

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held October 30, 2014

Attendees: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Herbert DeSimone, Commissioner Paul Roberti, Cindy Wilson-Frias, Amy D'Alessandro, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro. Patricia Lucarelli, Sharon Colby Camara and Todd Bianco were not present.

Chairperson Curran called the open meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes of Open Meetings held on September 19, 2014 and October 15, 2014 – After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Competitive Telecommunications Service Providers Dockets

The following company filed an application for authority to transact as a supplier of telecommunications service. The Division reviewed the application and recommended approval of:

- 4525 – Talk America Services, LLC

After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the application. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The following companies filed tariff revisions to their existing tariffs (on date). The Division reviewed the tariff filings and recommended that they be allowed to go into effect without suspension:

- 2618 – AT&T Corp. (tariff filing 10/9/14)
- 2262(L21) – Public Communications Services, Inc. (tariff filing 10/15/14)
- 2262(A6) – SBC Long Distance, LLC (tariff filing 10/14/14)
- 2262(P7) – MCI Communications Services, Inc. (tariff filing 10/16/14)
- 2262(E) – Teleconnect Long Distance Services (tariff filing 10/16/14)

After review, Commissioner Roberti moved to adopt the Division's recommendation. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4526 – Verizon Rhode Island – Verizon RI filed an Interconnection Agreement (ICA) executed between Verizon New England d/b/a Verizon Rhode Island and Hypercube Telecom, LLC. The ICA represents a wholesale agreement negotiated between the companies for interconnection, services or network elements. The Division filed a memorandum recommending adoption of the ICA. After review, Commissioner Roberti moved to approve the ICA. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

1725 – Rules Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas and Water Utility Service – The George Wiley Center’s filed on October 21, 2014 a request to adopt emergency regulations to allow for a one payment plan for customers to restore service or avoid termination of service with a down payment of 10% of the arrearage and repay the balance over 36 months. The PUC received comments from several members of the public, several organizations and the General Assembly in support of the Wiley’s request. National Grid and the Division filed comments supporting the tiered payment plan that was approved last year. The PUC noted that the economy has not changed from last year and continues to lag, and there is report of colder weather than usual approaching. The PUC unanimously agreed to find that eminent peril exists to the public health, safety and welfare to warrant the adoption of emergency regulations. **Vote 3-0.** Commissioner DeSimone moved to renew the emergency regulation that was put in place last year, a tiered payment plan, for this period October 31, 2014 through November 30, 2014. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4522 – National Grid (NGrid) – National Grid filed on September 2, 2014, proposed 2015-2017 Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plan. The Plan is submitted in compliance with R.I.G.L. § 39-1-27.7 and the Least Cost Procurement Act (LCP Act). The Plan will guide the development of detailed Energy Efficiency Program Plans (EEPP) and System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Reports to be submitted to the PUC for approval in years 2015, 2016 and 2017. It is a high level plan containing projected energy efficiency budgets and program charges for the 3-year period. This Plan will serve as the first guide for National Grid’s 2015 plan expected to be filed on November 3. The PUC noted that since its inception, the plan budgets have approximately tripled for electric and quadrupled for gas. At the end of this 3-year plan, the budget increases are starting to stabilize. The PUC finds this Plan is consistent with the state’s policy and implements the provisions of the LCP Act. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve National Grid’s 2015-2017 Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plan. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

2379(J3) – Customer Acquisition Specialist of America, Inc. (Company) – The Company filed an application for authority to transact as a gas marketer. The Division reviewed the application and recommended approval. After review, Commissioner Roberti moved to approve the application. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.