

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PETITION FOR RELIEF OF SOUTHERN SKY RENEWABLE ENERGY RI-ALTON RD-HOPKINTON, LLC FOR AN ORDER DIRECTING PAYMENT METERING RESTORATION	Docket No.
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PETITION FOR RELIEF OF SOUTHERN SKY RENEWABLE ENERGY RI-ALTON RD-HOPKINTON, LLC

Petitioner, Southern Sky Renewable Energy RI-Alton Rd-Hopkinton, LLC (“Southern Sky Alton”), by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby petitions the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”), pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 39-1-3(a) and Section 1.11(C) of the Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure (810-RICR-00-00-1), for an Order directing The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (the “Company”) to immediately restore the metering capabilities of Southern Sky Alton’s system as necessary to re-commence monthly statements for net metering credits fully compensating the electricity generation of the system. Southern Sky Alton further seeks an order directing the Company to transmit all net metering credits owed for the period of the metering failure.

For several months now, Southern Sky Alton’s photovoltaic solar energy system in Hopkinton has been generating renewable electricity and transmitting that electricity to the grid for resale by the Company but the Company has not been compensating Southern Sky Alton for approximately a third of that electricity due to a utility-side meter failure. This Petition presents a simple question: If a large load customer was receiving electricity but, due to a utility-side meter failure, the Company could not bill that customer for its consumption, would it take the Company three months to resolve that failure? If the answer is in the negative, the Company is improperly treating distributed generation differently than it would treat load consumption.

PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

1. Southern Sky Alton is a duly registered domestic limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Rhode Island with its principal place of business located at 349 Centerville Road, Warwick, Rhode Island. In 2019, Southern Sky Alton installed a 17.55 megawatt, direct current (MWDC) fixed tilt, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic electric generation facility on a parcel of land on Alton Bradford Road in Hopkinton, Rhode Island (the “System”).

2. The Company is an electric distribution company as defined by R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6-3(9).

3. The Commission has general jurisdiction pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-3(a) “to hold investigations and hearings involving the rates, tariffs, tolls, and charges * * *.”

FACTS AND TRAVEL

4. Southern Sky Alton installed the System in 2019 and received Authorization to Interconnect from the Company on December 31, 2019. Since that time, the System has generated and transmitted approximately 139,500,000 kilowatt hours of renewable electricity onto the grid. This generation is enough to power over of 2,000 Rhode Island residential ratepayers per year.

5. On September 12, 2025, Southern Sky Alton alerted the Company that the System’s central metering bank had failed.

6. On September 16, the Company responded that the failure “was flagged immediately when the incident happened on Friday and our Distribution Control Center dispatched someone to the site to go view it.” The Company continued that the “metering team stated that it would take approximately a week for a new meter to be built and installed” and “[o]nce the new meter is ready, RIE may need to coordinate with Reivity to open fuses/loadbreak to isolate from your side.”

7. On September 17, Southern Sky Alton responded that “[w]hy are crews not working around the clock to restore service to our site as they would for any other customer?” Southern Sky Alton continued that “Friday will mark one full week since we lost power to our site” and “[i]f full restoration and repair slips beyond Friday close of business, we will be starting to draft a docket to the PUC because of the untenable financial impact of this service disruption.”

8. On September 19, the System was restored; however, Southern Sky Alton did not receive its October invoice for net metering credits for one of the three solar arrays on the System.

9. On October 17, Southern Sky Alton emailed the Company stating that it had not received the virtual net metering invoice for Alton / Solar Array 1 / Acct # 65515-4129. The Company responded that it would investigate the issue.

10. On October 23, the Company followed up that it was working on the issue and “we need to wait [for] some data to come back from the communication between systems, should have an update on Monday on where we stand.” On October 27, the Company emailed that the “attempt to get the meter on the account failed over the weekend” and “I am told they are trying again with lessons learned from the failed attempt and waiting for the system to batch for it by Wednesday.”

