

May 23, 2013

VIA HAND DELIVERY & ELECTRONIC MAIL

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

**RE: Docket 2509- Storm Contingency Fund
February 23, 2013 Summary Report**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

In accordance with Order No. 15360 (August 19, 1997) in Docket 2509 and paragraph 4(b) of the Settlement approved by the Commission in that docket, I have enclosed one original and ten copies of National Grid's¹ summary report on the planning and restoration activities associated with the February 23, 2013 snow storm (the "February 23, 2013 Storm" or the "storm"), which will likely qualify for inclusion in the Company's Storm Contingency Fund. Paragraph 4(b) of the Settlement requires the Company to file with the Commission within 90 days after the storm a report providing a description of the storm along with a summary of the extent of the damage to the Company's system, including the number of outages and length of the outages.

A supplemental report detailing the incremental restoration costs caused by the February 23, 2013 Storm will be submitted to the Commission once the total costs have been accumulated by the Company, and final accounting of storm costs has been completed.

Thank you for your attention to this transmittal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (401) 784-7288.

Very truly yours,



Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson

Enclosures

cc: Leo Wold, Esq.
Steve Scialabba, Division

¹ The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid ("the Company").

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the cover letter and/or any materials accompanying this certificate were electronically transmitted and sent via U.S. Mail to the individuals listed below. Copies of this filing were hand delivered to the RI Public Utilities Commission.



May 23, 2013

**Docket No. 2509 – National Grid – Storm Fund
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National Grid

The Narragansett Electric Company

**Report on
February 23, 2013 Snow Event,
Damage Assessment, and
Service Restoration Efforts**

May 23, 2013

Docket No. 2509

Submitted to:
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission

Submitted by:

nationalgrid

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**REPORT ON BEHALF OF
THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a NATIONAL GRID
ON THE FEBRUARY 23, 2013 SNOW EVENT PREPAREDNESS, DAMAGE
ASSESSMENT, AND SERVICE RESTORATION EFFORTS**

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (the “Company”) presents the following report on the planning and preparation activities associated with the February 23, 2013 snow storm (the “February 23, 2013 Storm” or the “storm”). The February 23, 2013 Storm was a coastal storm that was expected to impact Rhode Island and the rest of New England on Saturday, February 23 and Sunday, February 24. The forecast, until Saturday, February 23, predicted heavy, wet snow in northern Rhode Island and heavy rain with the potential for flooding in the southern part of the state. High winds were also expected, especially along the south coast. The potential damage from this storm was dependent on the strength at the time of impact and the location of the snow/rain line.

In anticipation of this potentially major storm event, the Company began preparing for the February 23, 2013 Storm on Thursday, February 21, holding its first system and regional storm calls in the early morning. The Company followed its Emergency Response Plan (“ERP”) and mobilized employees and contractors for restoration, based on experience from previous storms. Given the difficulties of mobilizing crews during a snow event, the Company secured additional transmission, distribution, and tree contractors before the storm began and staged the crews at Twin Rivers in Lincoln, RI. Internal crews were split into night (~30%) and day (~70%) shifts to provide 24-hour coverage. The Providence storm room was opened on Saturday evening, and employees were scheduled to work through the night to respond to police, fire, and wires-down issues. All other employees were instructed to report to their assigned locations the morning of Sunday, February 24.

Although the Company prepared for a potentially major storm event that included securing the necessary resources, the intensity and strength of the storm weakened faster than was predicted. Wind forecasts diminished, and ultimately, a weakened storm moved through Rhode Island overnight on Saturday, February 23 into the early morning on Sunday, February 24. Little to no restoration work was required, and crews were demobilized beginning early on Sunday morning, February 24. There were very few outages associated with this storm.

II. THE STORM AND ITS IMPACT

A. Forecast

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

On Tuesday, February 19, Telvent (Schneider Electric) began to forecast snow accumulations between two to six inches on Saturday night, February 23, as a result of a coastal storm system. Confidence in the forecast was low as several models disagreed on the track of the low; closer to the coast would bring the greater potential for more intense precipitation.

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

On Wednesday, February 20, the forecast continued to suggest a coastal system bringing snow and flooding rain to the entire service area. Accumulations Saturday night into Sunday were forecasted to range from two to eight inches, with confidence increasing for even higher snow amounts for this storm system.

