

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS
MEMORANDUM**

**TO: LULY MASSARO
COMMISSION CLERK**

DATE: 1/28/08

**FROM: STEPHEN SCIALABBA
CHIEF ACCOUNTANT**

**SUBJECT: NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC MARKET ASSESSMENT DOCKET
3605, FILED JANUARY 4, 2008**

On January 4, 2008 Narragansett Electric d/b/a National Grid submitted a market assessment to the PUC, as required by Commission Order 19050 in Docket 3605. Fundamentally, the purpose of the filing is to assess the conditions in the electric wholesale and retail markets, and determine if those conditions warrant modifications to the manner by which Narragansett procures its power supply for its Last Resort Service (LRS) load.

As a result of its assessment of the New England wholesale and Rhode Island retail competitive markets, Narragansett recommends to the Commission that it continue to procure LRS for the May 2008 through October 2008 period under the currently approved LRS Acquisition Plan. Similar to the prior LRS procurement, Rhode Island's acquisition will be made concurrent with the RFP process for National Grid's retail distribution affiliates in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. This combined solicitation has been done previously. Based on our review of the filing and our assessment of current market conditions, the Division agrees that the Last Resort Service procurement should continue in the manner proposed in Narragansett's January 4, 2008 filing. Similar to prior approved procurements, supply will be sought separately for LRS Residential and Commercial & Industrial customer groups.

Regarding Renewable Energy Standard (RES) requirements, Narragansett plans to have LRS bidders provide a separate RES adder in their bid to cover Narragansett's RES statutory obligations. Narragansett will have the option of taking the power with or without the RES adder, depending on Grids' assessment of the bids and Grids' market estimate for REC's. The Division finds this approach provides a degree of flexibility regarding its RES procurement obligation and is reasonable regarding its LRS RES procurement.

Regarding capacity costs, National Grid will have bidders include the costs of the Forward Capacity Market in their bids.

Based on our review of the January 4, 2008 market assessment submitted by Narragansett, the Division is of the opinion that it is reasonable and that Narragansett's LRS procurement plan as described in the market assessment filing should be approved.