski moved to remove both items from the consent agenda to be taken up separately today. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IX. **Docket No 4290 - Dept of Human Services' LIHEAP Enhancement Charge** - No compliance filing was required for the LIHEAP Enhancement Charge. Thus, no action was needed.
- X. **Docket No. 22-33-EE – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Company)** – The Commission considered the Company's compliance filing submitted on December 21, 2022. The Chairman summarized the Company's compliance filing and noted that further review is needed. The Commission has not had enough time to fully vet the compliance filing. Staff was reviewing the calculation this morning and needed more time to review the schedules that were filed. The Commission will need to take action on the rate before January 1, 2023. The

Commission noted that even if the calculation on the rates is correct, the Commission will need more time to review the schedules that were filed and can complete this further review in January 2023.

At 11:21 A.M., Chairman Gerwatowski recessed the Open Meeting until 3:00 P.M. this afternoon.

Chairman Gerwatowski reconvened the Open Meeting at 3:00 P.M. All were present except Commissioner John Revens. Chairman Gerwatowski noted that the Commission was not acting on the electric energy efficiency rate for April 1, 2023 at this time.

After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve an electric energy efficiency rate in the form of a credit of \$0.00137 per kWh effective for usage on or after January 1, 2023. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve gas energy efficiency rates of \$1.136 per Dth for the residential classes and \$0.6200 per Dth for C&I classes effective for consumption on or after January 1, 2023. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

- XI. There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the Open Meeting at 3:05 P.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/132417974> and <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/132418440>.