

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: INVESTIGATION INTO THE CHANGING :
DISTRIBUTION AND THE MODERNIZATION OF RATES : DOCKET NO. 4600
IN LIGHT OF THE CHANGING DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM :

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF DOCKET AND
INVITATION FOR STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 39-1-1, 39-1-27.3, 39-1-27.7, 39-1-27.7.1, 39-1-38, 39-2-1, 39-2-1.2, 39-3-11, 39-4-2, 39-26-1 to 7, 39-26.1-1 to 9, 39-26.2-1 to 14, 39-26.3-1 to 6, 39-26.4-1 to 5, and 39-26.6-1 to 25 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) hereby gives notice that on March 3, 2016, the PUC opened an investigation into the changing distribution system and the modernization of rates in light of the changing distribution system. The docket can be accessed at: <http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4600page.html>.

The purpose of the docket will be to develop a report that will guide the PUC's review of the Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's (National Grid) rate structure in future proceedings. In order to determine the factors necessary for determining rates pursuant to the Renewable Energy Growth Program, and to improve consistency within and across programs, the PUC needs to develop an improved understanding of the costs and benefits caused by various activities on the system. More specifically, in Docket 4600 the PUC seeks answers to the following overarching question: **What attributes are possible to measure on the electric system and why should they be measured?**

This overarching question can be further broken down into three broad questions:

1. What are the costs and benefits that can be applied across any and/or all programs, identifying each and whether each is aligned with state policy?;
2. At what level should these costs and benefits be quantified—where physically on the system and where in cost-allocation and rates?; and
3. How can we best measure these costs and benefits at these levels—what level of visibility is required on the system and how is that visibility accomplished?

A fuller explanation of the scope of the docket can be found at: http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4600-PUC-Recommendation_3-1-16.pdf.

No changes to rates or rate design will result from this docket. Rather, the scope of this docket and recommendations or standards adopted by the PUC in this docket will affect the interests of all National Grid electric customers, and developers of renewable energy facilities in future proceedings. The docket will include the work of a group of stakeholders. The PUC has issued a request for proposals (RFP) for a consultant/facilitator. The RFP can be accessed at: <http://www.purchasing.ri.gov/RIVIP/StateAgencyBids/7550348.pdf>. The Commission anticipates the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, the Office of Energy Resources, and National Grid will be represented on the stakeholder committee. Other stakeholders may apply to

the PUC for membership on the stakeholder committee.

The deadline to apply for membership on the stakeholder committee or to nominate a representative is **Friday, April 1, 2016**. Eligibility for membership is available to persons or entities who will be significantly affected by the proposed regulation and believe that their interests will not be adequately represented by any person or entity specified in this notice. Each application or nomination shall contain the following information: (1) the name of the applicant or nominee and a description of the interests such person shall represent; (2) evidence that the applicant or nominee is authorized to represent parties related to the interests the person proposes to represent; (3) a written commitment that the applicant or nominee shall actively participate in good faith in the development of recommendations on issues under consideration in the docket; and (4) the reasons that the interests of the person submitting the application or nomination cannot be adequately represented by other representatives. Persons or entities that have common interests may nominate a single representative. An original and nine (9) copies of all written submissions must be filed with the Clerk at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02888 and emailed to Luly.Massar@puc.ri.gov.

Luly E. Massaro
Commission Clerk
March 18, 2016