

Celia B. O'Brien
Associate General Counsel
PPL Services Corporation
COBrien@pplweb.com

280 Melrose Street
Providence, RI 02907
Phone 401-578-2700



June 5, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND HAND DELIVERY

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

**RE: Docket No. 2509 – Storm Contingency Fund
March 7, 2025 Storm Summary Report**

Dear Ms. De La Rosa:

In accordance with Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) Order No. 15360 (August 19, 1997) and paragraph 4(a) of the Joint Proposal and Settlement in Lieu of Comments Submitted by The Narragansett Electric Company¹ and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (the “Settlement”) approved by the PUC in Docket No. 2509, I have attached one original and eight copies of Rhode Island Energy’s summary report on the planning and restoration activities associated with the March 7, 2025 storm, which likely will qualify for inclusion in the Company’s Storm Contingency Fund. Paragraph 4(b) of the Settlement requires the Company to file with the PUC within 90 days after the storm a report providing a description of the storm along with a summary of the extent of the damage to the Company’s system, including the number of outages and length of outages.

The Company will file with the PUC a supplemental report detailing the incremental restoration costs caused by the March 7, 2025 storm once the Company accumulates the total costs and completes a final accounting of storm costs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 401-578-2700.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Celia B. O'Brien".

Celia B. O'Brien

Attachment

cc: Docket No. 2509 Service List

¹ The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (“Rhode Island Energy” or the “Company”).

Rhode Island Energy

The Narragansett Electric Company

Report on March 7, 2025, Event Damage Assessment and Service Restoration Efforts

June 5, 2025

Docket No. 2509

Submitted to:
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission

Submitted by:



Rhode Island Energy™

a PPL company

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**REPORT ON BEHALF OF
THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A RHODE ISLAND ENERGY
ON MARCH 7, 2025, STORM DAMAGE, ASSESSMENT AND SERVICE RESTORATION
EFFORTS**

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (“Rhode Island Energy” or the “Company”) presents the following report on the planning and restoration activities associated with the March 7, 2025, storm response (the “Storm”), which impacted Rhode Island and other states in the Northeast. For pre-planning purposes, the Company classified the Storm as a Rhode Island Energy Type 4 emergency event, meaning that the Company estimated that restoration activities generally would be accomplished within a 24-hour period and the event typically would result in up to seven percent of customers interrupted at peak. The Storm was projected as a short duration event bringing strong winds and wind gusts across the state that immediately followed another system that brought strong winds and thunderstorms across the state. These factors could potentially cause damage to the Company’s electric infrastructure. The Storm interrupted power to 15,673 (approximately 8,597 at peak) of the Company’s customers. Overall, 3.05 percent of the Company’s customers in Rhode Island experienced outages, with 34 of the 38 communities served in Rhode Island impacted.

The Company began monitoring the Storm on the morning of Sunday, March 2, 2025, as initial weather forecasts identified a potentially strong wind system approaching from the northwest closely following another system of rain and strong winds. The event was expected to impact much of New England, but considerable uncertainty remained in determining the top wind speeds with additional uncertainty on the impacts to Rhode Island specifically. The Company continued to review the weather forecasts and monitor for the possibility that the Storm would damage the Company’s electric distribution system.

The Company began preparing for the Storm on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., by conducting an Operations Planning Call, during which the Company reviewed the weather forecast and began preparing for the possibility that the Storm would impact the Company’s electric distribution system. The Company held four Situational Updates: one on the morning of March 7, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., the second in the afternoon of March 7, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., the third the morning of March 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. and the fourth on the evening of March 8, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. As part of its response to the Storm, the Company opened the Storm and Wires Down Rooms in Providence at approximately 6:00 a.m. on Friday, March 7, 2025.

The Company followed its Emergency Response Plan and mobilized employees and contractors for the restoration using a damage forecast based on its experience in previous storms. As part of its response efforts, the Company also utilized contractors from outside the Company’s service territory to help with restoration. Using its own crews and contractor resources, the Company restored power to 100 percent of its customers impacted in approximately 39 hours from the time of the first customer outage. From the time of peak customers impacted, the Company restored 95 percent of the outages in ten hours. Power was restored to the final customer impacted by the Storm on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at approximately 3:35 p.m.