Thursday, February 21, 2013

On Thursday, February 21, the forecast became more certain, predicting heavy, wet snow with the potential to cause power outages in northern Rhode Island and Massachusetts. In southern Rhode Island, the forecast predicted that the storm would include heavy rain due to the slightly higher temperature forecasts. Flooding due to poor drainage could be expected with the heavy rain and melting snow. There was also a high probability of minor to moderate coastal flooding near the Sunday morning high tide. There was still uncertainty as to the amount and westward extent of the precipitation, as well as the initial northward extent of rainfall.

Friday, February 22, 2013

On Friday, February 22, there was still uncertainty as to the strength and location of this storm. The forecast predicted that precipitation would develop in the form of snow on Saturday afternoon, changing to rain for a time, and then potentially transitioning back to snow through Sunday afternoon. The most significant concern for Rhode Island was the potential for heavy, wet snow, which could result in downed tree limbs and scattered power outages in the northern areas of the state. Wind gusts of 40-45 mph were predicted to potentially affect the southern coast of the state.

Saturday, February 23, 2013

On the evening of Saturday, February 23, the strength and intensity of the storm was forecasted to diminish. Winds were no longer predicted as a significant factor, and the snowfall totals were reduced. Approximately two inches of snow was expected in

Rhode Island, and the flooding was no longer a concern as the storm had weakened significantly.

B. Impact

The February 23, 2013 storm had the potential to be a significant event for Rhode Island and all of New England. The coastal system was initially forecasted to bring wet, heavy snow to northern Rhode Island and heavy rain to the southern part of the state. There was potential for strong wind and moderate flooding, especially along the south coast.

As the storm approached the New England area, it had weakened significantly. The deep layer of cold air expected for much of New England did not occur. The temperature for the majority of Rhode Island stayed above the freezing point during most of the storm and, therefore, with the exception of minor snow fall in northern Rhode Island, the storm was a rain event for the state.

III. STORM PREPARATION

In anticipation of this potentially major storm event, the Company began preparing for the February 23, 2013 Storm on Thursday, February 21, holding its first system and regional storm calls in the early morning. The Company continued to hold system and regional storm calls several times a day, ending on Sunday, February 24. The Company followed its ERP and mobilized employees and contractors for restoration, based on experience from previous storms. Given the difficulties of mobilizing crews during a snow event, the Company secured additional transmission, distribution, and tree contractors before the storm began and staged the crews at Twin Rivers in Lincoln, RI.

Due to the uncertainty of the track and intensity of the storm, internal crews, contractors, supplies and equipment were strategically located to allow deployment with the greatest amount of flexibility. Pre-staging crews and equipment in key locations throughout the region would enable the Company to restore service to customers as quickly and safely as possible in the event of outages. The following is a list of the peak crews¹ who were assigned to Rhode Island:

- Distribution Internal Crews: 55
- Distribution Contractor Crews (total staged in Rhode Island): 71
- Transmission Crews: 5
- Tree Crews: 54
- Numerous support and supervision personnel

As discussed above, internal crews were split into night (~30%) and day (~70%) shifts to provide 24-hour coverage. The Providence storm room was opened on Saturday,

¹ Crews are typically two- or three-person, although there are some one-person crews in damage assessment, wires-down (appraisers), and d-line (troubleshooters). The transmission crews are typically 6-10 people.

February 23 at approximately 7:00 p.m. and employees were scheduled to work through the night to respond to police, fire, and wires-down issues. All other employees were instructed to report to their assigned locations at approximately 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 24.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND CUSTOMER

The Company employed its usual channels of communication in anticipation of the storm. On Friday, February 22, the Company's Call Center made outbound calls, notifying life support customers of possible outages relating to the storm. The Call Center increased staffing to handle potential incoming calls from customers.

The Company modified its website to include emergency and safety information. The Media Relations team did not distribute any news releases and received only one call from the Rhode Island news media related to storm preparation work. There were no news media calls related to outages.

Proactive outreach was made to all government contacts in Rhode Island, as well as the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.

