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April 9, 2021

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

Re: Block Island Utility District d/b/a Block Island Power Company
Demand Side Management Plan 2021 – Docket No. 5013

Dear Luly:

As you know, this office represents Block Island Utility District (“BIUD”).

Enclosed for filing in this matter is BIUD’s Responses to the Public Utilities Commission’s 1st Set of Data Requests. An original and five (5) copies are enclosed.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,


Michael R. McElroy

MRMc/tmg

cc: Service List

Docket No. 4975 – Block Island Utility District – Rate Change Application
Docket No. 5013 – BIUD’s DSM Proposal **Service List as of 3/23/2020**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: BLOCK ISLAND UTILITY DISTRICT :
2021 DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN : **DOCKET NO. 5013**

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION'S
FIRST DATA REQUEST DIRECTED TO BIUD
(Issued April 5, 2021)
(Responses due April 12, 2021)**

- 1-1. Given the seasonal nature of the island, when is it expected that the bulk of the energy efficiency work on customer properties will be performed?

Response: Although there is always a level of uncertainty regarding the pace of energy efficiency work, our proposed approach envisions that the bulk of the energy efficiency audits and subsequent installations will be conducted from Early Spring through Fall (i.e., May through October). Large projects, especially commercial applications or whole house installations, may be delayed until the off-season to minimize disruptions to commercial businesses and on-season rentals.

Prepared by: Nathan Cleveland and Jeffery Wright

- 1-2. Page 5 of the plan details a total 2021 budget of \$159,540. It appears funding of this budget is comprised of \$40,000 of unspent 2020 funds and \$60,000 from the system benefit charge. Page 6 of the plan states that OER funding originally earmarked for 2021 will be deferred to 2023. What is the source of the remaining \$59,540 included in the 2021 budget?

Response: The overall budget number included in the table on page 5 of \$159,540 is correct, and the source of the \$59,540 that appears unaccounted for in the 2021 budget is unspent funds from Program Year (PY) 2020.

The way the rollover funds were characterized in the text/table was not as clear as it should have been. The total amount of unspent funds from PY 2020 is anticipated to be ~\$100,000. The line item "Unspent funds" in the budget table on page 5 should be amended to \$99,540, and the text on page 6 should state a surplus of the same amount, not \$40,000 as written.

Because \$60,000 of the unspent funds can be viewed as filling the funding gap that OER's RGGI funding would have provided in PY 2021, that is why the budget numbers were initially entered as \$40,000 in unspent funds. As noted above, however, that number should be \$99,540 to accurately reflect the budgetary reality.

Prepared by: Nathan Cleveland and Jeffery Wright

- 1-3. BIUD states that the 3 tier rate structure with the lowest rates being during the winter period will enhance the cost effectiveness of heat pump HVAC investments. Is this effect reduced given that a large portion of businesses and homes are not occupied during the winter months?

The lower winter rate in the three-tier rate structure will improve the cost effectiveness of heat pumps for participating customers because it is *lower than* the previous winter rate. Together, the lower rate and the heat pump performance efficiency, compared to non-electric heating alternatives, provide customer savings in the winter and summer months. Even though residences and buildings may not be fully occupied during the winter months, nominal heating still occurs to prevent freezing pipes, condensation, and related issues. The lower winter rate will provide more significant savings as these buildings will be heated by heat pumps, which use less energy than alternatives, such as resistance heating.

Prepared by: Nathan Cleveland and Jeffery Wright