The Company is grateful for the support of customers, employees, state and local officials, and public safety officials, who experienced the effects of the Storm and were an integral part of the Company’s restoration efforts.

II. INCIDENT ANTICIPATION

A. Determination of Incident Classification

As set forth in the Company’s Emergency Response Plan, factors considered in initially establishing or revising the expected incident classification level included the following:

- Expected number of customers without service;
- Expected duration of the restoration event;
- Recommendations of the Operations Section Chief, Transmission and Distribution Control Centers, and other key staff;
- Current operational situation (such as number of outages, resources, and supplies);
- Current weather conditions;
- Damage appraisals;
- Forecasted weather conditions;
- Restoration priorities;
- Forecasted resource requirements; and
- Forecasted scheduling and pace of restoration work crews.

The Incident Commander is primarily responsible for establishing the projected and actual incident classification level for the Storm. See Table 1 below for Incident Classification Actions.

Table 1. Incident Classification Actions

Action Performed	Date and Time
Incident Commander Named	March 7, 2025; approx. 9:30 a.m.
Initial Event Classification Type – 4	March 7, 2025; approx. 9:30 a.m.

B. Activation of Incident Command System

The Company utilizes the Incident Command System (“ICS”), a component of the National Incident Management System, which is a comprehensive national approach to incident management applicable at all levels of the Company’s Emergency Response Organization (“ERO”) and addresses the operation of Company Emergency Operation Centers (“EOCs”). The ERO required to implement the emergency procedures is activated employing a flexible and standardized management structure. Upon declaration of an emergency, the required EOCs are staffed accordingly. Briefings are conducted with the ERO to maintain situational awareness and relay the specifics of the emergency. See Table 2 below for the Storm ICS Actions.

Table 2. ICS Actions

Actions Performed	Date and Time
Operations Planning Call #1	March 6, 2025; approx. 9:00 a.m.
Storm Room opened in Providence	March 7, 2025; approx. 6:00 a.m.
Wires Down Room opened in Providence	March 7, 2025; approx. 6:00 a.m.
Situational Awareness Update #1	March 7, 2025; approx. 9:30 a.m.
Situational Awareness Update #2	March 7, 2025; approx. 4:00 p.m.
Situational Awareness Update #3	March 8, 2025; approx. 9:00 a.m.
Situational Awareness Update #4	March 8, 2025; approx. 4:00 p.m.

C. Determination of Crew Needs and Pre-Staging

Given the potential of the Storm and forecast of strong winds, closely following a previous event that also brought strong winds to the area with widespread thunderstorms across the State, the Company prepared to utilize internal crews in advance and its contractors of choice to support any restoration efforts as part of its preparation for the Storm and secured outside contractors also to support restoration efforts to the Storm consistent with its Emergency Response Plan. The Company also activated a Staging Site at Twin River in Lincoln for this event.

See Appendix B for a daily accounting of resource staffing levels from pre-event through complete restoration. Appendix B indicates the number, type, and location of planned resources and the number, type, and location of actual resources secured. Appendix B also specifies whether the resources are internal, external contractors, or resources acquired through a mutual assistance agreement.

III. THE STORM AND ITS IMPACT

A. Forecast

The Company began monitoring the Storm on the morning of Sunday, March 2, 2025, as initial weather forecasts identified a potentially strong wind system approaching from the northwest that followed another system that had also brought strong winds and thunderstorms across the State. The event was expected to impact much of the East Coast with substantial impacts to New England overall. These initial forecasts highlighted the potential for strong to locally damaging northwest wind gusts and the path of the event.

On the morning of Thursday, March 6, 2025, the forecast remained consistent that damaging winds had the potential to impact Rhode Island throughout the day Friday, March 7, 2025, and into early Saturday, March 8, 2025. Average wind gusts to the state were predicted to be between 45-55 mph with potential maximum gusts up to 60 mph.

