

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY  
d/b/a NATIONAL GRID'S PROCESS CHANGE  
REQUEST FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY GROWTH  
SMALL-SCALE SOLAR AGGREGATION  
SUMMARIES

DOCKET NO. 4536-C

**ORDER**

**I. Prior Proceeding**

On July 31, 2015, the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued Order No. 22015 approving The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's (Company) application for certification of its National Grid Renewable Energy Growth (RE Growth) Small-Scale Solar Aggregation, a 12 MW aggregation of customer-sited, behind-the meter, small-scale solar projects located in Rhode Island, as an eligible New Renewable Energy Resource.<sup>1</sup> The PUC also approved National Grid's request to act as Aggregator Owner and Verifier for the purpose of certifying the aggregations of Small-Scale Solar Projects enrolled in the RE Growth Program as Eligible Renewable Energy Resources under a single Rhode Island certification number.

National Grid proposed a simplified process for administering enrollments in the RE Growth Program. The reason for the requested change was to avoid delays in the Company's ability to pay new projects for their output. The PUC approved the Company's simplified process and ordered National Grid to provide on a quarterly basis and in spreadsheet format, a detailed list of all RE Growth Small-Scale Solar projects added to or removed from the certified aggregation and that have reached commercial operation. The quarterly update was required to include a Renewable Energy Credit

(REC) Assignment Form for each project owner added to the certified aggregation.<sup>2</sup> In compliance with the PUC's Order, National Grid submitted quarterly Aggregation Summaries for the third quarter of 2015 and fourth quarter of 2016 on October 5, 2015 and March 9, 2016, respectively, including redacted and confidential spreadsheets as well as redacted and confidential versions of the REC Assignment Forms for each project included in the summaries.

## **II. National Grid's Instant Process Change Request for Small-Scale Aggregation Summaries**

On April 7, 2016, National Grid requested permission to discontinue filing the individual REC Assignment Forms with the quarterly aggregation summaries for Small-Scale Solar projects. In lieu of filing the individual assignment forms, the Company proposed to file simply the list of all projects added or removed from the certified aggregation that have reached commercial operation. Those lists contain the exact information included in the individual assignments plus a good deal more information. The requested change would ease the Company's burden of filing hundreds of redacted versions of the REC Assignment Forms. The Company indicated that because of the greater numbers of small scale solar projects enrolling in the RE Growth Program, the administrative burden had increased significantly.

## **III. Decision**

At an Open Meeting on April 29, 2016, the PUC reviewed National Grid's Process Change Request for Small-Scale Solar Aggregation Summaries and found it to be a reasonable means of alleviating the administrative burden of filing hundreds of redacted

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4536C-NGrid-Ord22015\(7-31-15\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4536C-NGrid-Ord22015(7-31-15).pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The REC Assignment Form transfers title to the RECs from the project owner to National Grid.

assignment forms. The redacted forms provide scant value to the PUC and are not a significant part of the review process. The unredacted confidential assignment forms, however, are a critical part of the consultant's review of the aggregation summaries. The PUC found that the process requires that National Grid continue filing the confidential unredacted REC Assignment Forms. Based on the foregoing reasons, the PUC approved National Grid's request to discontinue filing all but a single copy of the redacted REC Assignment Forms to essentially serve as a place holder in individual records. The PUC denied the Company's request to discontinue filing the confidential unredacted REC Assignment Forms.

Accordingly, it is

(22399) ORDERED:

- 1) The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's Process Change Request filed on April 7, 2016 is approved in part, as modified by this Order, denied in part.
- 2) The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid is permitted to discontinue filing all but a single redacted version of the REC Assignment Forms but must continue to file the confidential unredacted REC Assignment Forms.
- 3) This Order modifies Order No. 22015 with respect to the filing of REC Assignment Forms with Small-Scale Solar Aggregation Summaries. All other provisions of Order 22015 remain in full force and effect.
- 4) All Small-Scale Solar Aggregation Summaries filed henceforth shall be in full compliance with this Order.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON APRIL 29, 2016  
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED  
MAY 20, 2016.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson



Paul J. Roberti, Commissioner



Herbert F. DeSimone, Commissioner



**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 (7) 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.