

July 12, 2016

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 - Commission Investigation relating to Stray and Contact Voltage Occurring in The Narragansett Electric Company Territories Revised Table 3 to National Grid's 2016 Contact Voltage Annual Report

Dear Ms. Massaro:

I have enclosed ten copies of clean and redlined versions of National Grid's revised Table 3 to its 2016 Contact Voltage Annual Report (Report), which the Company filed with the PUC on April 6, 2016. The Company revised Table 3 in response to comments from Mr. Gregory L. Booth of Power Services Engineering and Management Services on behalf of the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. *See* Letter from Gregory L. Booth to Division dated May 4, 2016. In his comments, Mr. Booth noted that the Division would be in a position to make a decision regarding whether it supports the Company's recommendations contained on page 35 of the Report once the Company revised Table 3 to include a detailed explanation of the reasons for the trend of identifying more events each testing cycle. The enclosed revised Table 3 reflects this detailed explanation, and the Division has indicated that it now supports the recommendations included on page 35 of the Report.

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

Very truly yours,



Raquel J. Webster

Enclosure

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

Table 3
Comparison of Number of Mobile Events FY 2015 to FY 2016

Number of Mobile Events	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Survey and Testing Date	3/18/2013 – 3/30/2013	3/12/2014 – 3/28/2014	3/8/2015 – 3/23/2015	10/26/2015 – 11/10/2015
Readings less than 1 Volt	55	72	2	33
Readings Greater than 1 Volt but less than 4.5 Volts	7	9	12	14
Readings Greater than 4.5 Volts	13	7	7	12
Total	75	88	21	59

As shown in revised Table 3 above, readings for the category “Readings less than 1 Volt” increased by thirty-one (31) readings from FY 2015 to FY 2016. It is important to note that readings at these voltage levels do not require remedial action by the Company under the Contact Voltage program. The primary driver for this variance was that in FY 2015, the company had a short window of time to execute the mobile survey before the contract with Premier expired. Due to this shortened time frame, along with the implementation of upgraded mobile testing equipment, the Company made the decision to primarily focus on voltage readings that were greater than 1 volt, where the Company would potential have to take remedial actions.

The increase from FY 2015 to FY 2016 of two (2) readings for the category “Readings Greater than 1 Volt but less than 4.5 Volts” and five (5) readings for the category “Readings Greater than 4.5 Volts” are not statistically significant when compared to the fact that National Grid has over 5,000 potential Company assets located within the fourteen (14) designated contact voltage areas (DCVAs) in Rhode Island that may require testing. This total does not include any customer-owned assets that are part of the mobile survey and subsequent manual testing process. This makes it difficult to determine the total number of actual potential devices that may require testing because once the mobile unit senses a voltage signal, the technician essentially tests every metal asset in that area in an attempt to locate the source of the voltage signal. In this context, an increase of seven (7) readings from FY 2015 to FY 2016 of greater than 1 volt represents a year-over-year increase in findings of only 0.14% of the Company’s total assets located within the mobile survey area.

Irrespective of this slight increase in the number of readings from FY 2015 to FY 2016, the Company takes very seriously its public safety obligations to survey both Company and customer-owned assets under the Contact Voltage program. This is a major reason why the Company continues to propose a 100% survey of all contact voltage areas and a continuation of THD testing for the FY 2017 mobile survey.

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Comparison of Number of Mobile Events FY 2015 to FY 2016

Number of Mobile Events	<u>FY 2013</u>	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>
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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

July 12, 2016
Date

**Docket No. 4237 – Commission’s Proceeding Relating to Stray
and Contact Voltage Pursuant to Enacted Legislation
Service List updated 07/12/15**

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