280 Melrose Street Providence, RI 02907 Phone 401-784-7263



December 1, 2023

## **BY ELECTRONIC MAIL**

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

## RE: Docket No. 22-43-EL – 2023 Renewable Energy Standard Procurement Plan Renewable Energy Certificate Procurement Summary

Dear Ms. Massaro:

On behalf of The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy ("Narragansett" or the "Company"), enclosed please find the Company's Renewable Energy Certificate Procurement Summary ("REC Procurement Summary") which stems from a Request for Proposals ("RFP") that was issued by the Company on November 21, 2023. This REC Procurement Summary is being filed in accordance with the Company's approved 2023 Renewable Energy Standard Procurement Plan ("RES Plan")<sup>1</sup> through which the Company committed to filing procurement summaries with the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC"). As explained herein, the Company is seeking PUC approval of confidential treatment for portions of this filing. No other action is needed by the PUC in connection with this filing.

The REC Procurement Summary consists of a summary and eight (8) exhibits which are listed below. Please be advised that portions of the summary and Exhibits 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 contain confidential and privileged information. As such, the enclosed represents a public redacted version of this filing. An unredacted confidential version of this filing will be sent electronically to the PUC and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers ("Division") via the Company's encryption software.

Pursuant to 810-RICR-00-00-1.3(H)(3) and R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-2(4)(B), the Company respectfully requests that the Commission treat the information redacted in the public version as confidential. In support of this request, the Company has enclosed a Motion for Confidential Treatment. In accordance with 810-RICR-00-00-1.3(H)(2), the Company also respectfully requests that the Commission make a preliminary finding that the information redacted in the public version is exempt from the mandatory public disclosure requirements of the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act ("APRA").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The PUC approved the 2023 RES Plan at an Open Meeting that occurred on March 29, 2023 in Docket No. 22-43-EL.

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk Docket 22-43-EL – 2023 Renewable Energy Standard Procurement Plan December 1, 2023 Page 2 of 2

As indicated above, the REC Procurement Summary consists of a summary (redacted in the public version) and eight (8) exhibits as follows:

- Exhibit 1 Calculation of Requested RECs (1 page) (redacted in public version)
- Exhibit 2 Summary of Bids Received (1 page) (redacted in public version)
- Exhibit 3 Analysis of New Renewable REC Bids Bid Stack (1 page)
- Exhibit 4 Analysis of Existing Renewable REC Bids Bid Stack (1 page) (redacted in public version)
- Exhibit 5 Summary of Winning Bids (1 page) (redacted in public version)
- Exhibit 6 REC Procurement Plan Status (1 page) (redacted in public version)
- Exhibit 7 GIS Certificate Statistics Reports (1 page)
- Exhibit 8 New England Tier 1 RPS Obligations (1 page)

Thank you for your attention to this filing. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 401-784-4263.

Sincerely,

Cont & m

Andrew S. Marcaccio

Enclosures

cc: Docket No. 22-43-EL Service List John Bell (w/confidential attachments)

#### STATE OF RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In Re: 2023 Renewable Energy Standard Procurement Plan Renewable Energy Certificate Procurement Summary

Docket No. 22-43-EL

### MOTION OF THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A RHODE ISLAND ENERGY FOR PROTECTIVE TREATMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (the "Company") hereby respectfully requests that the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") grant protection from public disclosure certain confidential information submitted by the Company in the above referenced docket. The reasons for the protective treatment are set forth herein. The Company also requests that, pending entry of that finding, the PUC preliminarily grant the Company's request for confidential treatment pursuant to 810-RICR-00-00-1.3(H)(2).<sup>1</sup>

The records that are the subject of this Motion that require protective treatment from public disclosure are portions of and exhibits of the Company's Renewable Energy Certificate Procurement Summary ("REC Procurement Summary") which was filed by the Company on December 1, 2023 in the above-referenced docket. Specifically, portions of the REC Procurement Summary and Exhibits 1 (Calculation of Requested RECs), 2 (Summary of Bids Received), 4 (Analysis of Existing Renewable REC Bids Bid Stack), 5 (Summary of Winning Bids), and 6 (REC Procurement Plan Status) contain confidential and privileged information (referred to herein as the "Confidential RES Procurement Records"). The Company requests protective

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The PUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure are codified as 810-RICR-00-00-1.

treatment of the Confidential LRS Procurement Records in accordance with 810-RICR-00-00-1.3(H) and R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-2-(4)(B).

