

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT'S 2015** :  
**DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM** : **DOCKET NO. 4534**

**REPORT AND ORDER**

On November 17, 2014 and pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-2-1.2, Pascoag Utility District (Pascoag or Company) filed its Demand Side Management (DSM) Program for 2015 with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC). Pascoag proposed an overall budget of \$154,330 to fund its residential and commercial energy efficiency programs for calendar year 2015.<sup>1</sup> In a response to a Commission data request filed on December 10, 2015, Pascoag amended its budget to reflect a forecasting error.<sup>2</sup> To account for a discovered decrease in forecasted sales, Pascoag reduced the Burrillville Municipal Buildings line item by \$5,760 resulting in an overall budget of \$148,570.<sup>3</sup>

I. Pascoag's DSM Residential Programs

With the exception of adjustments to the funding of two programs, Pascoag will maintain the same level of funding for its 2015 residential programs which will mirror the 2014 residential programs. The Company proposed increasing the Refrigerator/Freezer Buy Back program budget by \$15.00 which will allow for fifteen rebates and reducing the Energy Conservation Calendar program budget by \$1,878.06 in response to a planned decrease in calendar production.<sup>4</sup> Despite

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<sup>1</sup> Pascoag Utility District's 2015 Demand Side Management Program (Nov. 17, 2014). All filings in this docket are available at the PUC offices located at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island or at <http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4534page.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Pascoag Response to Comm. Data Request 2-1 (Dec. 10, 2014).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* The \$148,570 budget is based on forecasted sales in 2015 of 54,785 MWHs.

<sup>4</sup> Pascoag Utility District's 2015 Demand Side Management Program, Sch. C at 3, 9-10; Pascoag Response to Comm. Data Request 1-1 (Dec. 2, 2014).

the lack of participation in Geothermal Systems, Pascoag proposed continuing to fund this program at \$100 but eliminated the Electric Heat Conversion incentive.<sup>5</sup> Pascoag requested approval to continue offering incentives for purchasing and installing energy efficient appliances and products in its other Residential Programs.<sup>6</sup>

## II. Pascoag's DSM Commercial and Industrial Programs

Pascoag made four changes to its Commercial/Industrial DSM programs for 2015. The Company reduced the budget of the Burrillville Municipal Buildings category by \$5,760 in response to a sales forecasting error discovered subsequent to its original filing.<sup>7</sup> It eliminated the line item for Exotic Nails and Star Tans as the owner of the Company was not interested in implementing the audit suggestions for which the rebate would have applied.<sup>8</sup> The Company proposed increasing the Committed Funds 2014 – Lighting Projects by \$2,000 in order to have funds available for unanticipated interest in the event a customer approaches the Company after it files its DSM Plan.<sup>9</sup> Finally, following the success of the LED pilot beginning in 2013, Pascoag requested approval to increase its LED street lighting budget by \$8,458 for a total budget of \$26,526 in order to continue purchasing LED street lights in 2015.<sup>10</sup>

## III. Pascoag's DSM Administrative/Advertising/Education

Similar to the Residential and Industrial programs proposed for 2015, Pascoag requested authority to maintain the 2014 level of funding for most of the line items in

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<sup>5</sup> Pascoag Utility District's 2015 Demand Side Management Program, Sch. C at 7; Pascoag Response to Comm. Data Request 1-1.

<sup>6</sup> Pascoag Utility District's 2015 Demand Side Management Program, Sch. C at 1-117; Pascoag Response to Comm. Data Request 1-1.

<sup>7</sup> Pascoag Response to Comm. Data Request 2-1.

<sup>8</sup> Pascoag Utility District's 2015 Demand Side Management Program, Sch. C at 12.

<sup>9</sup> Pascoag Utility District's 2015 Demand Side Management Program, Sch. C at 12-13; Pascoag Response to Comm. Data Request 1-1.

<sup>10</sup> Pascoag Utility District's 2015 Demand Side Management Program, Sch. C at 14-15; Pascoag Response to Comm. Data Request 1-2.

Administrative/Advertising/Education programs. The Company proposed increasing the Outreach/Education program by \$1,000 to support updates to its website that will highlight conservation programs and rebate forms and to continue advertising through local newspapers and bill inserts.<sup>11</sup> Pascoag requested an additional \$1,700 for the Jesse Smith Library Partnership budget which will allow the Company to continue a project that encourages Burrillville school students to create Earth Day posters, twelve of which are included in the annual calendar, depicting the importance of recycling and conservation.<sup>12</sup> The Company proposed a minor increase of \$242 for its Community Events program which has funded the Public Power Green Festival for the past eight years and promotes public awareness of energy efficiency and recycling.<sup>13</sup> Finally, Pascoag proposed an \$842 decrease in the funding for the Follow-Up to Successful Programs category.<sup>14</sup>

On December 11, 2014, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) filed a memorandum recommending approval of Pascoag's 2015 DSM Program.<sup>15</sup>

At an open meeting on December 23, 2014, the Commission unanimously approved Pascoag's 2015 DSM Plan, associated budget, and reallocation guidelines. The Commission recognizes Pascoag's continued efforts and diligence in designing and implementing its DSM programs and the Company's commitment to energy conservation. Pascoag's efforts to provide services in an efficient manner are evident by its thorough and complete review of existing programs and modifications to those programs to reflect customer need. Pascoag has continuously demonstrated that it does whatever is necessary to accommodate and assist its ratepayers. As in

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<sup>11</sup> Pascoag Utility District's 2015 Demand Side Management Program, Sch. C at 15-16; Pascoag Response to Comm. Data Request 1-1.

<sup>12</sup> Pascoag Utility District's 2015 Demand Side Management Program, Sch. C at 16-17; Pascoag Response to Comm. Data Request 1-1.

<sup>13</sup> Pascoag Utility District's 2015 Demand Side Management Program, Sch. C at 17; Pascoag Response to Comm. Data Request 1-1.

<sup>14</sup> Pascoag Utility District's 2015 Demand Side Management Program, Sch. C at 15; Pascoag Response to Comm. Data Request 1-1.

<sup>15</sup> Division Mem. (Dec. 11, 2014).

the past, the Commission will continue to allow Pascoag the flexibility to reallocate up to ten percent of the funding associated with a certain program subject to Division authorization and reallocation of any amount in excess of ten percent will continue to require Commission approval.

Accordingly, it is hereby


(22452) ORDERED:

1. Pascoag Utility District's 2015 Demand Side Management Programs and associated budget are approved.
2. A factor of \$0.0023 per kilowatt-hour is hereby approved in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws §39-2-1.2, with \$0.002 to be applied to the Demand Side Management Programs approved herein and \$0.0003 to be administered by the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources for renewable energy programs.
3. Pascoag shall file with the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers any request to reallocate funds among programs up to 10% of the total budget, with a reference copy to the Commission. Requests to reallocate funds in excess of 10% of the total budget shall require Commission approval.
4. Pascoag shall make its 2016 DSM Filing no later than November 1, 2015.
5. Pascoag shall comply with all other findings and instructions contained in this Report and Order.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JANUARY 1, 2015 PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON DECEMBER 23, 2014. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED JUNE 28, 2016.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



  
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Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson

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Paul J. Roberti, Commissioner\*

  
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Herbert F. DeSimone, Commissioner

\*Commissioner Roberti participated in the decision but was unavailable to sign the Order.

**NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL:** Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within seven days from the date of the order, petition the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or order.