

Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
Attn: Luly Massaro
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

January 18, 2022

To the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers:

I respectfully submit my concerns regarding the transfer of National Grid's gas and electric businesses to Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL) as a concerned legislator, community member, resident and parent.

I'm not a utility company or energy expert but I have been working for years in different capacities to increase the supply of responsibly developed renewable energy while reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. We've seen delay after delay in moving forward with this kind of action exacerbating the climate crisis already in progress impacting our economy and communities, primarily our most vulnerable frontline communities.

With the passage of the Act on Climate (section 42- 6.2-8) in April of 2021 we now have time to mitigate the damage set in motion after decades of fossil fuel usage. We must not delay the reduction of carbon emissions in RI any longer but we will need strong commitment and cooperation from our utility companies.

The Act on Climate states that all state agencies, which I believe includes the DPUC has "the powers, duties and the obligations" to consider the impacts of climate change on the people of RI. The DPUC must "exercise among its purposes in the exercise of its existing authority" to rigorously pursue how the sale of National Grid's gas and electric businesses to PPL will impact the public interest and how PPL plans to work quickly to meet the mandatory carbon emissions reduction goals outlined in the Act on Climate.

Through the hearing process PPL has not demonstrated or shown much interest in or knowledge of "green" renewable energy and the need for Rhode Island to transition off of its reliance on fossil fuels. PPL has not given sufficient answers to how it will continue and add to the work started by National Grid in achieving these goals to stay consistent with the public interest and not raise rates in the process.

There are many questions still unanswered such as how will PPL fulfill long term purchasing requirements for renewable energy with no additional cost to ratepayers? What kind of experience and track record has PPL had with renewable energy contracts and most importantly offshore wind energy? Does PPL have a full understanding of the Act on Climate and how they will need to respond and adjust their business model to incorporate and embrace renewable energy?

Once again during the proceedings it seemed that the two companies involved were more focused on corporate interests rather than the impacts on the public. It appears that this transaction works for each company's bottom line and shareholders instead of protecting ratepayers from increased costs and the impacts of climate change. The answers to how PPL is going to replace National Grid's gas and electric business and not negatively impact the public are still not completely answered. Time is ticking away and without a firm commitment from PPL on how they will comply with the Act on Climate, how can we be sure without a shadow of a doubt that this transaction is the right one for the people of Rhode Island.

Sincerely and with deep concern,

Kendra Anderson (State Senator, District 31)
174 Wingate Avenue
Warwick, RI 02888