

PUC 1-2

Request:

Referencing Schedule NG-2, in Docket No. 4954 (2019 REGrowth Factor) the Company requested funding for two half time Interconnection Consultants. In this docket, Schedule NG-2, the Company is requesting funding for five quarter time Interconnection Consultants.

- a. Please provide the job description.
- b. Please provide justification for the additional personnel allocation.
- c. Please provide justification for more positions with the ability to allocate time to REGrowth.
- d. What are the employees' other 75% of time dedicated to?
- e. Why is the Company not requesting funding for one FTE dedicated to REGrowth?
- f. Why is the Company adding a quarter FTE but funding five employees' partial salary out of REGrowth?
- g. How many of these positions will be new hires?

Response:

- a. The Company's job description stated that "[t]he Energy Integration Consultant will act as the customer's primary point of contact guiding them through regulatory, legislative and technical obligations, obtaining and interpreting technical documentation, Renewable Energy Growth and Net Metering requirements, performing preliminary screenings/feasibility reviews as necessary, drafting contractual agreements, and coordinating complex DG projects with multitude of internal and external stakeholders throughout the construction process. As a DG subject matter expert, the candidate will also be expected to provide outreach and educate others on DG initiatives."
- b. The Company had to add these resources in order to adequately respond to the increased volume of complex interconnection service applications associated with the REGrowth Program.

The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a National Grid
RIPUC Docket No. 5039
In Re: 2020 Renewable Energy Growth Program
Responses to Commission's First Set of Data Requests
Issued on July 22, 2020

- c. The Company's Customer Energy Integration ("CEI") group is responsible for managing all interconnection service applications received in RI through the interconnection process. This includes applications that are associated with REGrowth Program and those associated with the Net Metering Provision. The Company's allocation of part-time work provides for a more accurate reflection of how the work associated with REGrowth is distributed across numerous individual positions within CEI.
- d. The CEI employees' remaining 75% of time is dedicated to other duties, as assigned, consistent with the job description provided in subpart (a), above, and management of other interconnection service application types (e.g., those associated with the Net Metering Provision).
- e. Please see the Company's response to subpart (c), above.
- f. The Company is adding a quarter FTE because this addition accurately reflects the current work associated with the REGrowth Program and how it is accounted for and allocated across the positions within the Company's CEI group.
- g. None of the positions will be new hires, as they are all positions that have been hired over the course of the last year. Upon further investigation the Company has determined that these new incremental functions as well as the incremental DG Customer Facilitator (discussed in the response to PUC 1-2) were based upon positions that were included in base distribution rates as part of the Amended Settlement Agreement in R.I.P.U.C. No. Docket 4770. As such, while the functions are new, the positions are not, and the Company will not be including the costs of these staff members in the REGrowth PYE 3/2021 reconciliation. The estimated cost that the Company has included in this filing for these functions is \$162,267 out of a total projected expense of \$21.6 million. Removing this cost would have negligible impact on the proposed RE Growth factors, as shown in Attachment PUC 1-2. Removing these positions from the forecast would reduce the residential RE Growth factor by \$0.01 per month.

Renewable Energy Growth Program
Illustrative Reduction to Renewable Energy Growth Program Factors
For the Removal of Certain FTEs

	Total	Residential	Small Commercial & Industrial	General Commercial & Industrial	Large Demand	Street Lighting	Propulsion
	<u>(a)</u>	<u>A-16 / A-60</u>	<u>C-06</u>	<u>G-02</u>	<u>B-32 / G-32</u>	<u>S-10 / S-14</u>	<u>X-01</u>
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
(1) Reduction in Projected FTE Costs	(\$162,267)						
(2) Total Rate Base (\$000s)	\$729,511	\$404,995	\$75,009	\$117,155	\$123,849	\$8,296	\$208
(3) Percentage of Total (RBA)	100.00%	55.52%	10.28%	16.06%	16.98%	1.13%	0.03%
(4) Allocated FTE Reduction	(\$162,267)	(\$90,091)	(\$16,681)	(\$26,060)	(\$27,553)	(\$1,836)	(\$46)
(5) Forecasted Annual Number of Bills/Luminaires (FBill)	7,276,917	5,313,178	635,974	102,807	13,210	1,211,736	12
(6) Reduction in REG Factor - monthly per bill/luminaire charge		(\$0.01)	(\$0.02)	(\$0.25)	(\$2.08)	\$0.00	(\$3.83)
(7) Uncollectible Percentage (UP)	1.30%	<u>1.30%</u>	<u>1.30%</u>	<u>1.30%</u>	<u>1.30%</u>	<u>1.30%</u>	<u>1.30%</u>
(8) Illustrative Reduction in RE Growth Factors for FTE Costs		(\$0.01)	(\$0.02)	(\$0.25)	(\$2.10)	\$0.00	(\$3.88)
(9) Proposed RE Growth Factors for Costs of PYE March 2021		<u>\$2.26</u>	<u>\$3.51</u>	<u>\$33.99</u>	<u>\$279.75</u>	<u>\$0.20</u>	<u>\$516.37</u>
(10) Illustrative RE Growth Factors for Costs of PYE March 2021		\$2.25	\$3.49	\$33.74	\$277.65	\$0.20	\$512.49

- (1) Estimated cost of CEI FTEs for PYE March 2021 for which positions were included in Docket No. 4770
- (2) per RIPUC 4770, Compliance Attachment 6, (Schedule 1-A), Line 9
- (3) Line (2) ÷ Line (2) Column (a)
- (4) Line (1) Column (a) x Line (3)
- (5) Company forecast for the period October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021; Streetlighting represents number of fixtures
- (6) Line (4) ÷ Line (5), truncated to 2 decimal places
- (7) Uncollectible Percentage approved in RIPUC Docket No. 4770
- (8) Line (6) ÷ (1-Line (7)), truncated to 2 decimal places
- (9) Schedule NG-2, Line (8)
- (10) Line (8) + Line (9)