

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN RE: RHODE ISLAND ENERGY ADVANCED :  
METERING FUNCTIONALITY BUSINESS CASE : DOCKET NO. 22-49-EL  
AND COST RECOVERY PROPOSAL :**

**OPEN MEETING MOTIONS AND VOTES**

**Finding of Need and Authorization for Deployment**

- (1) Move to find that there is a need for the Company to transition its electric distribution operations from the existing AMR-based metering system to a system that utilizes advanced metering functionality (AMF). RG, AA Vote 3-0

**Capital Cost Recovery through the ISR**

- (2) Move to reject the Company’s proposal for a new AMF recovery factor. RG, AA Vote 3-0
- (3) Move to authorize the Company to seek recovery of its capital investments in the categories identified in Record Request 9 through the infrastructure, safety, and reliability (ISR) process as discretionary investments through the creation of a separate category with an overall multi-year CapEx cap, with the following conditions:
  - (a) The Company is not required to prove a need to deploy AMF for its electric distribution operations in place of the existing AMR-based metering system;
  - (b) The scope of the authorized deployment includes the investments and functionalities, as set forth in Figure 6.2 and Figure 6.3 but shall not include CP:Solar Marketplace, CP:Carbon Footprint Calculator, and CP: C&I and Multi-Family Portfolio View.
  - (c) The scope shall also include advancement of load disaggregation & Waveform Analytics and Grid Edge Computing that will be enabled by allowing customers to use Sense by connecting their home area network to the meter as discussed in RR-11 and shall not include acceleration of TVR.
  - (d) Capital spending within the scope of Record Request 9 (Project Implementation) that was commenced prior to the ISR Fiscal Year 2025 filing shall be eligible for ISR recovery notwithstanding the fact that the spending was not part of the pre-approved investments within the rules of a prior ISR filing;
  - (e) Recovery of the capital costs incurred for the authorized project implementation period shall be capped in the aggregate at a budget of \$153,217,548 and the Company is directed to file a revised RR-9 and revised Attachment H excel

spreadsheet to reflect \$0.00 for the items removed and to show the O&M related to acceleration of Sense.

- (f) Regarding the Special Sector Deferrals identified in the Amended Settlement Agreement and listed in Attachment PUC 7-13, lines 3 and 4, the ongoing annual net cumulative accrual shall only be used to offset the annual AMF revenue requirement that is eligible for ISR cost recovery each year.

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- (4) Move that the Meter Data Management System (MDMS) costs shall not be eligible for rate base recovery; provided, however, 44% of the capital costs associated with the work performed by Landis+Gyr which the Company allocated to AMF shall be amortized over the depreciation period applicable to the asset type and recovered through the ISR without a return. RG, AA Vote 3-0
- (5) When the Company submits its compliance filing, it needs to certify that it is committing to making the investments, achieving the functionalities identified above, and bearing the financial risk of exceeding the approved Capex Cap for those investments identified in the scope of the implementation plan as set forth in Record Request 9 minus the capex related to the three items previously removed. RG, JR Vote 3-0
- (6) Move to direct the Company to file an ISR Addendum to encompass the findings herein for further review by the Commission. The addendum shall include a proposal to recover the revenue requirement associated with the eligible AMF CapEx spending to be appropriately allocated to each rate class and recovered through a fixed charge embedded in the applicable customer charge for each rate class for further review by the Commission. RG, AA Vote 3-0

**Treatment of O&M Expenses Prior to Next Rate Case**

- (7) Move that any operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses (i) relating to the AMF project implementation period or (ii) relating to AMF “run-the-business” costs, which expenses are incurred during the period prior to new base distribution rates going into effect from the next base distribution rate case may not be deferred or recovered in any new rates. RG, AA, Vote 3-0
- (8) Move that effective on the date of this decision through the effective date of the Company’s next base distribution rates, the Company may net O&M expenses that relate to the AMF scope as defined above against the accumulating regulatory liability relating to certain residual revenue requirement items identified in Docket 4770 and enumerated in PUC 7-13, RR-7, and/or RR-13. To the extent that such O&M expenses during that period are less than the total accumulated regulatory liability as of the date that new base distribution rates go into effect, the regulatory liability shall remain in effect and the balance shall be applied for the benefit of ratepayers in a manner determined by the Commission. RG, JR Vote 3-0