During the early morning of March 7, 2025, the forecasts remained consistent for the potential risk for strong winds. Also, the sustained wind gusts were forecasted to be up to 50 mph for the duration of the overnight hours. As a result, the Company continued to monitor the region and completed the final efforts to prepare for the oncoming weather event with plans to respond to any internal incidents and be ready to support other utilities should the need arise.

B. Impact

Ultimately, the Storm was a short duration weather event that resulted in minor damage that impacted areas across the state with no significant damage. Peak wind gusts were generally in the 45-55 mph range, with Providence experiencing a peak gust of 55 mph. The Town of Richmond was affected most heavily with approximately 70 percent of customers impacted by the event. See Table 3 below for the Storm impact.

Table 3. Storm Impact

Total Customers Impacted	15,673
Peak Customers Impacted	8,597
Date and Time of Peak	March 7, 2025; 10:12 a.m.
Date and Time Final Customer Was Restored	March 8, 2025; 3:35 p.m.
Number of Municipalities That Experienced Interruptions	34
Number of Distribution Feeders That Experienced Interruptions	73

Figure 1 below shows the number of customers interrupted and restored, by hour, for the period of March 7- 8, 2025.

Figure 1

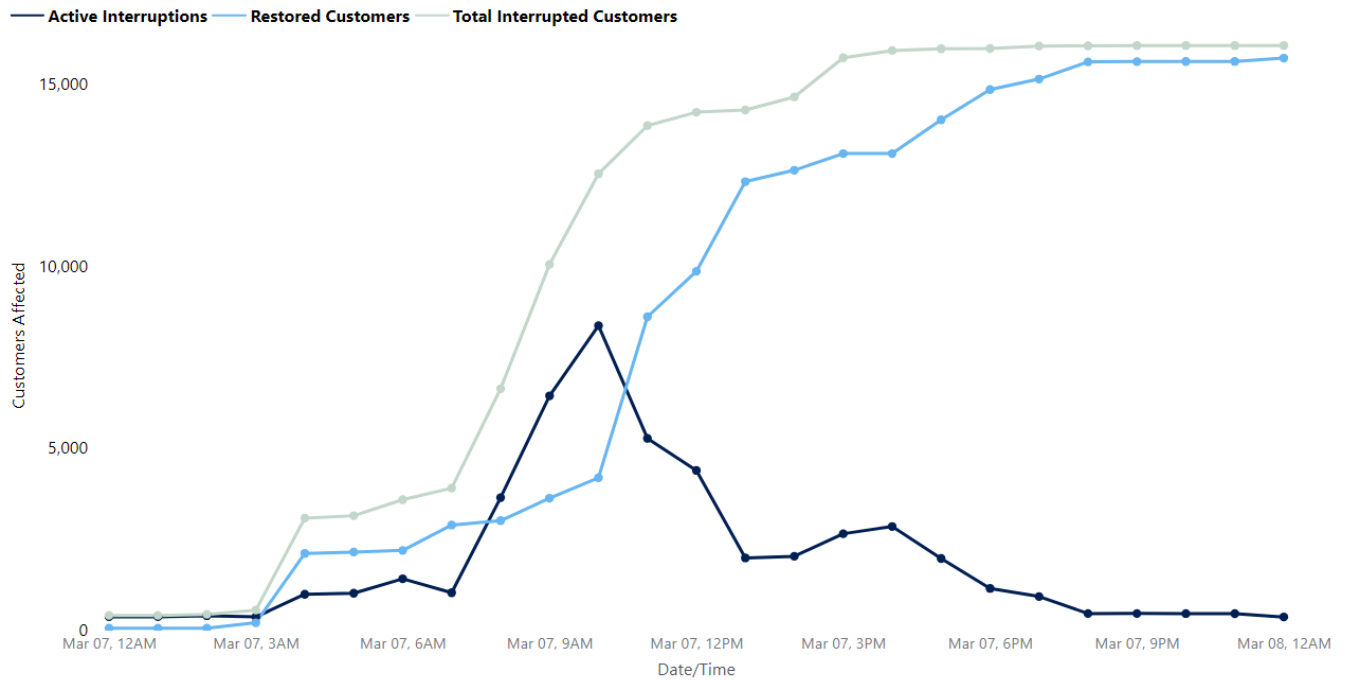


Figure 2 below shows all municipalities that experienced interruptions during the Storm.

