
State of Rhode Island

Public Utilities Commission**Minutes of Open Meeting Held on November 21, 2024**

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held November 21, 2024, at 10:00 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, Commissioner John Revens, Patricia Lucarelli, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Todd Bianco, John Harrington, Alan Nault, Theodore Smith, Christopher Caramello and Stephanie De La Rosa.

- I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Approval of Minutes of Open Meetings** – Chairman Gerwatowski noted that minor edits were made to the Minutes of Open Meetings held on October 1, 2024 and October 22, 2024. Copies of the revised minutes were dispersed to all, no further discussion was needed. Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the minutes of Open Meetings held on October 1, 2024 and October 22, 2024. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 4237 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Company)** – The Commission took up this docket related to the Commission’s investigation of stray and contact voltage occurring in the Company’s territory. The Company filed its 2024 Contact Voltage Annual Report on September 5, 2024 and subsequently filed a correction to page 26 of the report on September 24, 2024. The Division submitted a summary of its review of the Company’s filing, comments and recommendations to adopt. The Commission reviewed the record and ruled on the Company’s compliance report.

After discussion, Commissioner Anthony moved that (1) the Company shall continue the testing schedule for completing 20% of the designated Contact Voltage Risk Areas in FY 2025; (2) the Company shall continue its current process for conducting mobile surveys; (3) the Company shall monitor IEEE Standard P1695 and inform the Commission and Division of any changes or other actions involving P1695; (4) the Company shall perform post-mitigation testing on company owned assets by manually testing the areas where previous remediation work was completed after the prior year’s mobile survey; (5) the Company shall develop a comparison of results from the same DCVRA between new results and prior results for the DCVRA once the current vendor using the advanced technology has completed all five 20 percent area assessments so comparable data was being used;

(6) the Company shall notify municipalities that own streetlights of the increasing trend in mobile events and that a mobile event has been detected on one of its assets by certified mail, return receipt requested and copied to the Commission and the Division; (7) the Company shall notify the Commission and the Division if a municipality does not respond to the written notification of the detection of a mobile event(s); and (8) the Company shall conduct future testing in February and reporting shall be by August of each year. Commissioner Revens seconded the motions. The motions were unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- IV. Docket Nos. 4770 and 22-56-EL - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Company)** – The Commission next took up this docket, upon the Company’s October 23, 2024 filing requesting the Commission issue an order affirming that it has complied with its obligation to file a Grid Modernization Plan (GMP) pursuant to Article II, Section C.15.b of the Amended Settlement Agreement (“ASA”) approved by the Commission at its Open Meeting on August 24, 2018, in Docket Nos. 4770 and 47801 and to make a finding that the GMP filed in Docket No 22-56-EL complies with the PUC’s Order No. 23823, thereby satisfying the Company’s obligation thereunder. At this Open Meeting the Commission reviewed the filing and voted.

Commissioner Anthony moved the Company has satisfied its obligation to file a Grid Modernization Plan (GMP) that complies with the ASA. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- V. Docket No. 23-44-REG - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Company)** – The Commission next took up this docket, upon the Company’s selection of six (6) commercial scale and large-scale solar projects in the Third Enrollment Renewable Energy Growth Program Open Enrollment. The Company requested approval of the Certificates of Eligibility (COE) for these projects. At this Open Meeting the Commission voted on the Company’s request.

Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the Company’s request for approval of the Certificates of Eligibility (COE). Commissioner Revens seconded the motion, The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VI. Docket No. 24-20-EL - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Company)** – The Commission next took up this docket, upon the Company’s 2025 Last Resort Procurement Plan (LRS) submitted on June 4, 2024. The LRS proposal, submitted pursuant to RIGL 39-1- 27.3(c), required the Company to arrange for last resort power supply for customers who are not otherwise receiving electric service from a non-regulated power producer or through Standard Offer Service. The Plan included procurement procedures, pricing options being sought and proposed terms of service for which LRS would be acquired for all customer groups. In 2025 the Company would increase spot market purchases from 10% to 15% and reduce the first two 6-month bid-block of

the 18-month quarterly procurement from 20% to 15%. At this Open Meeting the Commission reviewed the record and voted on the Plan.

