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November 21, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND HAND DELIVERY

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

Dear Ms. Massaro:

**Re: Docket No. 23-29-EL – 2024 Renewable Energy Standard Procurement Plan
Responses to Division Data Requests – Set 1**

On behalf of The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (“Rhode Island Energy” or the “Company”), I have enclosed the Company’s responses to the First Set of Data Requests issued by the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers in the above-referenced docket.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Leticia C. Pimentel

cc: Docket 23-29-EL Service List

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the cover letter and any materials accompanying this certificate were electronically transmitted to the individuals listed below.

The paper copies of this filing are being hand delivered to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and to the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.

Heidi J. Seddon

November 21, 2023

Date

**Docket No. 23-29-EL – Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy
– 2024 Renewable Energy Standard Procurement Plan
Service List updated 11/20/2023**

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Division 1-1

Request:

Regarding the load forecast, in the 2023 RES Plan the Company projected a significant increase in municipal aggregation in 2023, with 24 percent of the Company's Last Resort Service (LRS) load expected to switch to nonregulated power producers as of May 2023. The estimated LRS load in the 2022 RES Plan was 3,920,160 MWhs. The estimated LRS load in the 2023 RES Plan is 3,630,004 MWhs, 7 percent lower than in 2022. The estimated LRS load in the 2024 RES Plan is 3,259,413 MWhs.

- a. Did the reduction in LRS load due to municipal aggregation materialize in 2023 as expected?
- b. Is the continued decline in LRS load in the 2024 RES Plan due to municipal aggregation?
- c. Please describe any anticipated future reductions in LRS load due to municipal aggregation.

Response:

- a. Yes. The Company adjusted the 2023 RES Plan's Last Resort Service ("LRS") load forecast for the expected migration of municipal aggregation customers starting May 2023. The LRS load forecast without adjustments for January 2023 through October 2023 was 3,633,619 MWh. The LRS load forecast adjusted for anticipated municipal aggregation customers switching was 3,088,822 MWh. The actual load for January 2023 through October 2023 was 2,973,175 MWh, or 3.7% lower than the adjusted load forecast.¹ As expected, the migration of municipal aggregation customers decreased the LRS load in 2023.
- b. Yes. The Company adjusted its 2024 LRS load forecast for the migration of municipal aggregation customers that began in May 2023.
- c. LRS load will continue to be reduced as future municipal aggregation customers switch to nonregulated power producers ("NPPs"). Currently, there is an approved Community Electricity Aggregation Plan for the Town of Bristol. The Town of Middletown has filed its own Community Electricity Aggregation Plan in Docket 23-36-EL. Once these towns and any additional Community Electricity Aggregation Plans choose NPPs, the LRS load will decrease.

¹ The actual load of 2,973,175 MWh consists of resettlement load from January 2023 through July 2023 and initial load from August 2023 through October 2023.

The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a Rhode Island Energy
RIPUC Docket No. 23-29-EL
In Re: 2024 Renewable Energy Standard Procurement Plan
Responses to the Division's First Set of Data Requests
Issued on November 15, 2023

Division 1-2

Request:

In the cover letter for the 2024 RES Plan, the Company states, "The 2024 RES Plan does not include significant adjustments to the 2023 RES Plan which was approved by the PUC at an Open Meeting on March 29, 2023 in Docket No. 22-43-EL."

- a. Does the 2024 RES Plan include any adjustments as compared to the 2023 RES Plan?
- b. If so, please describe the adjustments.

Response:

- a. The 2024 RES Plan does not include any adjustments to the procurement activities, sales activities, and the banking strategy that was approved in the 2023 RES Plan. The adjustments to the 2023 RES Plan relate to specific inputs that are applicable to the 2024 compliance year.
- b. The 2024 RES Plan made several adjustments to the 2023 RES Plan. First, the Percentage from New Renewable Energy Resources for 2024 was increased to 26% from 21%. Second, the 2024 RES Plan included an updated Last Resort Service ("LRS") load forecast. The LRS load forecast and the Renewable Energy Standard percentage requirements determine the estimated quantity of RECs to procure. Finally, the 2024 RES Plan included an updated supply forecast of New RECs from the Long-Term Renewable Contracts and RE Growth Program.