Figure 2

Town	Customers Served	Total Customers Interrupted	% Of Total
BURRILLVILLE	2,697	221	8.19%
CENTRAL FALLS	7,729	1	0.01%
CHARLESTOWN	6,041	454	7.52%
COVENTRY	16,294	246	1.51%
CRANSTON	36,394	1	0.00%
CUMBERLAND	15,993	66	0.41%
EAST GREENWICH	6,547	24	0.37%
EAST PROVIDENCE	23,457	3,572	15.23%
EXETER	3,177	263	8.28%
FOSTER	2,116	144	6.81%
GLOCESTER	4,830	95	1.97%
HOPKINTON	4,073	664	16.30%
JAMESTOWN	3,406	75	2.20%
JOHNSTON	14,118	193	1.37%
LINCOLN	10,564	3	0.03%
LITTLE COMPTON	2,629	209	7.95%
MIDDLETOWN	8,532	20	0.23%
NARRAGANSETT	10,688	7	0.07%
NEWPORT	15,103	14	0.09%
NORTH KINGSTOWN	14,382	8	0.06%
NORTH PROVIDENCE	16,425	50	0.30%
NORTH SMITHFIELD	6,039	1,653	27.37%
PORTSMOUTH	9,454	1	0.01%
PROVIDENCE	78,794	112	0.14%
RICHMOND	3,712	2,596	69.94%
SCITUATE	4,800	297	6.19%
SMITHFIELD	9,210	112	1.22%
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	15,203	1,432	9.42%
TIVERTON	8,337	1	0.01%
WARREN	6,224	66	1.06%
WARWICK	41,321	80	0.19%
WEST GREENWICH	2,946	114	3.87%
WESTERLY	14,812	470	3.17%
WOONSOCKET	19,472	1,852	9.51%

The following sections contain additional details and context regarding the Company's Storm restoration efforts.

IV. RESTORATION

A. Timing and Priority of Service

The Company implemented the system of prioritization for restoration found in its Emergency Response Plan, focusing first on public safety and then on customer interruptions that maximized restoration when lines were energized. The Company gave priority and consideration to critical facilities and concentrated efforts to restore service to any life support customers the Company was aware of who were impacted by the Storm as quickly as conditions warranted.

See Appendix C for a timeline of the storm progression, including the hour and date that constitutes the start of restoration and the hour and date that constitutes complete restoration. The hourly chronological restoration assessment in this appendix includes the number of customers out (in executable format) for the Company's Capital and Coastal regions, the total system, and each feeder affected.

See Appendix D for a summary of number of customer outages at peak and customer outage minutes, by cause, for the Company's Capital and Coastal regions.

See Appendix E for a specific list of all outages, in executable format, that includes detailed information for each outage. Also included in Appendix E is a listing of all outages caused by tree conditions as well as data regarding asset replacements for this event.

B. Restoration Coordination

The Company dispatched crews to respond to outages from the Storm Room in Providence as soon as it opened (see Table 2 above) through the end of the Storm. Consistent with the Emergency Response Plan, the Company activated Police and Fire Coordinators for the Storm. These employees reported to Storm Room Leads and were responsible for communicating the estimated times of arrival on all police and fire calls, with a standby condition noted. The Company did not deploy Task Force teams for this event and utilized Twin River in Lincoln as Staging Site for this event.

The Company also mobilized the Providence Wires Down Room, with approximately eleven internal wires-down resources available, including wires-down appraisers, cut and clear restoration resources, and stand-by resources.

C. Personnel Resources

As part of its planning process, the Company prepared for a Type 4 event in Rhode Island based on the weather forecasts, resources, and operational situation. The Company's plan remained consistent throughout the Operations Planning Meeting #1 on March 6, 2025, as well as the four Situational Updates held on March 7, 2025, and March 8, 2025, for this event.

