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August 16, 2024

VIA HAND DELIVERY AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Stephanie De La Rosa, Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

**RE: Docket No. 23-38-EL – The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a
Rhode Island Energy’s Petition for Acceleration of a System Modification
Due to Distributed Generation Project
Weaver Hill Projects
Rhode Island Energy Reply Legal Brief**

Dear Ms. De La Rosa:

On behalf of The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (the “Company”), enclosed please find the Company’s reply legal brief in the above-referenced docket.

Thank you for your attention to this filing. If you have any questions, please contact me at 401-784-4263.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew S. Marcaccio".

Andrew S. Marcaccio

Enclosures

cc: Docket 23-38-EL Service List

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a)	
Rhode Island Energy Petition for Acceleration)	
Of a System Modification Due to a Distributed)	Docket No. 23-37-EL
Generation Project (Tiverton))	
)	

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a)	
Rhode Island Energy Petition for Acceleration)	
Of a System Modification Due to a Distributed)	Docket No. 23-38-EL
Generation Project (Nooseneck))	
)	

REPLY BRIEF OF
THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY
D/B/A RHODE ISLAND ENERGY

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (the “Company”), Green Development LLC (“Green”), Revity Energy LLC (“Revity”), and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) filed post-hearing briefs in accordance with the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) instructions on the Company’s Petitions submitted pursuant to 810 RICR-00-00-1.11(A). Each Petition seeks findings by and approvals from the Commission pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.3-4.1 (the “Interconnection Statute”) and Section 5.4 of RIPUC No. 2258 entitled The Narragansett Electric Company Standards for Connecting Distributed Generation (“Interconnection Tariff”).

In their post-hearing briefs, the Division recommends the Commission not approve the Petitions claiming they are not in compliance with the Interconnection Statute and Interconnection

Tariff.¹ Revity and Green recommend the Commission approve the Petitions because they are legally entitled to reimbursement for the Accelerated System Modifications installed by Green and Revity.²

For the reasons stated below, the Commission should reject the Division's argument that the Petitions should be rejected. The Petitions present the very type of mutually beneficial cost sharing between ratepayers and distributed generation ("DG") developers contemplated by the Interconnection Statute and should be approved as such.³

I. ARGUMENT

A. The Term "System Modification" Should Be Given Plain and Ordinary Meaning.

The Division asserts the Interconnection Statute is clear and unambiguous and urges the Commission to interpret the Interconnection Statute narrowly. The Division alleges that because the General Assembly is presumed to be knowledgeable of all relevant law when enacting a statute, the General Assembly must have intended to use the definition of "System Modification" from the Interconnection Tariff when it used term "system modification" in the Interconnection Statute.⁴

If the language of a statute is clear and unambiguous, it is given its plain and ordinary meaning. Freepoint Solar LLC v. Richmond Zoning Board of Review, 274 A.3d 1, 6 (2022) citing City of Woonsocket V. RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, 251 A.3d 495, 500 (R.I. 2021). The Rhode Island Supreme Court has found this to be "particularly true where the Legislature has not defined

¹ Division In. Br. at 7-8, 23.

² Green In. Br. at 2, 3; Revity In. Br. at 2.

³ The Company is not replying herein to each and every issue or point raised by the intervenors in their initial briefs. The Company's silence on any point made or issue raised should not be construed as support for the intervenor's perspective on that issue.

⁴ Division In. Br. at 7.

or qualified the words used within the statute.” Freepoint Solar quoting Drs. Pass and Bertherman, Inc. v. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, 31 A.3d 1263, 1269 (R.I. 2011) quoting D’Amico v. Johnston Partners, 866 A.2d 1222, 1224 (R.I. 2005)).

The Company agrees the Interconnection Statute is clear and unambiguous and thus “system modification” should be given the plain and ordinary meaning. However, the “plain and ordinary meaning” of system modification is not the technical Interconnection Tariff-defined term as asserted by the Division. Rather, the “plain and ordinary” meaning is the literal meaning of the words and their common usage.

