

September 12, 2018

**BY HAND DELIVERY AND ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk  
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888

**RE: Docket 4847 - 2018 Renewable Energy (RE) Growth Program Factor Filing Responses to PUC Data Requests – Set 2**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

I have enclosed ten (10) copies of the Company's<sup>1</sup> responses to the second set of data requests issued by the Public Utilities Commission in the above-referenced docket.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 781-907-2121.

Very truly yours,



Raquel J. Webster

Enclosures

cc: Docket 4847 Service List  
Leo Wold, Esq.  
Jon Hagopian, Esq.  
John Bell, Division

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<sup>1</sup> The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (the Company).

PUC 2-1

Request:

- a. Has National Grid recently launched the use of a customer relationship management software product, such as Salesforce, for administering the Renewable Energy Growth Program?
- b. If so, what is the product being used for?
- c. If so, when was the launch of the product, and what, if any, costs for this software are included in the proposed factor, including reconciliation factors?

Response:

- a. The Company has launched the National Grid Customer Application Portal, an online application portal otherwise known by its initials as "nCAP," which has been built using the Salesforce platform. Currently, nCAP accepts all interconnection applications to the Company, which includes all applications from Small Solar facility applicants for enrollment in the Renewable Energy Growth Program. nCAP does not specifically administer and/or manage the Renewable Energy Growth Program. The Company has an HTML-based form embedded on the Company's customer facing website. nCAP captures data related to the Renewable Energy Growth Program for awarded interconnection application for tracking and reporting. The link below provides an illustrative example of HTML based form:

[https://www9.nationalgridus.com/narragansett/non\\_html/RE%20Growth%20Website%20Application%20as%20of%204-11-16.docx](https://www9.nationalgridus.com/narragansett/non_html/RE%20Growth%20Website%20Application%20as%20of%204-11-16.docx)

- b. As mentioned in the above response, nCAP is primarily used for administering interconnection applications. It provides the functionality below, including but not limited to:
  - i. Online Application Submittal
  - ii. Application Validation and Approval
  - iii. Application Tracking (Status)
  - iv. Online Payment
  - v. Reporting

PUC 2-1, page 2

- c. nCAP was launched in Rhode Island for Simple interconnection applications in October 31, 2017 and for Complex interconnection applications in May 5, 2018. The total nCAP implementation cost has been allocated as an expense based on number of electric customers among National Grid USA's three electric service territories in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York. None of the costs of nCAP are included in the Renewable Energy Growth Cost Recovery Factor amounts, nor will they be in the future. Recovery of nCAP costs is included in base distribution rates effective September 1, 2018 as a component of Service Company rent expense. Please see the Company's August 16, 2018 compliance filing in RIPUC Docket Nos. 4770/4780 at Compliance Attachment 3, Workpaper 6a on Line 332, with a project description of "INVP 4411AB Distributed Generation Portal" (this project first appears on Bates Page 115 of Book 3). The revenue requirement amounts reflected in Workpaper 6a for nCAP in each rate year are: \$90,847 in Rate Year 1, \$90,274 in Rate Year 2, and \$84,762 in Rate Year 3. These revenue requirement amounts are then reduced by 15% to reflect the slippage adjustment applied to all Service Company capital IS projects placed into service after the June 30, 2017 test-year end and charged to the Company as rent expense, per the Amended Settlement Agreement in Docket Nos. 4770/4780. Therefore, the allowance in distribution base rates for nCAP totals \$77,220 in Rate Year 1, \$76,733 in Rate Year 2, and \$72,048 in Rate Year 3.

PUC 2-2

Request:

- a. Regarding non-competitive enrollment classes, did National Grid approve enrollment in the 2017 Program year for any applications for these classes after the class's allocation cap was hit?
- b. If so, please provide a list of all instances, the project size, Performance Based Incentive (PBI) rate, and the reason for approving additional enrollment beyond the cap.
- c. If so, what, if any, costs for the work to approve these applications, any associated interconnection work, and PBI payments, and remuneration for National Grid are included in the proposed factor, including reconciliation factors?

Response:

- a. Yes, National Grid approved enrollment in Renewable Energy Growth Program for some Small Solar class applicants after the 2017 cap was reached and the Company announced that the Program was closed.
- b. Please see the attached Excel file for project size and PBI. Only applications that were placed on hold during the enrollment period and rectified<sup>1</sup> after the cap was reached were permitted to enroll. After cancellations and additional open capacity in the 2017 program year were accounted for, only 109.13 kW of systems, or 0.272% of the annual capacity, were approved over the 40 MW annual cap.
- c. Once the Small Solar class 2017 cap was filled on October 12, 2017, and taking into account other available capacity, the Company approved 16 projects between October 13, 2017, and March 31, 2018, totaling 109.13 kW over the annual cap. All of these systems were for applications that were received prior to the announced closure of the Small Solar class on October 12, 2017. The Company received cancellations of pending applications and had remaining capacity from other classes in the Renewable Energy Growth Program of 193.39 kW and 207 kW, respectively.

Based on the average (fully loaded) salary multiplied by the time to process/approve the applications representing the 109 kW of net over enrollment, the total is \$911. The capital expense for meters and meter setting for these systems that are online is an

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<sup>1</sup> As used here, rectified refers to when the Company addressed accounts that were missing signatures, had incomplete one-lines, system sizes that were too large, or invalid account numbers.

The Narragansett Electric Company  
d/b/a National Grid  
RIPUC Docket No. 4847  
In Re: 2018 Renewable Energy Growth Program Factor Filing  
Responses to Commission's Second Set of Data Requests  
Issued on August 31, 2018

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PUC 2-2, page 2

additional \$1,952, which is included in the revenue requirement in this Factor filing. The enrollment of these facilities furthered the purpose of Renewable Energy Growth Program statute and the resulting increase in costs is an immaterial amount. The Company will supplement this response with the calculated PBI payments and associated Company incentive.