The Company secured a total of 164 internal and external field crews¹ to restore power to customers in Rhode Island, consisting of approximately 131 external crews and 33 internal crews. The internal and external field crew numbers included transmission and distribution overhead line, forestry, substation, underground, wires down, and damage assessment personnel.

See Appendix B for a daily accounting of resource staffing levels from pre-event through complete restoration.

The Incident Commander for Rhode Island Energy did not request mutual assistance from companies in the North Atlantic Mutual Assistance Group to support restoration for this event.

D. Safe Work Practices

Safety is always at the forefront of Company operations, including and especially during activities associated with storm restoration. For each storm event, the Incident Command System structures designate a lead position for a Safety, Health, and Environment Officer. Safety messages are delivered on all calls to heighten awareness during preparation and restoration.

As with any storm, the Company assembled a safety team with area responsibilities, established the reporting hierarchy, and prepared and communicated organization charts. The safety team prepared safety notices and delivered them to all Company employees through corporate communications. Safety personnel were deployed to assist in specific geographic areas and delivered on-site safety orientations to Company workers and contractors prior to the start of each day. During the Storm, safety personnel visited work sites to advise Company personnel and contractors of safety issues and best practices. In addition, prior to the start of each new job, the work was reviewed by assigned crews, with a focus on safe working conditions for the specific job. These safety efforts helped the Company experience no injuries during the Storm.

V. COMMUNICATIONS DURING AND AFTER THE EVENT

A. Communication Regarding Estimated Times of Restoration

The Company posted Estimated Times of Restoration (“ETRs”) on its website during the Storm using Outage Central, which provided real time ETR updates approximately every 15 minutes.

As crews were assigned and reported ETR updates based on their actual findings in the field, the Company uploaded the updated ETRs into Outage Central. The Company continued to update ETRs throughout the restoration process as information became available to the Company.

¹ Crews typically include two or three people, although there may be some one-person crews in damage assessment, wires down, distribution line (troubleshooters), and substation personnel. Transmission crews typically include six to ten resources.

B. Intra-Company

The Company began monitoring the weather on Sunday, March 2, 2025, and preparing for the Storm on Thursday, March 6, 2025, closely monitoring weather forecasts and system impacts to other utilities as the Storm approached the northwest. As the weather forecasts developed, the Company held one Operations Planning Call and four Situational Updates to coordinate the needed response from staff and personnel. The Company did not conduct any Briefings for this Storm; therefore, this report does not include Appendix A.

C. Public Officials

During the Storm, the Company's Regulatory and Government Affairs staff did not communicate with the Governor's office or with Rhode Island's legislative leadership leading up to or during the Storm.

During the event, the Company's Regulatory and Government Affairs staff provided updates to the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency ("RIEMA") regarding the Company's storm preparations and restoration efforts. The Company also utilized its RIEMA Liaison to post updates virtually on RIEMA's WebEOC and support as needed.

1. Municipalities

Based on the anticipated impact from this event, the Company was prepared to utilize the Municipal Room and its Area Community Liaison Coordinators to work with each Rhode Island city or town's emergency, Department of Public Works, and/or public officials as a dedicated liaison. The Company's Area Community Liaison Coordinators serve as full-time resources supporting impacted communities and enabled direct communications back into the Company's public information coordinators and operations personnel.

D. Customers

The Company communicated with customers during the Storm through its Customer Contact Center, email, website, and social media. The Company's Customer Contact Center secured additional staffing to respond to incoming life-support calls for those affected by outages, as well as additional staff to support the high call volume.

See Table 5 below for a detailed listing of each method of communication utilized throughout the Storm.

