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280 Melrose Street Providence, RI 02907 Phone 401-784-7288



April 26, 2023

#### **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission 89 Jefferson Boulevard Warwick, RI 02888

RE: Docket No. 22-49-EL-The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy Advanced Metering Functionality Business Case

Responses to Division Data Requests – Division Set 5

Dear Ms. Massaro:

On behalf of The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy ("Rhode Island Energy" or the "Company"), attached is the electronic version of Rhode Island Energy's responses to the Division of Public Utilities & Carriers' (the "Division") Fifth Set of Data Requests in the above-referenced matter, specifically Division 5-4 and Division 5-5. By agreement with the Division, the responses to Division 5-1, Division 5-2 and Division 5-3 will be submitted on April 27th.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson at 401-316-7429.

Very truly yours,

Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson

**Enclosures** 

cc: Docket No. 22-49-EL Service List John Bell, Division

Leo Wold, Esq.

<sup>1</sup> Per communication from Commission counsel on October 4, 2021, the Company is submitting an electronic version of this filing followed by hard copies filed with the Clerk within 24 hours of the electronic filing.

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk Docket No. 22-49-EL – AMF Business Case April 26, 2023 Page 2 of 5

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a copy of the within documents was forwarded by e-mail to the Service List in the above docket on the 26th day of April, 2023.

Adam M. Ramos, Esq.

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy Docket No. 22-49-EL Advanced Meter Functionality (AMF) Service list updated 4/6/2023

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The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy Docket No. 22-49-EL

In Re: Rhode Island Energy Advanced Metering Functionality Business Case and
Cost Recovery Program
Responses to the Division's Fifth Set of Data Requests
Issued on April 18, 2023

## Division 5-4

# Request:

In response to Division 4-8, the Company indicates that it does not know what the cost is to disconnect a customer for non-payment. Please explain how the Company developed the \$32.00 reconnection charge included in its' Terms and Conditions for Distribution Service?

### Response:

Residential and commercial customers are charged a reconnection charge of \$32.00 for restoration of service following a discontinuance of service in accordance with Section 21 of the Company's Terms and Conditions for Distribution Service, R.I.P.U.C. No. 2243. The current version of this tariff was issued on October 16, 2020, and it became effective on January 1, 2021. This reconnection charge was established in the Company's last base distribution rate case. See Attachment DIV 5-4 for the support for the calculation of the \$32.00 reconnection charge, which is an excerpt of Schedule PP-3(a) in Book 15 (Bates Page 64) from the Company's initial filing in Docket No. 4770.

<sup>1</sup> https://www.rienergy.com/media/pdfs/billing-payments/tariffs/ri/neco-tcs-dist-svc\_ripuc\_2243.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/eventsactions/docket/4770-NGrid-Book15%28PricingPanel%29.pdf.

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy Docket No. 22-49-EL Attachment Division 5-4 Page 1 of 1

THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a NATIONAL GRID RIPUC Docket No. 4770 Schedule PP-3(a) Page 2 of 2

## Narragansett Electric

#### Proposed Fee for Account Restoration

| (1)  | Labor Costs for Meter Off Due to Non Payment              | \$8.13     |
|------|---|------------|
| (2)  | Labor Burdens   | \$5.65     |
| (3)  | Transportation Costs for Meter Off Due to Non Payment     | \$2.47     |
| (4)  | Labor Costs for Meter On Due to Customer Payment          | \$8.13     |
| (5)  | Labor Burdens   | \$5.65     |
| (6)  | Transportation Costs for Meter On Due to Customer Payment | \$2.47     |
| (7)  | Total Cost of Restoring Service                           | \$32.50    |
| (.)  |   |            |
| (8)  | Proposed Account Restoration Fee                          | \$32.00    |
| (9)  | Current Account Restoration Fee                           | \$38.00    |
| (10) | Proposed Increase in Account Restoration Fee              | (\$6.00)   |
|      | Test Year Count of Account Restoration Fees Billed        | 2,173      |
|      | Proposed Incremental Account Restoration Fee Revenue      | (\$13,038) |
| 1    |   |            |

- (1) 0.3 hours of labor time x average hourly rate of \$27.11
- (2) Line (1) x labor OH %, excluding pension and OPEB, of 69.44%
- (3) 0.3 hours of labor time x average hourly rate of \$8.22
- (4) 0.3 hours of labor time x average hourly rate of \$27.11
- (5) Line (4) x labor OH %, excluding pension and OPEB, of 69.44%
- (6) 0.3 hours of labor time x average hourly rate of \$8.22
- (7) Sum of Lines (1) through (6)
- (8) Line (7), truncated to 0 decimal places
- (9) Per Company Tariff, RIPUC No. 2130, Section 21
- (10) Line (8) Line (9)
- (11) Per Company Billing Report
- (12) Line (10) \* Line (11)

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy Docket No. 22-49-EL

In Re: Rhode Island Energy Advanced Metering Functionality Business Case and
Cost Recovery Program
Responses to the Division's Fifth Set of Data Requests
Issued on April 18, 2023

## Division 5-5

### Request:

In response to Division 4-14, the Company claims AMF will pinpoint the outage. It is the Division's understanding that the AMF outage data will feed into the outage management system, and the Company will know what customers are out beyond any given device that has de-energized the fault and outaged the section of line. If so, will RIE only know the line section or sections that are out but not have the ability to pinpoint the location of the fault event itself? Please explain.

### Response:

In its responses to Division 4-13 and Division 4-14, the Company described how Last Gasp meter alerts from advanced metering functionality ("AMF") meters send notifications of "no power" automatically from all meters affected by an outage as soon as there is a loss of line side voltage. AMF Last Gasp outage alert data feeds into the Outage Management System ("OMS"). The OMS automatically evaluates the pattern of the Last Gasp alerts to analyze the suspected location of the trouble. The more information that OMS has, the better it can determine the extent, location and probable cause of an outage. Although the Last Gasp alerts will not enable the Company to pinpoint the precise location of the fault event itself, the Last Gasp alerts will enable the Company to better determine the location of the fault because it will have knowledge of all customers that are out of power. Thus, the AMF enabled data will assist the Company in determining whether the outage encompasses an entire feeder, several sections of the feeder, or is limited to a particular fuse affecting only a few customers. Additionally, when there is an outage caused by an open phase due to a line connection failure, AMF enhances the understanding of location because the Last Gasp alerts will identify the break location, which is just upstream of the first meter to respond and downstream of the meter still showing in power. Although these outages happen much less frequently, than the typical "protective device open" outage, traditionally they have been difficult to find because the breaks may not be readily visible during a drive by patrol.

In addition, if fault location, isolation, and service restoration ("FLISR") is available, the OMS works in tandem with the advanced distribution management system ("ADMS") to automatically isolate outages that affect the mainline of the distribution system to small customer blocks using automated distribution switching so that fewer customers experience an outage. Outage information from AMF, and isolation from FLISR if available, enable restoration crews to be efficiently dispatched to problematic locations which typically improves the restoration process.