

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: RHODE ISLAND ENERGY PROPOSED :
FY 2024 ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY, : DOCKET NO. 22-53-EL
AND RELIABILITY PLAN :

THE RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES RESPONSES TO THE
NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY'S FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS
(Issued February 17, 2023)

Grid Modernization Investments

1-1 On December 15, 2022, the Rhode Island Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council ("EC4") approved a final draft of the Rhode Island 2022 Climate Update ("EC4 Climate Update"). A copy may be downloaded at: <https://climatechange.ri.gov/act-climate/working-draft-workplan>. What is the extent of the Office of Energy Resources' ("OER") participation in EC4 meetings? Is OER in general alignment with the priority actions for the electric sector as described within the EC4 Climate Update (pages 4-7)? If not, please explain.

OER is a member of the EC4.

OER supports the priority actions for the electric sector as described within the EC4 Climate Update. The final version of the 2022 Climate Update approved by the EC4 can be found here: <https://climatechange.ri.gov/media/1221/download?language=en> .

1-2 Looking at the priority actions in Table X of the EC4 Climate Update (pages 71-72), does OER agree that modernizing the electric grid to enable the electric grid to more readily integrate distributed energy resources and improve customer energy management is a priority action? If no, please explain.

Yes, OER agrees that modernizing the electric grid to enable more readily integrated distributed energy resources and improve customer energy management among other benefits is a priority action.

1-3 Page 99 of the EC4 Climate Update states that the: "[u]pdate reflects on past progress and identifies our **priority short-term actions needed** to stay on the right path to meet our 2030 emissions mandate, **in hope these priorities will be well established by 2025**. The 2025 Climate Strategy will then build out workplans for each sector to meet our mandates and set us on a viable path to reach net-zero emissions by 2050." (emphasis added.)

- (i) Does OER believe that modernizing the electric grid to enable the electric grid to more readily integrate distributed energy resources and improve customer energy management is a priority short-term action item? If no, please explain. If yes, what is the OER's definition of "short-term" in regard to this action item?

OER believes that the formulation, consideration by the regulatory bodies and other parties, and effective implementation of a plan to modernize the electric grid in Rhode Island which effectuates the necessary emissions reductions mandated by Act on Climate in the most cost-effective manner is a priority short-term action.

OER considers grid modernization a priority action item and considers “short-term” to mean action (ex: docket proceedings, rulings from dockets, development and adoption of associated utility regulations) that is steadily progressed in the next twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months.

What would OER consider to be “well established” by 2025 in regard to modernizing the electric grid to enable the electric grid to more readily integrate distributed energy resources and improve customer energy management?

OER considers “well established” to mean that following approval of a plan in the next twelve to twenty-four months, there is development and initialization of the applicable rules and regulations and/or programs needed to implement the actions recommended.