#### I. LEGAL STANDARD

For matters before the PUC, a claim for protective treatment of information is governed by the policy underlying the Access to Public Records Act ("APRA"), R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-1 et seq. See 810-RICR-00-00-1.3(H)(1). Under APRA, any record received or maintained by a state or local governmental agency in connection with the transaction of official business is considered public unless such record falls into one of the exemptions specifically identified by APRA. See R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 38-2-3(a) and 38-2-2(4). Therefore, if a record provided to the PUC falls within one of the designated APRA exemptions, the PUC is authorized to deem such record confidential and withhold it from public disclosure.

### II. BASIS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

The Confidential RES Procurement Records that are the subject of this Motion are exempt from public disclosure pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-2(4)(B) as "[t]rade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person, firm, or corporation that is of a privileged or confidential nature." The Rhode Island Supreme Court has held that this confidential information exemption applies where the disclosure of information is likely either (1) to impair the government's ability to obtain necessary information in the future; or (2) to cause substantial harm to the competitive position of the person from whom the information was obtained. *Providence Journal v. Convention Center Authority*, 774 A.2d 40 (R.I. 2001). The first prong of the test is satisfied when information is provided to the governmental agency and that information is of a kind that would customarily not be released to the public by the person from whom it was obtained. *Providence Journal*, 774 A.2d at 47. In this case, the Company would not customarily release this information to the public. The submission of the Confidential RES Procurement Records to the PUC is needed to comply with the Company's 2023 RES Procurement Plan. The 2023 RES Procurement Plan was approved by the PUC in Docket No. 22-43-EL at an Open Meeting on March 29, 2023. Accordingly, the Company is providing the Confidential RES Procurement Records to fulfill its regulatory responsibilities in connection with its energy procurement responsibilities.

In addition, the release of the Confidential RES Procurement Records is likely to cause harm to the competitive position of the Company. The Confidential RES Procurement Records contain commercially sensitive market information, the disclosure of which could negatively impact the Company's customers who receive revenue from Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs"), as well as the Company's ability to negotiate competitive terms regarding RECs. Furthermore, this information is the type of information that the PUC has historically recognized as proprietary information.

#### **III. CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the Company respectfully requests that the PUC grant this motion for protective treatment of the Confidential RES Procurement Records.

Respectfully submitted,

RHODE ISLAND ENERGY By its attorney,

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Andrew S. Marcaccio (#8168) Rhode Island Energy 280 Melrose Street Providence, RI 02907 (401) 784-4263

Dated: December 1, 2023

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on December 1, 2023, I delivered a true copy of the foregoing Motion via electronic mail to the parties on the Service List for Docket No. 22-43-EL.

Joanne M. Scanlon

# THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY

## RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE NOVEMBER 2023 PROCUREMENT SUMMARY

FOR THE OBLIGATION YEAR 2023

#### 1. RFP Issued

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Narragansett or the Company) issued its Request for Proposals (RFP) to Provide NEPOOL-GIS Certificates in compliance with the Rhode Island Renewable Energy Standard (RES)<sup>1</sup> on November 21, 2023, directly to the renewable generators who have filed their renewable energy applications for certification with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and organizations that have expressed interest in receiving RFPs from Narragansett.

The RFP was also posted on an energy supply website. As a result, the RFP had wide distribution throughout the New England energy supply marketplace.

The procurement was conducted in accordance with the Company's 2023 Renewable Energy Standard Procurement Plan filed on November 2, 2022 (approved March 29, 2023) with the PUC and in compliance with the RES.

The RFP sought a specified quantity of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) that comply with the RES to satisfy a portion of Narragansett's Last Resort Service (LRS) RES Obligations for the calendar year 2023.

The quantity of RECs specified in the 2023 RES Procurement Plan was updated to include reconciled load data for January through August, initial load data for September and October and estimated load data for November and December 2023. A calculation of the quantities of RECs requested is provided in Exhibit 1.

## 2. Key RFP Dates

The RFP was issued on November 21, 2023.

Pricing was received on November 28, 2023, from

A summary of the bids received is found in Exhibit 2.

The respondents were informed of awards on November 28, 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> R.I.G.L. § 39-26-1, et seq., Renewable Energy Standard.

## 3. Contract Submissions

The bidders stated they would execute contracts substantially similar to the standard Certificate Purchase Agreement.

## 4. Award of New Renewable RECs

Narragansett did not seek proposals to purchase New Renewable RECs in this RFP.

## 5. Award of Existing Renewable RECs

provided offers to sell RECs from Existing renewable resources in this RFP.

