

March 15, 2019

VIA HAND DELIVERY & ELECTRONIC MAIL

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

RE: Docket 4915 - Proposed FY 2020 Electric Infrastructure, Safety, and Reliability Plan Response to PUC Post-Hearing Data Requests – Set 1

Dear Ms. Massaro:

On behalf of National Grid,¹ I enclose ten (10) copies of the Company's response to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) First Set of Post-Hearing Data Requests in the above-referenced matter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 781-907-2153.

Very truly yours,



Celia B. O'Brien

Enclosures

cc: Docket 4915 Service List
John Bell, Division
Greg Booth, Division
Leo Wold, Esq.
Christy Hetherington, Esq.
Al Contente, Division

¹ The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid or the Company).

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the cover letter and any materials accompanying this certificate was electronically transmitted to the individuals listed below.

The paper copies of this filing are being hand delivered to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and to the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.



Joanne M. Scanlon

March 15, 2019
Date

Docket No. 4915 - National Grid's Electric ISR Plan FY 2020
Docket No. 4857 - Performance Incentives Pursuant to R.I.G.L. §39-1
27.7.1(e)(3)

Service List as of 2/21/2019

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File an original & ten copies w/: Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk John Harrington, Commission Counsel Public Utilities Commission 89 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI 02888	Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov ; John.harrington@puc.ri.gov ; Cynthia.WilsonFrias@puc.ri.gov ; Todd.bianco@puc.ri.gov ; Alan.nault@puc.ri.gov ;	401-780-2107

Post-Hearing PUC 1-1

Request:

The responses to PUC 2-10 and 2-11 provide an explanation of how the company determines how to set the EHTM budget and a detailed explanation of how the Company determines where to perform EHTM work, how circuits are selected, and how the Company determined to expand the EHTM program. More recently the response to Record Request 2 states that Gypsy Moth tree mortality has taken priority over the standard EHTM program. Given these responses to information requests, please clearly explain how the Company set the proposed FY 2020 EHTM budget, how it determined the proposed increase in the EHTM budget to \$2.25 million, and how the Company intends to determine where to perform EHTM work for FY 2020.

Response:

Because of the severity of damage to oak trees in the State of Rhode Island by the Gypsy Moth and the number of dead oak trees that the Company estimates have been killed by the Gypsy Moth and need to be removed (i.e., 12,500), it will take multiple years to mitigate this issue. Therefore, it is essential that the Company remove as many dead trees as possible each year. To achieve the objective of removing as many dead trees as possible during Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, the Company based its Enhanced Hazard Tree Mitigation (EHTM) budget for FY 2020 upon the maximum workload the Company believes its EHTM workforce is capable of handling in a single year. As stated in the Company's response to Record Request No. 3, the Company estimated it will be able to remove approximately 4,255 trees in FY 2020 based upon the Company's available workforce at maximum workload. Using the average cost of removal from FY 2019 (i.e., \$528.75 per tree) multiplied by the Company's estimated number of trees it will be able to remove as discussed above (i.e., 4,255), the Company calculated its proposed EHTM budget for FY 2020 at \$2.25 million.

To determine where to perform EHTM in FY 2020, the Company began by using data from aerial surveys that show oak defoliation across the State of Rhode Island. These surveys showed which areas have been most heavily impacted by the Gypsy Moth. Within these areas, the Company conducted field surveys identifying which trees have been killed and are likely to fail. Combined with these surveys, the Company will use the EHTM circuit rankings to aid in prioritizing where to perform EHTM in FY 2020.