



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick RI 02888
(401) 941-4500

Chairman Elia Germani
Commissioner Mary E. Bray
Commissioner Paul J. Roberti

September 25, 2012
Via Hand Delivery

Mr. John Spirito, Esq.
Assistant Director for Legal Services
Rhode Island Division of
Public Utilities and Carriers
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Mr. Spirito:

As you are aware, the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") is currently conducting a proceeding pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-2-25 to establish a contact voltage and repair program. As required by the legislation, the Commission initiated a proceeding within the required timeframe and must render a decision no later than October 4, 2012. While the Commission has authority over the review of most parts of National Grid's Proposed Contact Voltage Program ("Program"), the legislation states that the Program shall include "appropriate procedures established by the Commission to...[r]epair power system faults of the electric distribution company's underground distribution system, that result in contact voltage appearing on publicly accessible surfaces of a level to be determined by the Division of Public Utilities." (R.I.G.L. § 39-2-25(b)(4)).

In the Division's written pre-filed testimony submitted in Commission Docket No. 4237, and at yesterday's hearing, the Division's witness made recommendations to the Commission regarding the appropriate level. However, the Commission has no documentation of a "Determination by the Division" of the level at which repairs of the underground distribution system must take place. Because the Commission must render a decision to establish a contact voltage and repair program by October 4, 2012 and because it needs to include the Division's determination of the appropriate repair voltage level, please provide the documentation of the Division's determination no later than October 2, 2012 so that the Commission can meet its deadline. The Commission cannot approve an appropriate repair procedure without the prerequisite determination of the level at which repairs need to take place.

Thank you very much for your anticipated cooperation in this important public safety matter. Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Cynthia G. Wilson-Frias
Senior Legal Counsel

cc: Service List – Docket No. 4237 (via email)
Commissioners
Thomas Ahern, Administrator