

September 18, 2012

VIA HAND DELIVERY & ELECTRONIC MAIL

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

RE: Docket 4237 - Commission Investigation relating to Stray and Contact Voltage Occurring in Narragansett Electric Company Territories
Responses to Commission Data Requests (Set 6)

Dear Ms. Massaro:

On behalf National Grid¹ enclosed are ten (10) copies of the Company's responses to the Commission's Sixth Set of Data Requests issued in the above-captioned proceeding.

Thank you for your attention to this transmittal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (401) 784-7667.

Very truly yours,



Thomas R. Teehan

Enclosure

cc: Docket 4237 Service List
Steve Scialabba
Leo Wold, Esq.

¹ The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid ("National Grid" or 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 to the individuals listed below. Copies of this filing were hand delivered to the RI Public Utilities Commission.



September 18, 2012

**Docket No. 4237 – Commission’s Proceeding Relating to Stray and Contact Voltage Pursuant to Enacted Legislation
Service List updated 9/7/12**

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Commission 6-1

Request:

In National Grid's August 17, 2012 filing, the Company uses an estimated range of \$75,000 to \$1.09 million for testing costs associated with an annual inspection of underground assets. According to the Company, manual testing of all underground and street lighting assets would cost approximately an additional \$75,000 based on previous pricing from a Company vendor.

- a) Please indicate whether this is still a valid estimate for the period October 2012 through June 30, 2012 based on the Company's proposed contact voltage risk areas. If not, please provide an updated cost estimate.

Response:

The \$75,000 cost to perform manual testing of all Company owned underground and street light assets in Rhode Island, for the period October 2012 through June 30, 2013, is still a valid estimate, although the Company would go out to bid and contract a third party vendor to complete this work.

Based on this estimate, the cost to perform manual testing of all Company owned underground and street light assets in the Company's proposed contact voltage risk areas, would be as follows:

Cost at 100% Completion: \$60,000

Cost at 40% Completion: \$24,000

It should be noted that this manual testing is only on the Company's assets, not on all conductive surfaces in the public rights-of-way of the contact voltage risk areas.

Prepared by or under the supervision of: Bartholemew J. Cass and Jennifer L. Grimsley

Commission 6-2

Request:

Would the Company be able to “conduct an initial survey of no less than forty percent (40%) of designated contact voltage risk areas, for contact voltage hazards on all conductive surfaces in public rights-of-way” through the use of manual testing by June 30, 2013? If the answer is in the negative, please provide an estimate of the percentage of National Grid's proposed contact voltage risk areas it would be able to manually test by June 30, 2013.

Response:

The Company can manually test the Company's assets which are conductive surfaces in 40% of the designated contact voltage risk areas by June 30, 2013, but it should be noted that this manual testing is only on the Company's assets, not on all conductive surfaces in the public rights-of-way of the contact voltage risk areas. The Company would not recommend only using manual testing to meet the requirements of the statute. Since the statute requires a survey of contact voltage risk areas for contact voltage hazards on all conductive surfaces in public rights-of-way, this would include fences, traffic signals, municipally or privately owned signs or lights, and other metallic objects not owned by the Company. Testing every conductive surface manually is not a practical method of implementing the statute, and the Company recommends the use of mobile testing to meet the requirements of the statute.

Prepared by or under the supervision of: Bartholemew J. Cass and Jennifer L. Grimsley

Commission 6-3

Request:

Please provide an explanation and analysis of what would be required of the Company in the event it is required to undertake its entire initial survey for the period October 2012 through June 30, 2013 through manual testing.

Response:

Please see Commission 6-2.

Prepared by or under the supervision of: Bartholemew J. Cass and Jennifer L. Grimsley