

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In Re: The Narragansett Electric Company)	
d/b/a Rhode Island Energy Tariff Advice to)	Docket No. 23-05-EL
Amend Net Metering Provision)	
)	

OBJECTION FROM THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A RHODE ISLAND ENERGY TO MASSAMERICAN ENERGY LLC’S MOTION TO REQUIRE SUPPLEMENTATION OF DISCOVERY

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (“Narragansett”, “RIE”, or the “Company”) hereby objects to the Motion to Require Supplementation of Discovery submitted by MassAmerican Energy LLC d/b/a Gridweathlh Development (“MAE”) in this proceeding (“MAE Motion”). MAE alleges that the Company’s responses to data requests MAE 2-1, 2-7, 2-8 and 2-9 are unresponsive, placing MAE at a significant disadvantage in presenting its advocacy in this docket. MAE Motion at 1. MAE asks the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to order the Company to provide supplemental responses to MAE 2-1, 2-7, 2-8 and 2-9. MAE Motion at 4. As detailed below, the Company complied with its obligation to respond to MAE 2-1, 2-7, 2-8 and 2-9 and respectfully asks the Commission to deny MAE’s Motion.

I. BACKGROUND

On February 15, 2023, in accordance with 810-RICR-00-00-1.10(C), the Company filed a tariff advice to amend the Net Metering Provision, R.I.P.U.C. No. 2268, (the “Tariff”), effective April 1, 2023. The purpose of the amendments is to improve the administration of Excess Renewable Net Metering Credits on a going-forward basis. On February 24, 2023, the Commission suspended the Company’s tariff advice filing. Since then, several parties intervened in the proceedings, including MAE. Pertinent to the matter at hand, MAE issued a Second Set of

Data Requests to the Company (“MAE Set 2”) on August 22, 2023. On September 6, 2023, the Company responded to MAE 2-2, 2-6 and 2-10. The remaining responses to MAE Set 2 were filed by the Company on September 11, 2023. On September 14, 2023, MAE Motion’s was filed leading to this objection from the Company.

II. MAE 2-1

As indicated in its response to MAE 2-1, the Company considers R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.4-1 et seq. (“Net Metering Statute”) to be the most relevant of Rhode Island’s energy policies for this particular proceeding as opposed to a Docket 4600 analysis. The scope of the Company’s tariff advice filing is limited to establishing a reconciliation process for large net metering customers to effectuate the statutory provisions of the Net Metering Statute. The Net Metering Statute expressly creates two tiers of net metering credits: “Tier 1” for production up to 100% and “Tier 2” for production beyond 100% but no greater than 125%; and, by implication, creates a “Tier 3” for production greater than 125%. The Net Metering Statute also expressly assigns a value for net metering credits for Tier 1 and Tier 2. The Tier 1 value is equal to the last resort service (“LRS”) rate plus distribution kilowatt-hour charge, transmission kilowatt-hour charge, and transition kilowatt-hour charge. The Tier 2 value is equal to just the LRS rate. By implication, the Tier 3 value is \$0. Those values are set by statute and cannot be altered by a Docket 4600 analysis.

To effectuate the tiered-net metering credit approach set forth by the Net Metering Statute, the Company must perform a reconciliation. Absent a reconciliation, all net metering credits would be paid out at the Tier 1 rate which is inconsistent with the Net Metering Statute. By executing the reconciliation, the Company is not “charging” net metering customers nor is it proposing to alter the current value of net metering credits. Rather, it is simply reconciling any

overpayments made to large net metering customers. Given that the Company's proposal is limited to performing a reconciliation to effectuate the Net Metering Statute, the results of Docket 4600 analysis are beyond the scope of the Company's proposal. Therefore, the Company's response to MAE 2-1, which is subject to cross examination and/or an alternative Docket 4600 analysis conducted by MAE's witness, does not place MAE at a disadvantage.

III. MAE 2-7, MAE 2-8, MAE 2-9

For MAE 2-7, MAE 2-8, and MAE 2-9, the Company provided the information sought by MAE (plus additional information). The Company conducted original analysis to provide a fulsome example of how the annual reconciliation would work under a certain set of assumptions related to usage, rate class, availability of information, and application of the net metering credit and the annual reconciliation. To the extent that it is MAE's assertion that, all else equal, the value of net metering credits would be higher for customers that are net generators in the summer months as opposed to the winter months due to the fact that the average LRS rate (contained within an average net metering credit) is higher than the summer LRS rate, the analysis presented in MAE 2-7 and MAE 2-8 is supportive of that assertion. Therefore, the Company's responses to MAE 2-7, MAE 2-8, and MAE 2-9, which are subject to cross examination, do not place MAE at a disadvantage.

IV. CONCLUSION

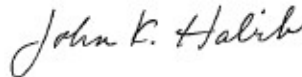
For the reasons addressed herein, the Commission should deny MAE's Motion to Require Supplementation of Discovery.

**Respectfully submitted,
THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC
COMPANY d/b/a RHODE ISLAND ENERGY**

By its attorneys,



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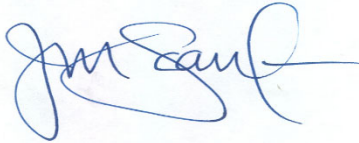


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Dated: September 22, 2023

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on September 22, 2023, I delivered a true copy of the foregoing Motion via electronic mail to the parties on the Service List for Docket No. 23-05-EL.



Joanne Scanlon

Dated: September 22, 2023