

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD**  
**Potential Natural Gas Moratorium On Aquidneck Island**

The Energy Facility Siting Board will conduct a **public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on August 27, 2025 at the Portsmouth Middle School, Little Theatre Auditorium, 125 Jepson Lane, Portsmouth, RI 02871.**

At the hearing, the Siting Board will be soliciting the views and opinions from the public on the subject of a potential moratorium on new natural gas connections on Aquidneck Island.

This question arises out of Siting Board Docket No. SB-2021-04 relating to Rhode Island Energy's license to seasonally mobilize and operate a liquified natural gas ("LNG") vaporization facility at property located on Old Mill Lane in Portsmouth that was licensed on August 22, 2024. During the hearings, the issue was raised as to whether a moratorium on new gas connections should be a condition of the license to address the gas capacity risks facing the island which risks the facility is designed to address. The premise was that a combination of energy efficiency measures and a moratorium might be a means of reducing the risk of gas outages and eventually lead to the elimination of the need for the LNG vaporization facility on Old Mill Lane. Whether a moratorium and energy efficiency could accomplish this objective remains highly contested. Nevertheless, because residents and businesses on Aquidneck Island would be directly affected should any such initiative be required, the Board determined the need to receive comments directly from the public on the island.

The Board has not made any decision regarding a moratorium, nor has any party made a specific proposal, but the issue remains ripe for consideration, including weighing the benefits of a moratorium against the impact on residents and businesses who may wish to have the option to seek new gas connections in the future and the economy on the island.

While all members of the public and organizations are welcome to comment, the Board's specific interest is to obtain comments from **residents and businesses specifically located on Aquidneck Island who would be directly impacted by any moratorium.**

In addition to this public comment hearing in Portsmouth, Board will conduct a public comment hearing in Newport on August 20, 2025 at Innovate Newport, 513 Broadway, Newport, RI 02840 – which shall be the subject of a separate notice. All of the materials filed in Docket SB-2021-04 are on file and available online at: <https://ripuc.ri.gov/Docket-SB-2021-04>. The materials are also available for public review at the office of the Public Utilities Commission, at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island. The Portsmouth Middle School is accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for interpreter services for the hearing impaired must be made to the Coordinator at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, 401-780-2108, [Kristen.L.Masse@puc.ri.gov](mailto:Kristen.L.Masse@puc.ri.gov) at least 72 hours in advance of the hearing.

Kristen Masse, Coordinator  
Energy Facility Siting Board  
July 30, 2025