

**State of Rhode Island**

**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held on May 9, 2024**

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held May 9, 2024 at 1:00 P.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, Commissioner John Revens, Cynthia Wilson Frias, Todd Bianco, Alan Nault, Theodore Smith and Luly Massaro.

I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. A quorum was present.

II. **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 submitted 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. The Commission considered Rhode Island Energy’s Compliance Filing submitted May 2, 2024. Finding that Rhode Island Energy’s Compliance Filing dated May 2, 2024 is properly reflective of the PUC’s Open Meeting decision, Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the Compliance Filing. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

III. **Docket No. 23-50-EL - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy** – In this docket, Rhode Island Energy’s submitted for approval a Revised Request for Proposal (RFP) for Long-Term Contracts for Renewable Energy Projects to be used to solicit proposals from renewable energy developers in accordance with Rhode Island Gen. Laws § 39-26.1-1 et seq. and PUC’s Rules and Regulations Governing Long-Term Contracting Standards for Renewable Energy (LTCS), 810-RICR-40-05-1. The Revised RFP includes changes to the timetable and method for solicitation and execution of long-term contracts for renewable energy and renewable energy credits and related attributes (RECs) with a nameplate capacity of at least 20 megawatts (MW) and up to 150 MW of newly developed renewable energy resources.

After review of the record, Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the RFP as reflected in the revision filed on May 8, 2024. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

IV. **Docket No. 4770 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy** – In this docket, the Commission approved an Amended Settlement Agreement (ASA) on August 24, 2018 relating to the last rate case filed by Narragansett Electric (when it was owned by National Grid). The ASA requires the Company to comply with

certain reporting requirements pursuant to Article II, Sections C.12.f and C.13.d of the ASA. On April 26, 2024, Rhode Island Energy filed a Motion for Relief from Quarterly Reporting Requirements for the Gas Business Enablement Program and Cyber Security and Information Technology Modernization Programs. The Company requests relief from the Reporting Requirements because (i) changed circumstances have made the Reporting Requirements unnecessary; (ii) the Reporting Requirements provide no meaningful new information to the PUC and the Division; and (iii) the PUC and the Division already receive any pertinent information that might otherwise have been provided through the Reporting. The Division notified that it has reviewed Rhode Island Energy's Motions and has no objections.

After consideration, Commissioner Anthony moved to grant Rhode Island Energy's Motion for Relief from Quarterly Reporting Requirements for the Gas Business Enablement Program and Cyber Security and Information Technology Modernization Programs. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- V. **Docket No. RES-24-16 – Caterpillar Hill Road Solar (Applicant)** - The Applicant filed for eligibility of the Caterpillar Hill Road Solar Generation Unit as a New Renewable Energy Resource. The facility is located in Sargentville, Maine. The Applicant also filed a request for a waiver from the PUC's currently effective Implementation of a Renewable Energy Standard Regulation 810-RICR-40-05-2.6(H), to allow the net metering facility to qualify as an eligible renewable energy facility.

In 2022, amendments to the RES law eliminated the requirement that customer-sited generation facilities must be located in Rhode Island in order to qualify as an eligible renewable energy resource under the RES. The PUC has commenced the process to promulgate to amend the RES Rules. On April 12, 2024, the PUC issued a notice to solicit comments through May 1, 2024 on the applicant's waiver request. No comments were received. The PUC consultant recommended approval of the application. After review, the following motions were taken:

- 1) Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the applicant's waiver request. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- 2) Commissioner Anthony moved to accept the PUC consultant's recommendation to approve the application for eligibility as a Renewable Energy Resource. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VI. **Consent Agenda** – All items listed within the Consent Agenda are considered routine by Commission and will ordinarily be enacted by one motion. There is no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Commission requests, in which event the item will be removed for separate consideration later on the agenda. The following agenda included applications for eligibility as a Renewable Energy Resource. The PUC voted to adopt the PUC's consultant recommendation to approve the applications, as noted in the table below:

Docket #	Applicant	Filing
RES-23-01	Sunnova Energy International Inc.	Application to add 985 customer sited Generation Units to its Sunnova – Rhode Island Aggregation Application for eligibility as New Renewable Energy Resources. The generation units are located in RI, have achieved operations and have a total combined capacity of 5.716 MW AC (7.166 DC MW DC). PUC consultant recommends approval.
RES-24-15	Admiral Packaging Inc.	Application for eligibility of the Admiral Packaging, Inc. Generation Unit, a 0.1332 MW AC (0.16193 MW DC) solar energy facility located in Providence, RI. PUC consultant recommends approval.

After review, Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda and Commissioner Revens seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VII.** There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Gerwatowski adjourned the Open Meeting at 1:08 P.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussions can be accessed at <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/133599140>.