

State of Rhode Island

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on May 2, 2024

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held May 2, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets.

In attendance: Chairman Ronald Gerwatowski, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Cynthia Wilson Frias, Todd Bianco, Alan Nault, Christopher Caramello, Theodore Smith and Luly Massaro.

- I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Docket No. 24-11-RM – Implementation of a Renewable Energy Standard 810-RICR-40-05-2** – In this docket the Commission promulgated rules to amend regulations entitled “Implementation of a Renewable Energy Standard” to reflect the statutory changes enacted on June 27, 2022 (2022 P.L. Ch. 218). The proposed amendment changes the annual percentages of renewable energy required to achieve a 100% renewable energy standard by 2033 to comply with the statute. Other amendments include administrative changes to provide clarification and is updated to reflect actual practice. The Commission conducted a hearing on April 11, 2024. The date for filing written comments was April 24, 2024. No comments were received. After review, Commissioner Anthony moved to adopt the proposed rules. Chairman Gerwatowski seconded the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.** Commission Counsel stated that the rules will take effect 20 days after filing with the Secretary of State.
- III. **Docket No. RES-24-14 – 90 Royal Little Providence RI Solar LLC (Applicant)** – The Applicant filed for eligibility of the 90 Royal Little Providence RI Solar LLC Generation Unit as a New Renewable Energy Resource. The facility has not yet achieved commercial operation. PUC consultant recommended conditional approval. Commissioner Anthony moved to accept the PUC’s consultant recommendation. Chairman Gerwatowski seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**
- IV. **Docket No. 2472 - Sprint Communications (Company)** – The Company reported that it has no customers in Rhode Island (as of September 30, 2023) and requested withdrawal of their registration to conduct business. Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the Company’s request. Chairman Gerwatowski seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**
- V. **Docket No. 23-44-REG - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy and Rhode Island Distributed Generation Board** - This docket relates

to the PUC's review of proposals by Rhode Island Energy and the Rhode Island Distributed Generation Board (DG Board) for the Renewable Energy Growth Program (RE Growth) Years 2024 through 2026. On April 30, 2024, Rhode Island Energy submitted a Compliance Filing in accordance with the PUC's directive at Open Meeting held April 29, 2024. After review of the Compliance Filing, the following votes were taken:

- (1) Page 4 of 22 of Solicitation and Enrollment Rules for Solar Greater than 25 kW, Commissioner Anthony moved to add clarifying language to reflect that parties may request changes to ceiling prices for 2025 or 2026 at the time the DG Board proposes new annual allocations and/or at the time they propose small solar ceiling prices to the Commission. The paragraph will read as follows:

When the DG Board proposes new annual allocations and/or Small Solar ceiling prices to the Commission, any party may request that the prices be adjusted through participation in the Commission's regulatory process, but an adjustment will be made only if the evidence shows that the established prices will not result in the statutorily required "reasonable rate of return." The party proposing the adjustment, either up or down, will bear the burden of proof and any proposed changes to ceiling prices are subject to regulatory review and approval.

Chairman Gerwatowski seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

- (2) Commissioner Anthony moved to add to the end of Note 1 on page 23 of the Solicitation and Enrollment Rules for Solar Greater than 25 kW (allocation table) "subject to potential reduction (see Note 2)." The note will read as follows:

Note 1: Schedule 1 will be updated as required for each enrollment period via the Rhode Island Renewable Energy Growth Program website. Total enrollment target inclusive of small-scale solar (not shown in this table) is 107.5 MW DC subject to potential reduction (see Note 2).

Chairman Gerwatowski seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 2-0.**

- (3) Commissioner Anthony moved to direct the Company to: **(1)** delete the language in Section 2.1.6 of the Rhode Island Renewable Energy Growth Program Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules for Solar (Greater than 25 kW), Wind, Hydro and Anaerobic Digester Projects that references a letter of credit being permitted as a performance guarantee deposit; and **(2)** delete the language in Section 3(a) of the Renewable Energy Growth Program Tariff for Non-Residential Customers referencing the Letter of Credit and to delete the references to the Letter of Credit in Sections 3(b), 3(c) and 3(e) of the Tariff.

Chairman Gerwatowski seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.
Vote 2-0.

- VI. There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Gerwatowski adjourned the Open Meeting at 11:12 A.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussions can be accessed at <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/133576398>.