

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN RE: THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC : DOCKET NO.: 25-21-GE**  
**COMPANY D/B/A RHODE ISLAND ENERGY'S :**  
**REQUEST TO TERMINATE REQUIREMENTS :**  
**RELATED TO EXTENDED PAYMENT PLANS :**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Pursuant to the provisions of Rhode Island General Laws § 39-3-11, as amended, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will conduct a public hearing on **September 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in Hearing Room A at the PUC's offices located at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island. The purpose of this hearing is to accept public comment on The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy's (Company) motion to terminate requirements related to extended payment plans during the COVID-19 emergency. The Company's filing, this notice, and other filings related to this matter can be accessed at the PUC's offices or online at <https://ripuc.ri.gov/Docket-25-21-GE>. This hearing will be held together with hearings on other proposed electric and gas rate changes.

The hearing will be streamed live at <https://video.ibm.com/channel/WqQyXw296dg>. People interested in providing public comment may do so in person, or may participate by Zoom or by calling in, preferably 5-10 minutes prior to the hearing. To participate by Zoom, please click this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82238579671> and you will be given instructions to enter the meeting. If you choose to participate by telephone, you may call 929-205-6099 and enter meeting number 8223 8579 671 followed by the # symbol when prompted. If you are not interested in providing public comment, you may still watch the live stream to observe the hearing and hear others' public comments. Written public comments may be submitted by e-mail to [PUC.PublicComments@puc.ri.gov](mailto:PUC.PublicComments@puc.ri.gov), subject: Extended Payment Plans.

For background, on March 16, 2020, the PUC ordered the Company to offer extended payment plans for residential customers whose service had been terminated or who had a termination date scheduled. A residential customer could participate in an extended payment plan by paying 10% of the unpaid balance upfront, and pay the remaining balance within 18, 24, or 36 months depending on the size of the balance. On July 15, 2020, the Company was required to continue offering extended payment plans to residential customers facing termination, but was also allowed to offer extended payment plans to all residential customers in addition to other flexible and sensible payment options.

On June 19, 2025, the Company filed a motion to terminate requirements related to extended payment plans. If the Company's motion is granted, the Company will stop offering extended payment plans, and instead offer payment plans in accordance with the PUC's Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas and Water Utility Service (Termination Rules), codified at 810-RICR-10-00-1, on a going-forward basis. A residential customer who is now on an extended payment plan will remain so as long as he or she remains current on the plan. The payment plans under the Termination Rules differ between "Standard"

and “Protected Status” customers but generally have larger down payment requirements with shorter repayment timeframes when compared to the extended payment plans.

The Company has stated that it will offer other flexible payment arrangements as it deems appropriate under the circumstances, as well as other customer assistance initiatives, including “budget billing,” the Arrearage Management Program, and other state and federal assistance programs.

The Commission is specifically seeking comment on the following questions:

1. Has the emergency identified in support of offering extended payment plans expired?
2. If the Commission finds that the emergency has expired, should the requirements to offer extended payment plans be terminated on or before December 1, 2025, which is 30 days after the start of the utility termination moratorium period, defined in the Termination Rules as the period from November 1 through April 15 of each year?

Reference is made to chapters 39-1, 39-1, and 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws. The PUC is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Commission Clerk’s office at (401) 780-2107, 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

Stephanie De La Rosa, Commission Clerk  
August 29, 2025