The Division asserts the General Assembly used “System Modification” in the sense of the defined term in the Interconnection Tariff. However, the General Assembly did not intend for the legislation to be read in such a narrow way as the Division is arguing. In the public law enacting the provisions debated here, the General Assembly included a legislative explanation which stated, “[t]his act would prohibit electrical distribution companies from charging an interconnecting renewable energy customer for system modifications that are not directly related to the interconnection, except accelerated modifications for which the developer is repaid when the modification would have otherwise been made.”⁵ See Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 for a copies of P.L. 2017, ch. 112 and P.L. 2017, ch. 176, respectively, for the legislative explanation.

If the General Assembly was strictly using the Interconnection Tariff-defined term of “System Modification,” the General Assembly explanation would have stated the Company could only charge interconnecting customers for “System Modifications.” Moreover, the second clause

⁵ P.L. 2017, ch. 112, §2; P.L. 2017, ch. 176, §2 (emphasis added).

of that sentence acknowledges interconnecting customers can be charged for “accelerated modifications” which implies there is a separate class of modifications. Clearly, the General Assembly did not intend to use the narrow “System Modification” term used by the Division. Rather, the General Assembly intended to use system modification in the more common, ordinary sense.

Further, since the General Assembly has not defined the term in the Interconnection Statute, the Rhode Island Supreme Court has found that the plain and ordinary meaning must be used even more so when the General Assembly has not defined or qualified the words within the statute. Drs. Pass and Bertherman, Inc. v. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, 31 A.3d 1263, 1269 (R.I. 2011) (quoting D'Amico v. Johnston Partners, 866 A.2d 1222, 1224 (R.I. 2005) (“[t]his is particularly true where the Legislature has not defined or qualified the words used within the statute.”). The General Assembly has done neither in the Interconnection Statute. Accordingly, the Commission should read “system modification” in the Interconnection Statute in the general, plain and ordinary sense of the word.

B. The Commission Has Authority to Interpret the Interconnection Statute Liberally.

While the Company asserts the Interconnection Statute is clear and unambiguous as to the use of system modifications, if the Commission determines there is ambiguity in the Interconnection Statute, it has the authority to interpret the Interconnection Statute liberally. As noted by the Division, the Interconnection Statute must be read holistically and “individual sections must be considered in the context of the entire statutory scheme, not as if each section

were independent of all other sections.”⁶ The Company agrees with the Division on this point; the Interconnection Statute must be read and considered in its entirety.

When Section 39-26.3-4.1 is read in the context of the entire Interconnection Statute, it is clear the General Assembly did not intend to give the same narrow reading the Division asserts it did. To give context, the stated Interconnection Statute policy objective can be generally summarized as the expeditious interconnection of renewable DG is in the public interest and the Interconnection Statute sets forth standards and other provisions to facilitate the interconnections.⁷ And, the Interconnection Statute also states, “[t]his chapter shall be construed liberally in aid of its policy objective.”⁸

Therefore, even if the Commission determines some ambiguity exists because “system modification” can have more than one reasonable interpretation, the Commission has the authority to interpret the statute. See Labor Ready Northeast, Inc. v. McConaghy, 849 A.2d 340, 344-345 (R.I. 2004) quoting In re Lallo, 768 A.2d at 926 (“the provisions of a statute are unclear or subject to more than one reasonable interpretation, the construction given by the agency charged with its enforcement is entitled to weight and deference as long as that construction is not clearly erroneous or unauthorized”). Indeed, this is true even when other reasonable constructions of the statute are possible. Id. citing Pawtucket Power Associates Limited Partnership v. City of Pawtucket, 622 A.2d 452, 456–57 (R.I.1993) “[D]eference will be accorded to an administrative agency when it

⁶ Division In. Br. at 17 quoting In Re Brown, 903 A.2d 147, 149 (R.I. 2006).

⁷ R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.3-1 (The general assembly hereby finds and declares that the expeditious completion of the application process for renewable distributed generation is in the public interest. For this reason, certain standards and other provisions for the processing of applications are hereby set forth to assure that the application process assists in the development of renewable generation resources in a timely manner.)

⁸ R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.3-5

interprets a statute whose administration and enforcement have been entrusted to the agency * * * even when the agency's interpretation is not the only permissible interpretation that could be applied.”).