Exhibit 4 provides an analysis and graphical summary of the bids received ranked by bid price. As shown in Exhibit 4, the RFP process selected the bids that provided the lowest cost up to the quantity required and did not perform any adjustment for non-price benefits.

## 6. Summary of Award

On November 28, 2023, Narragansett shared the REC received in this RFP with the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers and the Office of Energy Resources.

Exhibit 5 is an RFP award summary by REC type. Narragansett expects to purchase a total of

The

following is a summary of the RECs procured in this RFP.

REC Type	Vintage	Quantity	Average Price
Existing	2023		

## 7. Procurement Process Analysis

Narragansett did not solicit 2023 New RECs. The Company estimates it has procured **and** of the New RECs needed to meet its estimate of the 2023 New REC obligation (**and** from RECs provided by Long-Term Contracts<sup>2</sup> and the Renewable Energy (RE) Growth Program and **and** from banked certificates).

Narragansett did not solicit 2024 New RECs. The Company estimates it will receive from of the New RECs needed to meet its estimate of the 2024 New REC obligation (from RECs provided by Long-Term Contracts and the RE Growth Program and an estimated from banked certificates). The Company may sell its surplus 2024 New RECs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Contracts entered to comply with the Long-Term Contracting Standards for Renewable Energy Act and the Distributed Generation Standards Contract Act.

Narragansett received offers for the entire requested 2023 Existing RECs in this RFP. The Company estimates it has procured **setup** of the Existing RECs needed to meet its estimate of the 2023 Existing REC obligation (**setup** from previous purchases and **setup** from this RFP).

Narragansett did not solicit 2024 Existing RECs. The Company estimates it has procured of the Existing RECs needed to meet its estimate of the 2024 Existing REC obligation.

Exhibit 6 is a graphical summary of:

- the number of RECs procured in this RFP;
- the number of RECs procured prior to the RFP (previous RFPs, additional purchases and RECs banked from the previous compliance year);
- RECs forecasted to be provided via Long-Term Contracts and the RE Growth Program; and
- the estimated balance of RECs that must be procured to satisfy the RES obligations.

Exhibit 7 summarizes the number of RI RES compliant RECs created within the NEPOOL Generator Information System (GIS) for 2023 Q1 and Q2, as well as for 2019 through 2022.

Exhibit 8 lists the Tier 1 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS) obligation percentages in the New England states. RPS eligibility requirements in some states are very similar which allows certain RECs to be qualified to satisfy RPS obligations in multiple states. These classes are often referred to as Tier 1 RECs. These RECs are the most widely traded in the region and often have similar prices.

Since the last RES Procurement Summary filing on May 2, 2023, Narragansett has not accepted any offers from environmental brokers for 2023 RI RECs

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## EXHIBIT 1 CALCULATION OF REQUESTED RECs

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## EXHIBIT 2 SUMMARY OF BIDS RECEIVED

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## EXHIBIT 3 ANALYSIS OF NEW RENEWABLE REC BIDS <u>BID STACK</u>

Narragansett did not solicit 2023 New certificates.

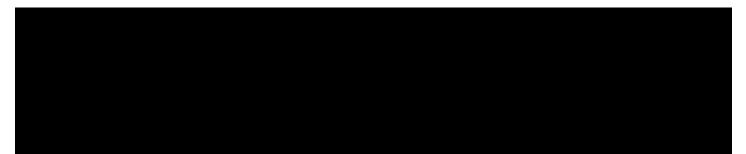
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## EXHIBIT 4 ANALYSIS OF EXISTING RENEWABLE REC BIDS <u>BID STACK</u>



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## EXHIBIT 5 SUMMARY OF WINNING BIDS



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## EXHIBIT 6 REC PROCUREMENT PLAN STATUS



400,287

1,679,003

EXISTING

2020 Q4

## EXHIBIT 7 GIS CERTIFICATE STATISTICS REPORTS

Ou ortor	RI RES	# Contificato o	RI RES	# Contification
Quarter	•	Certificates	Quarter Eligible	Certificates
2019 Q1	NEW	1,642,171	2019 Q1 EXISTING	5 599,213
2019 Q2	NEW	1,470,381	2019 Q2 EXISTING	594,195
2019 Q3	NEW	1,311,667	2019 Q3 EXISTING	218,863
2019 Q4	NEW	1,869,247	2019 Q4 EXISTING	6 477,727
		6,293,466		1,889,998
	RI RES	#	RI RES	#
Quarter	Eligible	Certificates	Quarter Eligible	Certificates
2020 Q1	NEW	1,848,471	2020 Q1 EXISTING	584,379
2020 Q2	NEW	1,736,566	2020 Q2 EXISTING	<b>498,703</b>
2020 Q3	NEW	1,382,306	2020 Q3 EXISTING	<b>195,634</b>