- (9) Move to direct the Company to file a schedule that updates Attachment PUC 7-13 with actuals through Rate Year Ending August 31, 2023, includes the AMF-related portion of all other grid mod costs identified on line 25, page 7 of 9, Compliance Attachment 1 in the Docket No. 4770 Compliance Filing (Amended Settlement Agreement Book 1) that was identified in SAB/BLJ-1, and provides a forecast through the anticipated effective date of the next base distribution rate case. In addition, the Company shall provide the cumulative balances as of August 31, 2023 in a separate section. RG, JR Vote 3-0
- (10) Move to direct the Company to update the revised schedule that was just voted on with each annual ISR filing and reconciliation filing and also include a schedule which shows the O&M expenses that have been netted against the rate level credit balance. RG, JR Vote 3-0

## **Accountability Requirements**

- (11) Move that the effect of the CapEx cap is that the Company will be required to keep spending, even if above the cap, until it achieves the functionalities as set forth in prior motions today. AA, JR Vote 3-0
- (12) Move to adopt the following requirements the Company must comply with under the authorization to advance its AMF investment plan:
- ADMS Integration: Within twelve months of meter installation in each geographic deployment area, the company must provide evidence that the meter data is integrated into the ADMS. The company should report on the number of meters installed, time to install the meters, integration with ADMS, and any outliers. Prior to commencing meter installation the company needs to provide the PUC and DPUC definitions of the geographic deployment areas.
  - Voltage Notification: Within twelve months of meter installation in each geographic deployment area, the company must provide evidence that the company has configured real time alerts for over/under voltage and is using the ADMS ping to investigate voltage issue.
  - Outage Notification: Within two months of meter installation in each geographic deployment area, the company must provide evidence that it is relying on the meters for outage notification.
  - Remote Connect/Disconnect: Within two months of meter installation in each geographic deployment area, the company must provide evidence that it is relying on the meters for remote connect, disconnect, service activation, and account transfers.
  - Theft Detection: Within twelve months of meter installation in each geographic deployment area, the company must provide evidence that it is relying on the meters for theft detection.
  - Customer Portal: Company will maintain a customer portal. At a minimum, there should be no discontinuity of customers' ability to access account information and pay bills online.

Load Disaggregation: Within twelve months of meter installation in each geographic deployment area, the company must provide evidence that customers are able to access disaggregated load data. Within 12 months of the conclusion of the deployment period, the company will report on customer access and utilization of disaggregated load data.

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- (13) Move that within two months of the start of meter installation, the Company must file plans that address Green Button Connect, Home Area Network, and Grid Edge Computing, as described below. The company may consult with any stakeholder deemed necessary, but the plan must be filed by the company and will be reviewed by the Commission in a contested proceeding.

Green Button Connect: Within two months of the start of meter installation, the company must file a Green Button Connect plan that addresses the following:

- a. For every customer specific item on the bill, whether that same information should be provided through GBC;
- b. At a minimum, the company should plan to provide the same data fields and historical information as offered or planned to be offered to its customers in Pennsylvania and Kentucky.
- c. For each of the items in (a), whether the underlying customer-specific data (e.g. interval meter reads, voltage) should be provided through GBC;
- d. To the extent historical data is provided for (a) and (b), provide the extent of that data set. Specifically address whether it is appropriate to provide 36 months of electric consumption.
- e. Whether (a), (b), and (c) should be provided for gas.
- f. Whether any additional customer specific data beyond (a) and (b) should be provided through GBC (e.g. disaggregated load data).
- g. Timeline for GBC certification and version of certification.

Home Area Network: Within two months of the start of meter installation, the company must file a Home Area Network plan that addresses the following:

- h. Version of bring-your-own-device that will be offered to customers, and requirements, if any, on those devices;
- i. Access to usage and disaggregation insights;
- j. Whether any charges apply to customers or device-makers;
- k. Technical standards for local devices;
- l. Terms and conditions on direct upload of usage data and disaggregation insights.

Grid Edge Computing: Within two months of the start of meter installation, the company must file a Grid Edge Computing plan that presents a framework or terms and conditions for each issue identified in Mission:data Coalition's Post-Hearing Statement section 3, parts (a) through (f).