11. On October 29, the Company stated that “[t]he 2nd attempt failed as well. I am told that they are now opening an IT ticket to investigate.” Southern Sky Alton responded: “Appreciate the follow up. Two questions: When should I follow back up on this? Can I provide production data for the missing time period to get the October invoice issued? Revity has an onsite production meter that we can provide the data from.”

12. Southern Sky Alton followed up on November 4 and the Company responded that “the IT was escalated by a director but waiting to hear back on a status.” Southern Sky Alton followed up again on November 12. The Company responded on November 13 that “there is an

issue about the gap in data from the exchange on the primary meter equipment preventing the meter to be on the account. I was just given an estimate for the at [sic] period they want to upload and looking for customer approval.” Southern Sky Alton gave its approval.

13. On November 18, the Company stated that “I forward[ed] your approval of the estimates same day, but does not seem like they have been uploaded yet” and “I re-forwarded your approval to the team, but I don’t have an eta on the statements at the moment.” Southern Sky Alton followed up on November 25 and the Company responded that “[o]ur metering team is working on getting the correct information into the system” and “[w]e are looking at a couple more weeks for that to be complete.”

14. On December 2, Southern Sky Alton emailed the Company that “the impact of this delay has had an untenable financial impact, so we are forced to escalate this matter to the RI PUC. I’m hoping that we will have a resolution prior to filing our petition.” The Company responded that “I reached out to the metering team this morning and at the current moment I do not have an update * * *.”

15. On December 9, Southern Sky Alton followed up looking for an update but has not received any further information.

16. The statutory purpose of the Rhode Island Net Metering program is “to facilitate and promote installation of customer-sited, grid-connected generation of renewable energy; to support and encourage customer development of renewable generation systems; to reduce environmental and siting impacts; to reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change by encouraging the local siting of renewable energy projects; to diversify the state’s energy generation sources; to stimulate economic development; to improve distribution system resilience and reliability; and to reduce distribution system costs.” R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.4-1.

17. Section II.5(a) of The Narragansett Electric Company Net Metering Tariff (R.I.P.U.C. No. 2274) states that “[f]or purposes of administering Sections II(3) and II(4) of this Tariff, on a monthly basis, the Company will apply Renewable Net Metering Credits to the Net Metered Accounts for all kWh generated by the Eligible Net Metering System.”

18. As of May of 2025, Southern Sky Alton’s System represented 4% of the entire State’s remote net metering generation capacity.

19. For three months, the Company-side meter servicing approximately one third of the System has failed which has resulted in Southern Sky Alton not receiving net metering credits for approximately a third of its generation. This failure has obviously put significant financial stress on Southern Sky Alton including its ability to meet debt service obligations, operating expenses and municipal property tax obligations.

20. The Company’s metering failure has resulted in approximately \$390,000 in missing credits owed to Southern Sky Alton since September 8, 2025.

21. The offtakers for Southern Sky Alton’s System are two large Rhode Island municipalities which save hundreds of thousands of dollars on their electricity bills from the net metering credits generated from the System.

22. The Company has repeatedly stated that it is investigating the cause of the failure and potential solutions but Southern Sky Alton can no longer idly wait for the Company to arrive at a solution. Southern Sky Alton again asks: If the utility side meter failed for a large load customer such that the customer was consuming electricity without the Company being able to bill for that consumption, would it take the Company three months to resolve the metering failure?

WHEREFORE, Southern Sky Alton respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order directing The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a Rhode Island Energy to immediately restore the metering capabilities of Southern Sky Alton's system as necessary to re-commence monthly statements for net metering credits fully compensating the electricity generation of the system. Southern Sky Alton further seeks an order directing the Company to transmit all net metering credits owed for the period of the metering failure.

**SOUTHERN SKY RENEWABLE
ENERGY RI-ALTON RD-
HOPKINTON, LLC**

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