	RI RES	#	RI RES	#
Quarter	Eligible	Certificates	Quarter Eligible	Certificates
2021 Q1	NEW	1,877,983	2021 Q1 EXISTING	460,633
2021 Q2	NEW	1,729,256	2021 Q2 EXISTING	378,039
2021 Q3	NEW	1,360,151	2021 Q3 EXISTING	263,932
2021 Q4	NEW	1,876,197	2021 Q4 EXISTING	374,531
		6,843,587		1,477,135

2020 Q4

NEW

1,938,071

6,905,414

Quarter   Elig     2022 Q1   Ni     2022 Q2   Ni	RES   #     gible   Certificates     EW   2,034,215     EW   1,924,671     EW   1,580,191	RI RES Quarter Eligible 2022 Q1 EXISTING 2022 Q2 EXISTING 2022 Q3 EXISTING	# Certificates 442,062 438,645 214,400
2022 Q4 N	EW 2,042,818 7,581,895	2022 Q4 EXISTING	452,695 <b>1,547,802</b>

			Year Over	Year Over					Year Over	Year Over
	RI RES	#	Year	Year			RI RES	#	Year	Year
Quarter	Eligible	Certificates	Change	Change %		Quarter	Eligible	Certificates	Change	Change %
2023 Q1	NEW	1,985,148	(49,067)	-2%	vs 2022 Q1	2023 Q1	EXISTING	585,483	143,421	32%
2023 Q2	NEW	1,950,514	25,843	1%	vs 2022 Q2	2023 Q2	EXISTING	495,198	56,553	13%
2023 Q3	NEW			0%	vs 2022 Q3	2023 Q3	EXISTING			0%
2023 Q4	NEW			0%	vs 2022 Q4	2023 Q4	EXISTING			0%
2023 TOTAL		3,935,662	(23,224)	-0.6%	vs total 2022	2023 TOTAL		1,080,681	199,974	22.7%

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	RI*	MA**	MA-CES***	NH****	ME****	СТ
2010	2.50%	5.00%	0.00%	1.00%	3.00%	7.00%
2011	3.50%	6.00%	0.00%	2.00%	4.00%	8.00%
2012	4.50%	7.00%	0.00%	3.00%	5.00%	9.00%
2013	5.50%	8.00%	0.00%	3.80%	6.00%	10.00%
2014	6.50%	9.00%	0.00%	4.60%	7.00%	11.00%
2015	6.50%	10.00%	0.00%	5.40%	8.00%	12.50%
2016	8.00%	11.00%	0.00%	5.60%	9.00%	14.00%
2017	9.50%	12.00%	0.00%	6.80%	10.00%	15.50%
2018	11.00%	13.00%	3.00%	7.50%	10.00%	17.00%
2019	12.50%	14.00%	4.00%	8.20%	10.00%	19.50%
2020	14.00%	16.00%	4.00%	8.90%	12.50%	21.00%
2021	15.50%	18.00%	4.00%	9.60%	15.00%	22.50%
2022	17.00%	20.00%	4.00%	10.30%	18.00%	24.00%
2023	21.00%	22.00%	4.00%	11.00%	21.00%	26.00%
2024	26.00%	24.00%	4.00%	11.90%	25.00%	28.00%
2025	32.00%	27.00%	3.00%	12.80%	29.00%	30.00%

## EXHIBIT 8 <u>NEW ENGLAND TIER 1 RPS OBLIGATIONS</u>

\* 2015 % for RI changed to reflect RI PUC decision to delay the RES increase for 2015 by one year as a result of the information provided in PUC Docket 4404 - Review into the Adequacy of Renewable Energy Supplies

\*\* Includes the Solar Carve-Out SREC I and SREC II Minimum Standards

\*\*\* The MA Clean Energy Standard utilizes a MA Class I REC or a Clean Energy Certificate that does not meet MA Class I requirements.

\*\*\*\* Reflects Thermal Energy reduction beginning in 2014

\*\*\*\*\* Total includes Class I and Class IA resource portfolio requirements.

### Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the cover letter and any materials accompanying this certificate was 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.

Joanne M. Scanlon

December 1, 2023 Date

## Docket No. 22-43-EL - Rhode Island Energy – 2023 Renewable Energy Standard (RES) Procurement Plan Service List updated 2/27/2023

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