Moreover, the Commission has the authority to interpret the Interconnection Statute liberally in aid of the policy objective. As noted throughout these proceedings, allowing DG developers to self-build may allow for cheaper and quicker interconnections to the electric power system.⁹ Moreover, Accelerated System Modifications may provide the benefit of lower costs and, at times, more efficient spending.¹⁰ The Company’s interpretation of the Interconnection Statute and Tariff provide for a more equitable approach and further the public policy objective of the Interconnection Statute. Accordingly, the Commission should approve the Petitions.

II. CONCLUSION

The Interconnection Statute contemplates mutually beneficial cost sharing proposals such as those included in the instant Petitions. Moreover, as necessary, the Commission has the authority to liberally interpret the Interconnection Statute in support of the public policy objective. An equitable interpretation of the Interconnection Statute and Interconnection Tariff support the stated public policy objective. The Company respectfully requests the Commission approve the Petitions, as addressed in the Company’s Initial Brief.

⁹ Tr. at 27, lns 4-10 (June 4, 2024); Tr. at 31, lns. 2-6 (June 6, 2024)

¹⁰ Tr. at 245-246, lns 22-4 (June 4, 2024)(Mr. Constable: “Just because, again, we've talked about this multiple cases, when you open up a road, you only really get one chance to open up that road if you're thinking about economics and an efficient electric system at all. Right? And so when you open up the road, you're always going to put in multiple ducts.”); Tr. at 51, lns. 1-16 (June 6, 2024).

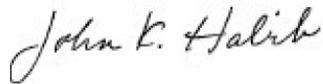
Respectfully submitted,

**The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a Rhode Island Energy**

By its attorneys,



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Boston, MA 02110
(617) 951-1400

Dated: August 16, 2024

2017 -- S 0637 SUBSTITUTE A

LC001675/SUB A/2

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

PUBLIC LAWS
CHAPTER
17-112
COMM. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
LAW REVISION OFFICE

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Seveney, Miller, Satchell, and Kettle

Date Introduced: March 29, 2017

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-26.3-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-26.3 entitled
2 "Distributed Generation Interconnection" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-26.3-2. Definitions.**

4 The following terms shall have the meanings given below for purposes of this chapter:

5 (1) "Applicant" means an electric distribution customer or distributed generation
6 developer who submits an application to the electric distribution company for the installation of a
7 renewable distributed generation interconnection to the distribution system for a renewable
8 distributed generation project that, as contemplated, meets the eligibility requirements for net
9 metering contained within title 39 or the eligibility requirements for a standard contract contained
10 within title 39.

11 (2) "Impact study" means an engineering study that includes an estimate of the cost of
12 interconnecting to the distribution system that would be assessed on the applicant for an
13 interconnection that is based on an engineering study of the details of the proposed generation
14 project. Such estimate generally will have a probability of accuracy of plus or minus twenty five
15 percent (25%). Such an estimate may be relied upon by the applicant for purposes of determining
16 the expected cost of interconnection, but the distribution company may not be held liable or
17 responsible if the actual costs exceed the estimate as long as the estimate was provided in good
18 faith and the interconnection was implemented prudently by the electric distribution company.

19 (3) "Impact study fee" means a fee that shall be charged to the applicant to obtain an

1 impact study as specified in § 39-26.2-4 of this chapter.

2 (4) "Feasibility study" means a high-level project assessment that includes an estimate of
3 the cost of interconnecting to the distribution system that would be assessed on the applicant for
4 an interconnection. Such estimate is not based on any engineering study, but is based on past
5 experience and judgment of the electric distribution company, taking into account the information
6 in the application, the location of the interconnection, and general knowledge of the distribution
7 and transmission system. Such estimate cannot be relied upon by the applicant for purposes of
8 holding the electric distribution company liable or responsible for its accuracy as long as the
9 electric distribution company has provided the estimate in good faith. The feasibility study
10 estimate shall be a range within which the electric distribution company believes the
11 interconnection costs are likely to be and shall include a disclaimer that explains the nature of the
12 estimate.

13 (5) "Feasibility study fee" means a fee that shall be charged to the applicant to obtain a
14 feasibility study as specified in § 39-26.2-4 of this chapter.

15 (6) "Renewable energy resource" means those resources set forth in §39-26-5.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 39-26.3 of the General Laws entitled "Distributed Generation
17 Interconnection" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

18 **39-26.3-4.1. Interconnection standards.**

19 (a) The electric distribution company may only charge an interconnecting renewable
20 energy customer for any system modifications to its electric power system specifically necessary
21 for and directly related to the interconnection.

