

November 20, 2019

**BY HAND DELIVERY AND ELECTRONIC MAIL**

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

**RE: Docket 4237 – National Grid 2019 Contact Voltage Annual Report  
Responses to PUC Data Requests – Set 1**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

I have enclosed ten (10) copies of the Company's<sup>1</sup> responses to the Public Utilities Commission's First Set of Data Requests in the above-referenced docket.

Thank you for your attention to this filing. If you have any questions, please contact me at 781-907-2121.

Very truly yours,



Raquel J. Webster

Enclosure

cc: Docket 4237 Service List  
John Bell, Division  
Leo Wold, Esq.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 any materials accompanying this certificate was electronically transmitted to the individuals listed below.

The paper copies of this filing are being hand delivered to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and to the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanne M. Scanlon

November 20, 2019  
Date

**Docket No. 4237 – Commission’s Proceeding Relating to Stray  
and Contact Voltage Pursuant to Enacted Legislation  
Service List updated 10/15/19**

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The Narragansett Electric Company  
d/b/a National Grid  
RIPUC Docket No. 4237  
In Re: 2019 Contact Voltage Annual Report  
Responses to Commission's First Set of Data Requests  
Issued on October 15, 2019

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PUC 1-1

Request:

Please identify the specific streets that were surveyed during the 2019 testing cycle.

Response:

The following streets were surveyed during the 2019 testing cycle:

Abbott Park Pl	Aborn St	Bassett St	Broad St		Cahir St
Chapel St	Chestnut St	Claverick St	Clifford St		Custom House St
Dave Gavitt Way	Dean St	Delta St	Dorrance St		Eddy St
Elm St	Empire St	Exchange Terrace	FC Greene Memorial Blvd		Fenner St
Franklin St	Foster St	Friendship St	Fulton		Garnet St
Greene St	Hay St	Hoppin St	Hospital St		Imperial Pl
Maiden Ln	Mathewson St	Memorial Blvd	Montgomery Ave		Orange St
Page St	Parsonage St	Peck St	Pine St		Point St
Pond St	Richmond St	Service Rd	Ship St		Snow St
South St	Stewart St	Union St	W Franklin St		Washington St

PUC 1-2

Request:

At page 17 of the 2019 Contact Voltage Annual Report, the Company reported that an elevated voltage incident at 70 volts was detected on customer owned equipment on Bostin Neck Road in North Kingstown. The report indicates that the fault was improperly grounded customer equipment and that the customer was advised to install earth grounds.

Did the Company follow-up with this Customer to ensure it had complied with the Company's recommendation?

Response:

The source of the elevated voltage condition was determined to be from a broken aluminum street light pole on the ramp to Rt. 138. The hot leg had welded itself to the ground wire at the base of the street light. Once the broken neutral was found and repaired, all elevated voltage was cleared at the 1656 Boston Neck Rd location. Earth grounds were not needed. The customer was notified.

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PUC 1-3

Request:

At page 27 of the 2019 Contact Voltage Annual Report, the Company provided contract options for a one-year contract extension and a three-year contract extension with its existing vendor. The cost of the extensions do not vary and no discount was provided for a longer extension.

What other vendors, if any, have been solicited for pricing and what were the results?

Response:

At this time, the Company has not solicited other vendors for pricing. Power Survey LLC is another vendor who currently performs this type of work for National Grid in upstate New York and can perform the same type of work in Rhode Island. However, Power Survey has recently been purchased by another company (Osrose Utilities Services, Inc) with which National Grid currently does extensive business. Due to this circumstance, the Company decided to extend its existing contract for one year. After that time, the Company will put the contract out to bid and negotiate the most optimal agreement.

PUC 1-4

Request:

At paragraph 3 of Order No. 23442 in this Docket, the Company was directed to develop a methodology to compare survey results in the current year with results from the same Designated Contact Voltage Risk Areas from prior years.

Please provide an update on the Company's progress with developing such a methodology.

Response:

Since the Company had zero findings of greater than one volt on both Company-owned and Municipal-owned assets in the DCVRAs in 2019, the Company did not develop a methodology to compare 2019 survey results with results from the same DCVRAs from prior years.

As of the date of this response, streetlights assets in Newport and Woonsocket continue to be Company-owned. Therefore, given, the sale of streetlight assets from the Company to municipalities in twelve of fourteen of the Designated Contact Voltage Risk Areas (DCVRA), the Company would like to revisit the requirement of developing a methodology to compare survey results since the Company no longer owns the majority of the assets and, therefore, would not have the information necessary to conduct the comparison. Going forward, the Company could develop a methodology for comparing current year survey results in DCVRAs with Company-owned assets against results from the same DCVRAs from prior years.