



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

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

Chairperson Margaret E. Curran
Commissioner Paul J. Roberti
Commissioner Herbert F. DeSimone, Jr.

MEMORANDUM

To: Stakeholders
From: Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Deputy Chief of Legal Services
Date: February 28, 2015
Re: Docket No. 4545 – Review of Electric Rate Issues in Anticipation of 2015 Rate Design Review

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is required to open a docket on or after July 1, 2015 to “consider rate design and distribution cost allocation among rate classes in light of net metering and the changing distribution system that is expected to include more distributed-energy resources, including, but not limited to, distributed generation.” (R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-24.6-24). A docket has been opened for the administrative purposes of maintaining records and providing public access. The purpose is to gather information and research in anticipation of the rate design case that will be opened on or after July 1, 2015. The PUC does not anticipate issuing any orders out of this docket. The docket may be accessed on the PUC’s website at: <http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4545page.html>

On January 8, 2015, PUC staff met with previously identified stakeholders to begin a discussion of the scope of review and process. The stakeholders present included representatives of Acadia Center, Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division), National Grid, New England Clean Energy Council (NECEC), and Office of Energy Resources (OER). Legal Counsel to certain renewable energy developers was also present. At the meeting, The Energy Council of Rhode Island (TEC-RI) was identified as an organization with a stakeholder interest. Subsequently, SilverSpring Networks has asked to join the distribution list. Rocky Mountain Institute was suggested as an additional entity.

On January 22, 2015 the PUC conducted an Open Meeting in order for National Grid to present a presentation on its current distribution rates and to allow the PUC and stakeholders the opportunity for questions. A copy of the presentation may be found on the PUC’s website at the address above.

In order to allow for planning, the PUC announces that it will conduct meetings on the following days, either at the staff level or with commissioners present in order to receive presentations or

information from interested entities. Legal notice will be provided closer to the date. All meetings will be on the record.

March 26, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. - How modernization of rates can be developed in a revenue neutral environment (not requiring rate increases in programs outside of the base distribution rates). How rate design changes will incent certain customer/developer/utility behavior without changes to assets.

April 16, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. - What technical systems exist to allow the utility to avoid distribution system costs? What are the costs to these systems and how do the benefits accrue to distribution customers? The PUC is interested in presentations of no more than 20 minutes in length from providers or developers of distributed energy resources and from those who provide integration of those resources. Proposals should be submitted to Todd Bianco Todd.Bianco@puc.ri.gov no later than April 2, 2015.

May 14, 2015 (tentative): 9:30 A.M. - National Grid update on the various Tiverton projects funded through the system reliability charge. Followed by a Presentation on the allocation of costs and benefits to various customer classes of Volt/Var technology and Tiverton pilot projects, particularly with the addition of solar.

June 2015 – TBD – Finalization of procedure to open the docket and procedural discussion/basic timeline