22 (b) If the public utilities commission determines that a specific system modification
23 benefiting other customers has been accelerated due to an interconnection request, it may order
24 the interconnecting customer to fund the modification subject to repayment of the depreciated
25 value of the modification as of the time the modification would have been necessary as
26 determined by the public utilities commission. Any system modifications benefiting other
27 customers shall be included in rates as determined by the public utilities commission.

28 (c) If an interconnecting renewable energy customer is required to pay for system
29 modifications and a subsequent renewable energy or commercial customer relies on those
30 modifications to connect to the distribution system within ten (10) years of the earlier
31 interconnecting renewable energy customer's payment, the subsequent customer will make a
32 prorated contribution toward the cost of the system modifications which will be credited to the
33 earlier interconnecting renewable energy customer as determined by the public utilities
34 commission.

1 (d) An electric distribution company shall acknowledge to the interconnecting renewable
2 energy customer receipt of an application to initiate the interconnection process within three (3)
3 business days of receipt. The electric distribution company shall notify the interconnecting
4 renewable energy customer in writing within ten (10) business days of receipt that the application
5 is or is not complete and, if not, advise what is missing. Any disputes regarding whether and
6 when an application to initiate the interconnection process is complete shall be resolved
7 expeditiously at the public utilities commission. The maximum time allowed between the date of
8 the completed application and delivery of an executable interconnection service agreement shall
9 be one hundred seventy-five (175) calendar days or two hundred (200) calendar days if a detailed
10 study is required. All electric distribution company system modifications must be completed by
11 the date which is the later of: (1) No longer than two hundred seventy (270) calendar days, or
12 three hundred sixty (360) calendar days if substation work is necessary, from the date of the
13 electric distribution company's receipt of the interconnecting renewable energy customer's
14 executed interconnection service agreement; or (2) The interconnecting renewable energy
15 customer's agreed upon extension of the time between the execution of the interconnection
16 services agreement and interconnection as set forth in writing. All deadlines herein are subject to
17 all payments being made in accordance with the distributed generation interconnection tariff on
18 file with the public utilities commission and the interconnection service agreement. These system
19 modification deadlines cannot be extended due to customer delays in providing required
20 information, all of which must be requested and obtained before completion of the impact study.
21 The deadlines for completion of system modifications will be extended only to the extent of
22 events that are clearly not under the control of the electric distribution company, such as extended
23 prohibitive weather, union work stoppage or force majeure, or third party delays, including,
24 without limitation, delays due to ISO-NE requirements not attributable to electric distribution
25 company actions, and which cannot be resolved despite commercially reasonable efforts. The
26 electric distribution company shall notify the customer of the start of any claimed deadline
27 extension as soon as practicable, its cause and when it concludes, all in writing. Any actual
28 damages that a court of competent jurisdiction orders the electric distribution company to pay to
29 an interconnecting renewable energy customer as a direct result of the electric distribution
30 company's failure to comply with the requirements of this subsection shall be payable by its
31 shareholders and may not be recovered from customers, provided that the total amount of
32 damages awarded for any and all such claims shall not exceed, in the aggregate, an amount equal
33 to the amount of the incentive the electric distribution company would have earned as provided
34 for in §§39-26.6-12(j)(3) and 39-26.1-4 in the year in which the system modifications were

1 required to be completed. In no event shall the electric distribution company be liable to the
2 interconnecting renewable energy customer for any indirect, incidental, special, consequential, or
3 punitive damages of any kind whatsoever as a result of the electric distribution company's failure
4 to comply with this section.

5 (e) On or before September 1, 2017, the public utilities commission shall initiate a docket
6 to establish metrics for the electric distribution company's performance in meeting the time
7 frames set forth herein and in the distributed generation interconnection standards approved by
8 the public utilities commission. The public utilities commission may include incentives and
9 penalties in the performance metrics.