Although the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency ("RIEMA") did not officially open an operations center for the February 23, 2013 Storm, the Company stayed in communication with RIEMA and posted information through their web-EOC. The Company also communicated with its municipalities, and critical and sensitive customers. The Company sent an email notification to its community liaisons to be on standby beginning on Thursday, February 21. They were ultimately released on Saturday, February 23.

V. RESTORATION WORK

As the storm approached the New England area, it weakened significantly. The deep layer of cold air expected for much of New England did not occur; therefore, the temperature for the majority of Rhode Island stayed above the freezing point during most of the storm. There were a few minor issues and demobilization began on early Sunday morning. As seen in the reliability statistics chart below, the number of events and the Customer Minutes Interrupted ("CMI") over the storm period were lower than the "Average Day"² in Rhode Island, while the Customers Interrupted ("CI") was slightly higher than the "Average Day."

² Regulatory criteria applied; major storms excluded.

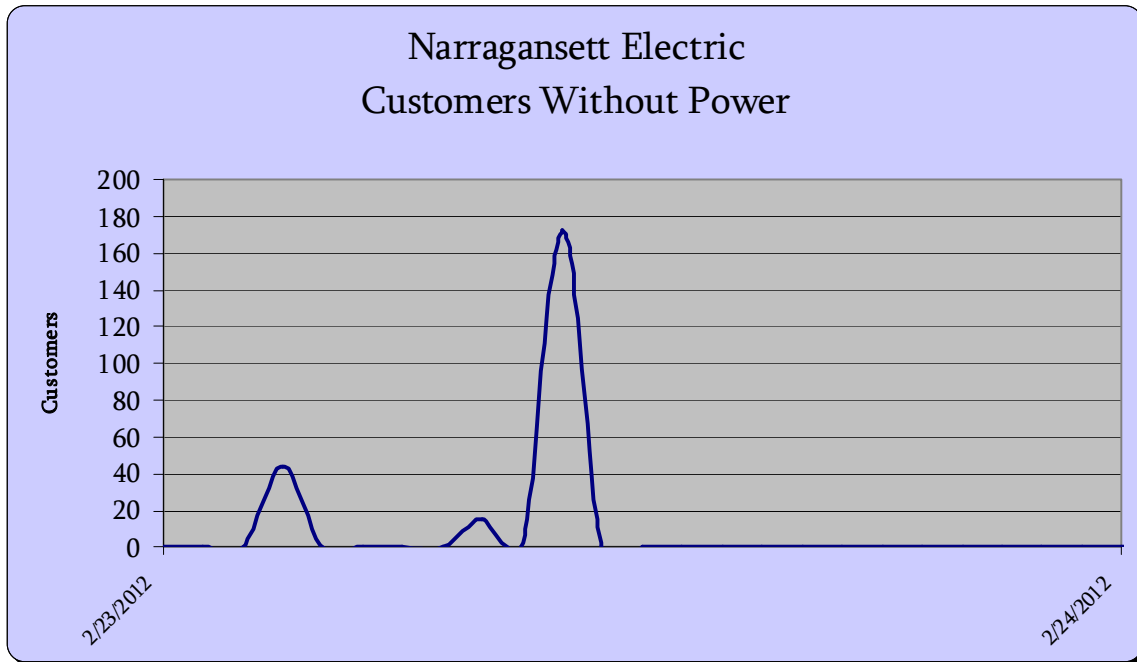
**Reliability Statistics
February 23, 2013 Storm
All Events**

Company Name	Date	Events	CI	CMI	SAIFI	SAIDI	CAIDI
Narragansett Electric	02/23/2013	4	2,253	66,435	0.0046	0.14	29.49
Narragansett Electric	02/24/2013	2	56	5,366	0.0001	0.01	95.82

Average Day in 2012

Company Name	Date	Events	CI	CMI	SAIFI	SAIDI	CAIDI
Narragansett Electric	All	7	1,185	87,078	0.0025	0.18	72

Concurrent Customers Out of Service



VI. CONCLUSION

The Company prepared for the February 23, 2013 Storm with expectations of outages resulting from heavy snow, rain, and wind. Storm rooms were opened, supplies and equipment for restoration were prepared, staging sites were set up, and both internal and external crews were deployed. Ultimately, the storm significantly weakened and there was very little restoration work required.