

**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 :

**Invitation to Join Stakeholder Committee and
Announcement of First Stakeholder Committee Meeting**

On June 9, 2022, the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (PUC) published a Notice of Commencement of Docket to investigate the future of the regulated gas distribution business in Rhode Island in light of the Act on Climate (Act), R.I. Gen Laws § 42.6-2 *et seq.* On December 7, 2022, the PUC adopted a Scope for this docket that provides the purposes of this proceeding, including development of clear recommendations from stakeholders on the future of the gas system in light of the Act on Climate.¹

Given the numerous and complicated issues raised in the Scope, the PUC has directed staff to convene a Stakeholder Committee to create an organized and manageable body of information that will support the initial development of work product within the proceeding. Stakeholder Committee Members will participate in a series of meetings including technical workshops and roundtable discussions aimed at addressing the issues and questions raised in the docket Scope. Members of the general public will be able to observe, review, and periodically provide comment on the work of the Stakeholder Committee.

As described in the Notice of Commencement, this investigation will not be a “contested case” thus, during the investigatory phase, Stakeholder Committee Members are not required to retain counsel but may need to adhere to reasonable ground rules for participation, including attending all meetings and providing data or other information to support their advocacy if the PUC believes this information may be helpful.

The PUC invites stakeholders to submit statements of intention to join the Stakeholder Committee by **Friday, March 3, 2023.**² Membership is available to persons or entities that will be significantly impacted by alignment of gas distribution service with the Act on Climate. Statements may be brief, but must include: (1) the name of the applicant and a description of the interests the applicant represents; (2) evidence that the applicant is authorized to represent the interests of their party; (3) indication that the applicant has a ready alternate to attend meetings (4) the reasons that the interests of the applicant cannot be adequately represented by other representatives, and (5) a commitment that the applicant will participate in good faith to advance the work of the Stakeholder Committee. Persons or entities that have common interests may nominate a single representative. The PUC expects to include all respondents on the Stakeholder Committee but reserves the right to reasonably limit the Committee size if necessary for effective facilitation of the Committee’s work. An original and five copies of statements of intent must be filed with the Clerk at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02888 and emailed to Luly.Massaro@puc.ri.gov.

The first Stakeholder meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 AM on Friday, March 10, at in the PUC’s Hearing Room a, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick. Members of the public are invited to attend in person. A meeting agenda will be shared in a future announcement.

¹ The scope adopted by the PUC can be accessed directly at https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-01/22-01-NG_FoG_Scope.pdf. All docket materials can be found at <https://ripuc.ri.gov/Docket-22-01-NG>.

² The PUC expects the Stakeholder Committee will include a representative of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) and Rhode Island Energy (RIE).