Table 5. Communication Details

Method of Communication	Purpose of Interaction	Level of Interaction
Report Outage/Outage Follow-up		
Number of Customer Calls Received by Customer Service Rep	Customer reports outage or issue	731
Number of Customer Calls Received by Interactive Voice Response (“IVR”)	Customer reports outage or issue	1,888
Number of Customer Calls Received by 21 st Century*	Customer reports outage or issue	N/A
Number of Outbound Calls to Life Support Customers, Type 4 Event or greater	Company notification and follow-up with Life Support Customers impacted by an outage	48
Automated Outage Updates		
Number of Inbound and Outbound Text Messages	Outage notification, update, or update request from customer	6,556
Number of emails sent	Outage notification, update, or update request from customer	8,583
Number of outbound calls made	Outage notification, update, or update request from customer	70
Web and Social Media		
Number of customer hits on Company website during preparation for, and response to, the event	Customers seeking information	107,927
Number of Facebook posts	Company preparation for the event, safety information, restoration updates	0
Number of tweets/re-tweets posted on X (formerly Twitter)	Company preparation for the event, safety information, restoration updates	0

*21st Century was a National Grid USA Service Company, Inc. vendor and has not been replaced since the Transition Services Agreement between National Grid USA Service Company, Inc. and the Company ended.

E. Media

The Company activated its Public Information Officer (“PIO”), along with additional PIO support staff for the Storm. The Company engaged both traditional and social media channels to distribute Storm and safety-related information. The Company’s Strategic Communications Department received one media request for information. Feedback and comments from media outlets and social media were received and monitored regularly, and overall sentiment was generally neutral.

VI. TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

The Company experienced minor technology issues with outage reporting. The Rhode Island Energy website and data tracking are new systems since the August 2024 system cutover and the majority of remaining transition services under the Transition Services Agreement between National Grid USA Service Company, Inc. and the Company ended. The Company worked with the vendor and resolved the issue quickly and efficiently over the course of the event. The issues experienced did not impact the preparation, response, or restoration efforts during the Storm.

VII. CONCLUSION

The Storm impacted the Company's electrical system, resulting in power outages to 15,673 of the Company's customers. The damage was caused primarily by strong winds causing tree failure and tree limbs to make contact with the Company's wires and equipment. The Company followed its Emergency Response Plan and was fully prepared to respond to the Storm, having secured all necessary resources and outside contractors to aid in the restoration effort required for the forecast predicted, and maintained communications with stakeholders through a variety of channels throughout the Storm.

The Company utilized its own distribution line resources and transmission line crews, contractor distribution line crews, and contractor tree crews to restore power to its customers. Power was restored to 95 percent of customers impacted in ten hours from the time of peak impact. The Company restored power to 100 percent of its customers impacted in approximately 39 hours from the time of the first customer impacted and in 29 hours from the time of peak impact. Power was restored to the final customer impacted by the Storm on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at approximately 3:35 p.m.

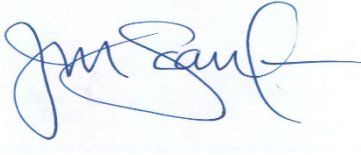
Appendices B-E

Please see the Excel version of Appendices B-E.

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.

The paper copies of this filing are being hand delivered to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and to the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.



Joanne M. Scanlon

June 5, 2025

Date

Docket No. 2509 – The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy Storm Fund – Service List as of 5/19/2025

Name/Address	E-mail	Phone
Rhode Island Energy Celia B. O'Brien, Esq. Rhode Island Energy 280 Melrose St. Providence, RI 02907	COBrien@pplweb.com ;	401-578-2700
	JScanlon@pplweb.com ;	
	SBriggs@pplweb.com ;	
	JOliveira@pplweb.com ;	
	KMSchneider@RIEnergy.com ;	
	JRArsenault@RIEnergy.com ;	
Division of Public Utilities	Margaret.L.Hogan@dpuc.ri.gov ;	401-780-140
	Christy.Hetherington@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	John.bell@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	Joseph.shilling@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	John.R.Harrington@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	leo.wold@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	mark.a.simpkins@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	kyle.j.lynch@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	gregory.schultz@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	linda.george@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	thomas.kogut@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
	Ellen.golde@dpuc.ri.gov ;	
File an original & 7 copies w/: Stephanie De La Rosa, Commission Clerk Public Utilities Commission 89 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI 02888	stephanie.delarosa@puc.ri.gov ;	401-780-2107
	Todd.bianco@puc.ri.gov ;	
	Alan.nault@puc.ri.gov ;	
	Cynthia.WilsonFrias@puc.ri.gov ;	