

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: RULES GOVERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF
CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS BY UTILITIES

DOCKET NO. 3569

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of Rhode Island General Laws §§ 42-35 et seq., 39-1 et seq., and 39-2 et seq, as amended, the Public Utilities Commission will conduct a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 21, 2004 at 9:30 AM** in a the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island for the purpose of establishing Rules Governing the Acceptance of Credit Card Payments by Utilities. The proposed rules will standardize the procedures and financial responsibility for the costs associated with the acceptance of credit cards. The proposed rules will apply to: 1) all electric distribution companies, natural gas distribution companies, incumbent local exchange carriers, and regulated water and sewer utilities operating in the State of Rhode Island, and 2) residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

The proposed rules are on file at our office and may be examined there. Copies of the proposed rules may be obtained by calling the Clerk's office at (401) 941-4500, in person, or from the Commission's website at www.ripuc.org/docket/3569page.html.

Interested parties and members of the public wishing to offer data, views or arguments regarding the proposed rules may do so either orally on the day of the hearing or in writing prior to the hearing date. **In addition, written comments will be accepted at the above address until 4:00 PM on May 3, 2004.** An original and nine (9) copies of written comments must be filed with the Clerk.

Reference is also made to Chapters 42-35 and 39-1 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

Specifically Sections, 42-35-1, 42-35-2, 43-35-3, 42-35-4, 42-35-5, 39-1-1, 39-1-3, 39-1-11, 39-1-18 and 39-1-38.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE HANDICAPPED. INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR THE HEARING AND SPEECH IMPAIRED MUST NOTIFY THE COMMISSION CLERK'S OFFICE AT 941-4500, SEVENTY-TWO HOURS IN ADVANCE OF HEARING DATE.

Luly E. Massaro
Commission Clerk
April 1, 2004