10 (f) The proposed interconnection of any new renewable energy resource that replaces the
11 same existing renewable energy resource of the same or less nameplate capacity that has been in
12 operation in the twelve (12) months preceding notification of such replacement shall be subject to
13 a sixty (60) day review. The purpose of such sixty (60) day review is to allow the electric
14 distribution company to determine whether any system modifications are required to support the
15 interconnection of the replacement renewable energy resource. If there is a need for system
16 modifications because of an interconnection policy change implemented by the electric
17 distribution company then the system modification may be included in rates as determined by the
18 public utilities commission. If there is a need for system modifications only because of a change
19 in the rating or utility disturbance response that adversely affects the impact of the facility on the
20 distribution system then the interconnecting renewable energy customer shall be responsible for
21 the cost of the system modifications

22 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC001675/SUB A/2
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

1 This act would prohibit electrical distribution companies from charging an
2 interconnecting renewable energy customer for system modifications that are not directly related
3 to the interconnection, except accelerated modifications for which the developer is repaid when
4 the modification would have otherwise been made. It would require that any system
5 modifications be completed no later than fourteen (14) calendar months from the effective date of
6 the interconnecting renewable energy customer's interconnection service agreement subject to all
7 payments being made in accordance with the interconnection service agreement, or the renewable
8 energy customer's agreed upon expected interconnection date as set forth in the executed
9 interconnection service agreement and full payment for all required system modifications. The act
10 would enable replacement of a renewable energy resource with limitations on study time and
11 system modification costs.

12 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC001675/SUB A/2
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EX
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PUBLIC LAWS
CHAPTER
17-112

2017 -- S 0637
SUBSTITUTE A

7 COMM. LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
LAW REVISION OFFICE

H-

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

LC001675/SUB A/2

Presented by

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Received JUN 28 2017
APPROVED
JUN 30 2017 GOVERNOR

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES...
6-20-17
THE COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS
RECOMMEND THE PASSAGE IN CON-
CURRENCE
OF THE WITHIN BILL
5-0637 SUB A/2
FOR THE COMMITTEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
RECEIVED AND ORDERED
TO BE PLACED UPON THE
JUN 24 2017
CONSENT CALENDAR
Clerk

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
READ & PASSED IN CONCURRENCE
JUN 27 2017
Clerk

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSMITTED TO THE
GOVERNOR
JUN 28 2017
Recording Clerk

SENATE
JUNE 7 2017
THE COMMITTEE ON
NIMMENT AND AGRICULTURE
RECOMMENDS THE PASSAGE OF
SUBSTITUTE A/2
INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT
OF THE ORIGINAL BILL
FOR THE COMMITTEE

THE SENATE
be placed upon the
CALENDAR
JUN 08 2017
Reading Clerk

THE SENATE
AND PASSED
JUN 14 2017
Reading Clerk

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
READ & PASSED IN CONCURRENCE
JUN 15 2017
Clerk

2017 -- H 5483 SUBSTITUTE B

LC000960/SUB B

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

PUBLIC LAWS
CHAPTER

17-176

JT. COMM. LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
LAW REVISION OFFICE

Introduced By: Representatives Marshall, Regunberg, Ruggiero, McKiernan, and
Handy

Date Introduced: February 15, 2017

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-26.3-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-26.3 entitled
2 "Distributed Generation Interconnection" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-26.3-2. Definitions.**

4 The following terms shall have the meanings given below for purposes of this chapter:

5 (1) "Applicant" means an electric distribution customer or distributed generation
6 developer who submits an application to the electric distribution company for the installation of a
7 renewable distributed generation interconnection to the distribution system for a renewable
8 distributed generation project that, as contemplated, meets the eligibility requirements for net
9 metering contained within title 39 or the eligibility requirements for a standard contract contained
10 within title 39.

11 (2) "Impact study" means an engineering study that includes an estimate of the cost of
12 interconnecting to the distribution system that would be assessed on the applicant for an
13 interconnection that is based on an engineering study of the details of the proposed generation
14 project. Such estimate generally will have a probability of accuracy of plus or minus twenty five
15 percent (25%). Such an estimate may be relied upon by the applicant for purposes of determining
16 the expected cost of interconnection, but the distribution company may not be held liable or
17 responsible if the actual costs exceed the estimate as long as the estimate was provided in good
18 faith and the interconnection was implemented prudently by the electric distribution company.

19 (3) "Impact study fee" means a fee that shall be charged to the applicant to obtain an

1 impact study as specified in § 39-26.2-4 of this chapter.