Commissioner Anthony moved that the Commission approve the Plan as filed with two modifications: (1) the 2025 Plan will remain in place until January 2027, unless it is modified by the Commission before that time; and (2) the Company must submit its compliance filing by December 13, 2024, specifying the substantive components of the Plan including a quantitative contingency threshold. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VII. Docket No. 24-37-EE - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Company)** – The Commission next took up this docket, upon the Company’s 2025 Gas Demand Response Pilot. The filing was proposed as a system reliability procurement (SRP) investment proposal pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7 and Chapter 5 of the Least Cost Procurement Standards. The proposed budget for the Gas Demand Response Pilot is \$268,042 which amounted to a proposed SRP Factor of \$.015 per Dth effective January 1, 2025. The proposed Gas Demand Response Pilot was a continuation of the current 2024-2026 Gas Demand Response pilot SRP Investment Proposal, and the proposed 2025 budget was the same as the forecasted budget amount for 2024. The Company sought, through the Gas Demand Response Pilot, to provide an annual peak reduction of 2,752 Dth for 2025. The Company is requesting that the PUC approve the Gas Demand Response Pilot effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. At this Open Meeting the Commission reviewed and voted on the proposal.

After discussion, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to grant the Company’s motion for Protective Treatment for the Company’s Confidential Response to record requests 1, 2 and 3 along with accompanying attachment. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Revens moved to discontinue the Gas Demand Response Pilot and direct that the remaining funds being returned to the Commercial and Industrial Gas customers be factored into next year’s system benefit charge to go in effect on or about January 1, 2025. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VIII. Docket No. RES-24-39 – Public Utilities Commission (Company)** – The Commission next took up this docket, upon the Commission’s Renewable Energy Standard Review of Competitive Supply Contracts Pursuant to R.I. Gen Laws § 39-26-4(f). The Commission solicited public comments to address certain legal and policy issues that arose with respect to to compliance year 2023. At this Open Meeting the Commission considered the public comments and discussed whether any further review would be conducted with respect to competitive energy supply contracts executed between June 27, 2022 and June 30, 2022.

After discussion the Commissioners agreed no further review was required and thus no motion was necessary.

- IX. Consent Agenda** – All items listed within the Consent Agenda are to be considered routine by the Commission and are ordinarily 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 in the agenda. As noted below, the agenda includes applications for eligibility as a Renewable Energy Resource and PUC consultant's recommendation on the applications.

X.

Docket #	Applicant	Filing
RES-24-36	WSD Coventry, LLC	Application for eligibility of the WSD Coventry, LLC Generation Unit, a 4.975 MW AC (5.741 MW DC) solar energy facility located in Coventry, Rhode Island. PUC consultant recommends conditional approval.
RES-24-37	Green Power Farms, LLC	Application for eligibility of the Tomlinson Wind Generation Unit, a .09 MW AC solar energy facility located in Wardsboro, Vermont. PUC consultant recommends approval.
RES-24-38	REC Properties	Application for eligibility of the REC Properties Solar Generation Unit, a 0.175 MW AC (0.24887 MW DC) solar energy facility located in Bristol, Rhode Island. PUC consultant recommends conditional approval.
RES-24-40	TPE RI WA1, LLC	Application for eligibility of the TPE Warren Solar Generation Unit, a 6.93 MW AC (9.37305 MW DC) solar energy facility located in Warren, Rhode Island. This application was combined with Docket No. RES-24-21, as they share a NEPOOL GIS ID. PUC consultant recommends approval.

After review, no further discussion was needed. Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Revens seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- XI.** Chairman Gerwatowski adjourned the Open Meeting at 10:23 A.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussions can be accessed at <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/134095730>