

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: ISSUANCE OF ADVISORY OPINION TO THE ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD REGARDING THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR THE WOONSOCKET SUBSTATION – NASONVILLE SUBSTATION REBUILD AND ALTERATION PROJECT FOR NORTH SMITHFIELD AND BURRILLVILLE, RHODE ISLAND – DOCKET NO. 25-41-EL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to R.I. General Laws §§ 39-1-1 and 42-98-9(d), as amended, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) will conduct a hearing on **Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.** in Hearing Room A at the PUC's offices located at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island. The hearing may continue thereafter from day to day and time to time as required. The hearing will be streamed live at <https://video.ibm.com/channel/WqQyXw296dg>.

On March 25, 2025, the Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy (Applicant) filed with the Energy Facility Siting Board (Siting Board) an application to construct and alter certain of its transmission components in North Smithfield and Burrillville (Project). On October 2, 2025, the Siting Board issued a Notice of Designation to the PUC to render an Advisory Opinion as to the need and cost-justification for the proposed Project. Specifically, the Commission is requested to provide an advisory opinion on the need for the Project, whether the Project is cost-justified, consistent with the objective of ensuring that the construction and operation of the Facility will be in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations including the Act on Climate and the State Energy Plan— Energy 2035. PUC is further being asked to provide an advisory opinion as to whether the Facility in its proposed configuration is expected to transmit energy at the lowest reasonable cost to the consumer, compared to other reasonable alternatives. (Siting Board Order No. 171). The Advisory Opinion to the Siting Board is due by April 2, 2026. The PUC's Advisory Opinion is not a final decision on the proposed Project.

At this hearing, the PUC will examine the propriety of need and cost analysis with participation by the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. **Public Comment** will be accepted at the start of the hearing. People interested in providing public comment at the meeting may participate in a Zoom meeting through the internet or by calling in, preferably 5-10 minutes prior to the hearing. To participate, click this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82469009447> and you will be given instructions to enter the meeting by internet. If you choose to participate by telephone, you may call 929-205-6099 and enter meeting number 824 6900 9447 followed by the # symbol when prompted. If you are not interested in providing public comment, please watch the live stream at the address in the first paragraph. You will be able to observe the hearing and hear others' public comment.

The docket and related documents are on file for examination at the Commission Clerk's office located at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, R.I. The docket can also be accessed online

under the Commission's Docket Menu at <https://ripuc.ri.gov/Docket-25-41-EL>. Reference is made to Chapters 39-1, 39-3 and 42-35 of the RI 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, seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

Stephanie De La Rosa, Commission Clerk
March 3, 2026