



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888
(401) 941-4500
(401) 941-9248 - Fax

**To: Stephanie De La Rosa, Commission Clerk
Public Utilities Commission**

**From: Alfred Contente, Utility Analyst
Division of Public Utilities & Carriers**

Date: January 21, 2025

**Re: Docket No. 25-02-EL The Block Island Utility District – Net Metering Tariff Advice
Filing**

On January 8, 2025, The Block Island Utility District ("BIUD") filed with the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") proposed amendments to its net metering tariff. The proposed amendments seek to 1) amend the title of the tariff from "Block Island Utility District Net Metering Tariff" to "Block Island Utility District Net Metering Avoided Cost / Feed In Tariff; 2) increase the maximum aggregate amount of net metering from the existing cap of 10% of BIUD's most recent annual peak load to a higher cap of 15% of BIUD's most recent annual peak load; and 3) adjust maximum allowable capacity of any one project from "10% of the remaining net metering capacity at the time the application is submitted" to "30 kW, based on nameplate capacity.

In Docket 5192 - BIUD Terms and Conditions for Net Metering, Jeffery Wright, BIUD President, provided testimony in support increasing the maximum aggregate amount of net metering from the pre-existing cap of 3% of BIUD's peak load to a higher cap of 10% of BIUD's peak load. In his testimony, Mr. Wright expressed his concerns with high penetration of solar on the island during low load periods, system stability when disconnected from the undersea cable and served by on-island diesel generation, and the inability to back-feed excess power to the mainland when connected to the undersea cable. The DPUC issued a set of data requests to BIUD on January 15, 2025, and BIUD provided responses on January 17, 2025. In response to DIV 1-5, BIUD explained that increasing the net metering cap as proposed in the current docket would not pose a risk of back feeding or instability when connected to the undersea cable based on BIUD's recent lowest load period. In addition, BIUD explained that it is prepared to curtail solar generation to maintain system stability when disconnected from the cable and operating on diesel generators during light

load periods. Based on BIUD's responses, the Division does not object to the proposed increase to the net metering cap.

Division Recommendations

After careful review, the Division finds that BIUD's request is reasonable and recommends that the Commission approve the proposed amendments to BIUD's net metering tariff.