2 (4) "Feasibility study" means a high-level project assessment that includes an estimate of
3 the cost of interconnecting to the distribution system that would be assessed on the applicant for
4 an interconnection. Such estimate is not based on any engineering study, but is based on past
5 experience and judgment of the electric distribution company, taking into account the information
6 in the application, the location of the interconnection, and general knowledge of the distribution
7 and transmission system. Such estimate cannot be relied upon by the applicant for purposes of
8 holding the electric distribution company liable or responsible for its accuracy as long as the
9 electric distribution company has provided the estimate in good faith. The feasibility study
10 estimate shall be a range within which the electric distribution company believes the
11 interconnection costs are likely to be and shall include a disclaimer that explains the nature of the
12 estimate.

13 (5) "Feasibility study fee" means a fee that shall be charged to the applicant to obtain a
14 feasibility study as specified in § 39-26.2-4 of this chapter.

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16 SECTION 2. Chapter 39-26.3 of the General Laws entitled "Distributed Generation
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18 **39-26.3-4.1. Interconnection standards.**

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20 energy customer for any system modifications to its electric power system specifically necessary
21 for and directly related to the interconnection.

22 (b) If the public utilities commission determines that a specific system modification
23 benefiting other customers has been accelerated due to an interconnection request, it may order
24 the interconnecting customer to fund the modification subject to repayment of the depreciated
25 value of the modification as of the time the modification would have been necessary as
26 determined by the public utilities commission. Any system modifications benefiting other
27 customers shall be included in rates as determined by the public utilities commission.

28 (c) If an interconnecting renewable energy customer is required to pay for system
29 modifications and a subsequent renewable energy or commercial customer relies on those
30 modifications to connect to the distribution system within ten (10) years of the earlier
31 interconnecting renewable energy customer's payment, the subsequent customer will make a
32 prorated contribution toward the cost of the system modifications which will be credited to the
33 earlier interconnecting renewable energy customer as determined by the public utilities
34 commission.

1 (d) An electric distribution company shall acknowledge to the interconnecting renewable
2 energy customer receipt of an application to initiate the interconnection process within three (3)
3 business days of receipt. The electric distribution company shall notify the interconnecting
4 renewable energy customer in writing within ten (10) business days of receipt that the application
5 is or is not complete and, if not, advise what is missing. Any disputes regarding whether and
6 when an application to initiate the interconnection process is complete shall be resolved
7 expeditiously at the public utilities commission. The maximum time allowed between the date of
8 the completed application and delivery of an executable interconnection service agreement shall
9 be one hundred seventy-five (175) calendar days or two hundred (200) calendar days if a detailed
10 study is required. All electric distribution company system modifications must be completed by
11 the date which is the later of: (1) No longer than two hundred seventy (270) calendar days, or
12 three hundred sixty (360) calendar days if substation work is necessary, from the date of the
13 electric distribution company's receipt of the interconnecting renewable energy customer's
14 executed interconnection service agreement; or (2) The interconnecting renewable energy
15 customer's agreed upon extension of the time between the execution of the interconnection
16 services agreement and interconnection as set forth in writing. All deadlines herein are subject to
17 all payments being made in accordance with the distributed generation interconnection tariff on
18 file with the public utilities commission and the interconnection service agreement. These system
19 modification deadlines cannot be extended due to customer delays in providing required
20 information, all of which must be requested and obtained before completion of the impact study.
21 The deadlines for completion of system modifications will be extended only to the extent of
22 events that are clearly not under the control of the electric distribution company, such as extended
23 prohibitive weather, union work stoppage or force majeure, or third party delays, including,
24 without limitation, delays due to ISO-NE requirements not attributable to electric distribution
25 company actions, and which cannot be resolved despite commercially reasonable efforts. The
26 electric distribution company shall notify the customer of the start of any claimed deadline
27 extension as soon as practicable, its cause and when it concludes, all in writing. Any actual
28 damages that a court of competent jurisdiction orders the electric distribution company to pay to
29 an interconnecting renewable energy customer as a direct result of the electric distribution
30 company's failure to comply with the requirements of this subsection shall be payable by its
31 shareholders and may not be recovered from customers, provided that the total amount of
32 damages awarded for any and all such claims shall not exceed, in the aggregate, an amount equal
33 to the amount of the incentive the electric distribution company would have earned as provided
34 for in §§39-26.6-12(j)(3) and 39-26.1-4 in the year in which the system modifications were

1 required to be completed. In no event shall the electric distribution company be liable to the
2 interconnecting renewable energy customer for any indirect, incidental, special, consequential, or
3 punitive damages of any kind whatsoever as a result of the electric distribution company's failure
4 to comply with this section.