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- (14) Move to direct Rhode Island Energy to engage with the DPUC to negotiate the details and implementation of the following service quality mechanisms and file an updated Service Quality Plan for Commission review and approval in Docket 3628 within 3 months. Other parties will be able to intervene in Docket 3628.
1. Meter reading & billing:
    - a. Monthly percent of meters read is an existing reporting requirement in the service quality plan in Docket 3628.
    - b. The company will be subject to a meter reading & billing service quality mechanism at the end of the TSA period.
    - c. The service quality mechanism should establish a threshold that represents appropriate performance (e.g. the average of the past three years).
    - d. The maximum penalty will be imposed for performance 2.5 standard deviations below the threshold.
    - e. The maximum penalty should be generally consistent with existing potential penalties in Docket 3628 (i.e. between \$200,000-\$1,000,000), or show why a higher maximum penalty was determined.
    - f. The design may or may not be linear, and it may include a dead band.
    - g. Following the meter installation period, the Company and Division may propose an update to this service quality mechanism in Docket 3628.
  2. Faster outage notification:
    - a. The company will be subject to a one-time faster outage notification service quality mechanism 12 months after full project implementation.
    - b. The service quality mechanism should establish a baseline for outage notification.
    - c. The maximum penalty will be imposed if evidence shows that the company is notified of outages 0 minutes faster than the baseline.
    - d. No penalty will be imposed if evidence shows that the company is notified of outages 22 minutes faster than the baseline.
    - e. The metric may be an annual average over all customers or explain why a different metric was chosen.
    - f. The maximum penalty should be generally consistent with existing potential penalties in Docket 3628 (i.e. between \$200,000-\$1,000,000), or show why a higher maximum was chosen.
    - g. The mechanism may or may not be linear. Intervals, bins, and dead-bands may be considered.
    - h. The mechanism may (but is not required to) include a shared savings mechanism for evidence that that the company is notified of outages more than 23 minutes faster than the baseline.
  3. Network speed:
    - a. The company will be subject to a one-time or continuous network speed service quality mechanism 12 months after full project implementation.
    - b. The service quality mechanism should establish a measurement of network speed. The measurement should capture the speed of information from the meter to the MDMS and back to the customer portal or explain why a different measurement

was chosen. The service quality mechanism should establish the time period and scope of the measurement.

- c. The maximum penalty should be generally consistent with existing potential penalties in Docket 3628 (i.e. between \$200,000-\$1,000,000), or show why a higher maximum was chosen.
  - d. The company and parties should propose the maximum penalty and threshold. Intervals, bins, and dead bands may be considered.
4. Trouble, Non-Outage
- a. Trouble, non-outage calls are an existing reporting requirement in the service quality plan in Docket 3628.
  - b. Within twelve months after meter installation starts, the company will be subject to a service quality mechanism for trouble, non-outage calls.
  - c. The service quality adjustment should impose scaled penalties for increased trouble, non-outage calls, compared to a baseline. The metric, baseline, minimum, and maximum should be defined and justified.
  - d. The maximum penalty should be generally consistent with existing potential penalties in Docket 3628 (i.e. between \$200,000-\$1,000,000), or show why a higher maximum was chosen.
5. Customer satisfaction
- a. Customer satisfaction (customer contact survey) is an existing service quality mechanism in the service quality plan in Docket 3628.
  - b. Within six months after meter installation starts, the company will be subject to an updated customer contact standard that reflects the company's expectations of higher customer satisfaction. Updates may include, but not be limited to, increasing the minimum percent satisfied threshold, increasing the value of the penalty, and narrowing the dead band.
  - c. The maximum penalty should be generally consistent with existing potential penalties in Docket 3628 (i.e. between \$200,000-\$1,000,000), or show why a higher maximum was chosen.

AA, JR Vote 3-0

### **Conclusory Motions**

- (15) The Commission authorizes the Company to deploy an AMF-based metering system for the electric distribution business subject to the conditions already voted on. RG, AA Vote 3-0
- (16) The Company is not required to commence the authorized project implementation. The decision to move forward under the terms of the Commission's authorization rests within the management discretion of the Company; provided, however, if such project implementation is commenced, the conditions set forth by the Commission in the decisions today shall apply. RG, AA Vote 3-0.