

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: LEAST COST PROCUREMENT STANDARDS : DOCKET NO. 26-15-EE

ORDER

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7(a), the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) adopts standards and guidelines for System Reliability Procurement and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement (Least-Cost Procurement or LCP Standards).¹ These LCP Standards are subject to periodic review and appropriate amendment by the PUC, which review will be conducted not less frequently than every three years.² The LCP Standards were last revised by the PUC on July 27, 2023.

On May 12, 2026, the PUC published draft proposed revisions and amendments to the LCP Standards through a Notice to Accept Comments.³ Five entities provided written comments: Rhode Island Energy, the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council, Acadia Center, Conservation Law Foundation, and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. PUC staff reviewed those comments and incorporated certain recommendations and comments into revised draft LCP Standards. There were, however, some recommendations and comments that staff did not incorporate into the revised draft. Subsequently on August 20, 2026, the PUC staff submitted to the Commission a revised draft LCP Standards, a Typographical & Formatting Errors document, and a Comment Reference Sheet. These documents were posted to the PUC's website.

¹ R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7(b).

² R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.7(c).

³ All filings in this docket are available at the PUC offices located at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island or at: <https://ripuc.ri.gov/Docket-26-15-EE>.

In the Comment Reference Sheet, PUC Staff explained the rationale for their recommendation to either incorporate recommendations or to decline incorporation. The Comment Reference Sheet is attached to and incorporated into this order by reference.

At an Open Meeting on September 1, 2026, the PUC voted to adopt the revised standards as drafted in the August 20, 2026, revision together with the changes identified in the Typographical & Formatting Errors document. There were a limited number of significant amendments to the LCP Standards as adopted, with most of the amendments designed to incorporate PUC orders issued since the 2023 revisions, to clarify areas that have resulted in confusion during prior Energy Efficiency filings, to reorganize and streamline sections, and to reflect best practices for the content of the filings.⁴ A copy of the LCP Standards as adopted are attached to this order and incorporated by reference.

The most significant amendment was to change the energy efficiency review cycle from an annual cycle to a three-year cycle. This will combine the three-year planning process and program design into a single filing with one review every three years. While stakeholders have been advocating for this change, some commenters suggested the PUC should wait at least a year and, in one comment, until 2028 to commence a three-year plan. The commenters were primarily concerned with the speed of the review process for a plan that spans a longer period.⁵ The

⁴ PUC Staff originally accelerated the filing date for the 2027 Three-Year Plan to September 1, but due to the timing of the PUC's review of the updated LCP Standards, at an Open Meeting held on July 28, 2026, the PUC clarified that the October 1 filing date would remain in effect for the upcoming Three-Year Plan.

⁵ EERMC comments; Acadia Center comments; There was a suggestion that new language should be inserted in case the "end date" in § 39-1-27.7(d) is not amended by the legislature. The new language would either require annual plans through 2028 or only allow funding through 2028 for the initial three-year plan commencing in 2027. The Commission understands the concerns but notes that the only "end dates" in the System Reliability and Least-Cost Procurement law pertain to the administrative requirements that apply to the Office of Energy Resources and Energy Efficiency Resources Management Council. There is no end

Commission notes that Rhode Island Energy, the entity responsible for the filings, did not raise such a concern, nor did the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. The Commission thus declines to incorporate the requested delay.

The PUC appreciates the stakeholder comments received, particularly where it allowed for further clarification of intent and application.

Accordingly, it is hereby,

(25799) ORDERED:

The LCP Standards attached to PUC Staff Memorandum dated August 20, 2026, inclusive of all typographical edits that were included in a separate attachment are hereby adopted.

date that applies to the LCP Standards – a three-year plan that extends through 2029 can be approved and updated standards will be required in 2029, regardless of whether the dates for the other administrative requirements of § 39-1-27.7(d) are extended. The end date that applies to the current three-year plan does not limit the PUC’s authority to require a continuation of System Reliability Procurement and Energy Efficiency Plans through updated LCP Standards in 2029. Thus, the PUC has jurisdiction under the current law to implement the changes in these LCP standards, and the required three-year plan and associated funding is not hindered by any potential expiration of the statutorily mandated process, nor any expiration of a mandated charge. The jurisdiction to review and approve an energy efficiency plan and associated charge that extends beyond the dates in §§ 39-1-27.7(d) and 39-2-1.2 comes from the PUC’s general ratemaking authority.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND, PURSUANT TO OPEN MEETING DECISIONS ON JULY 28, 2026, AND SEPTEMBER 1, 2026. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED SEPTEMBER 22, 2026.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ronald T. Gerwatowski".

Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Abigail Anthony".

Abigail Anthony, Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen M. Bradbury".

Karen M. Bradbury, Commissioner

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL: Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within seven (7) days from the date of the order, petition the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or order.