5 (e) On or before September 1, 2017, the public utilities commission shall initiate a docket
6 to establish metrics for the electric distribution company's performance in meeting the time
7 frames set forth herein and in the distributed generation interconnection standards approved by
8 the public utilities commission. The public utilities commission may include incentives and
9 penalties in the performance metrics.

10 (f) The proposed interconnection of any new renewable energy resource that replaces the
11 same existing renewable energy resource of the same or less nameplate capacity that has been in
12 operation in the twelve (12) months preceding notification of such replacement shall be subject to
13 a sixty (60) day review. The purpose of such sixty (60) day review is to allow the electric
14 distribution company to determine whether any system modifications are required to support the
15 interconnection of the replacement renewable energy resource. If there is a need for system
16 modifications because of an interconnection policy change implemented by the electric
17 distribution company then the system modification may be included in rates as determined by the
18 public utilities commission. If there is a need for system modifications only because of a change
19 in the rating or utility disturbance response that adversely affects the impact of the facility on the
20 distribution system then the interconnecting renewable energy customer shall be responsible for
21 the cost of the system modifications

22 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC000960/SUB B
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

1 This act would prohibit electrical distribution companies from charging an
2 interconnecting renewable energy customer for system modifications that are not directly related
3 to the interconnection, except accelerated modifications for which the developer is repaid when
4 the modification would have otherwise been made. It would require that any system
5 modifications be completed no later than fourteen (14) calendar months from the effective date of
6 the interconnecting renewable energy customer's interconnection service agreement subject to all
7 payments being made in accordance with the interconnection service agreement, or the renewable
8 energy customer's agreed upon expected interconnection date as set forth in the executed
9 interconnection service agreement and full payment for all required system modifications. The act
10 would enable replacement of a renewable energy resource with limitations on study time and
11 system modification costs.

12 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC000960/SUB B
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PUBLIC LAWS
CHAPTER
17-176
JT. COMM. LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
LAW REVISION OFFICE

2017 -- H 5483
SUBSTITUTE B

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

LC000960/SUB B

Presented by

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| 14. | GOVERNOR |
| 15. | JUN 28 2017 |
| 16. | Recording Clerk |
| 17. | 35. |
| 18. | 36. |

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JUN 24 2017
CALENDAR
James P. McCabe Clerk

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
READ & PASSED UNCONCURRENCE
JUN 26 2017
James P. McCabe Clerk

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSIMITED TO THE
GOVERNOR
JUN 28 2017
Quanda H. McElroy
Recording Clerk

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
JUN 28 2017
Received
APPROVED
JUN 30 2017

IN THE SENATE
JUNE 14, 2017
THE COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE
RECOMMENDS THE PASSAGE OF
THE BILL MARKED H 5483 SUBSTITUTE B
AND THE INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT
OF THE ORIGINAL BILL
AND THE BILL MARKED SUB. A
M. Susan Alexander
FOR THE COMMITTEE

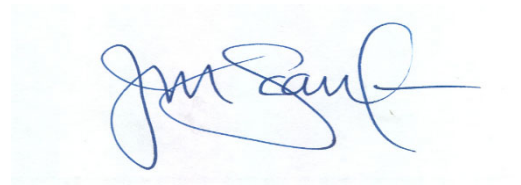
IN THE SENATE
Ordered to be placed upon the
CONSENT CALENDAR
JUN 20 2017
Reading Clerk

IN THE SENATE
READ AND PASSED
JUN 21 2017
Reading Clerk

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON
CORPORATIONS
JUN 22 2017
James P. McCabe Clerk

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.



Joanne M. Scanlon

August 16, 2024

Date

Docket No. 23-38-EL Rhode Island Energy – Petition for Acceleration Due to DG Project – Weaver Hill Projects Service List updated 8/5/2024

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