

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held December 16, 2015

Attendees: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Paul Roberti, Commissioner Herbert DeSimone, Patricia Lucarelli, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Amy D'Alessandro, Sharon Colby Camara, Alan Nault, Todd Bianco, and Luly Massaro.

Chairperson Curran called the open meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes of Open Meetings held on December 1, 2015

Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4588 – Narragansett Bay Commission – The Narragansett Bay Commission filed, on November 13, 2015, proposed changes to its Terms and Conditions of Service. Narragansett Bay Commission seeks to amend its abatement calculation. The abatement calculation is only applicable to those customers who have installed an abatement meter that measures the amount of water that does not enter the sewer system. The Division filed a memorandum summarizing its examination of the filing and recommending approval. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve the Terms and Conditions as submitted by Narragansett Bay Commission. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4585 – Pascoag Utility District – Pascoag Utility District filed, on November 6, 2015, proposed Demand Side Management programs for the 2016 calendar year with an overall budget of \$136,597 to implement energy efficiency programs targeted at different classes of residential, commercial, and industrial customers. The Division filed a memorandum summarizing its review and recommending approval of the proposal as filed. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve Pascoag's filing. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4587 – National Grid – National Grid filed, on November 12, 2015, its proposed Long-Term Contracting for Renewable Energy Recovery Factor for the period January 2016 through June 2016. The Company is proposing a recovery factor of 0.231¢ per kilowatt-hour (kWh), applicable to all customers, effective for consumption on and after January 1, 2016. The Division filed a memorandum summarizing its review and recommending approval of the proposed Long-Term Contracting for Renewable Energy Recovery Factor. After review, Commissioner DeSimone moved to approve National Grid's proposed Long-Term Contracting for Renewable Energy Recovery Factor. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4580 – The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid – Review of the record and ruling on the Stipulation and Settlement of the parties seeking approval of

National Grid's 2016 Energy Efficiency Program Plan and budgets to implement electric and natural gas energy efficiency programs targeted at different classes of residential, commercial, and industrial customers. The Settlement Agreement is entered into by the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, the Energy Efficiency Resources Management Council, Acadia Center, People's Power & Light, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, and National Grid. After review and discussion, Commissioner Roberti finds the Settlement is reasonable, consistent with the law and state policy, and he moved to approve the Settlement and proposed factors. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** The PUC expressed the following concerns:

- 1) The Collaborative should address the concerns raised by TECRI in its public comment. The budgets on both electric and gas plans and the associated system benefit charge have risen dramatically in the last five years. The average customer will pay \$132 a year or \$11.00 per month for energy efficiency programs.
- 2) There are inconsistencies between the three-year plan and the proposed annual plan. While it is understood that the three-year plan is used as a guidepost, the budgets and expenses are higher than those proposed in the annual plan. The parties can address this in the next annual filing.
- 3) The evidence submitted for the Home Energy Report Program is that it is cost effective, but it is the least effective program. Has this program reached its point of saturation? With regard to the Home Energy Report mailings, why aren't they included as inserts in customer bills, and why aren't they mailed four times per year with the changing of seasons? Also, why is the Home Energy Report program the only statewide program of its kind in the country? Finally, the Home Energy Reports do not take into consideration the occupants of a dwelling, so why should the findings contained in this report be considered valid? The parties should examine this program next year and debate whether it is worthwhile going forward.
- 4) The Company should fully explain what non-energy benefits and costs are incorporated into the TRC.
- 5) How many businesses are taking advantage of these programs that the average ratepayer is paying for?
- 6) We need to know how the costs of energy efficiency programs are allocated between residential and non-residential customers and how much cross-subsidization is occurring. To this end, perhaps in the next filing, the Company could provide a pie-chart showing how much is collected from each class to support these programs.
- 7) The Company should provide more information in the next filing about the manner in which it handles customer complaints concerning the vendors and contractors delivering these programs.

4581 – National Grid – The PUC reviewed the 2016 System Reliability Procurement Report agreed to by the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, the Energy Efficiency Resources Management Council, Acadia Center, People's Power & Light, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, and National Grid on October 15, 2015. The

report provides National Grid's with a budget of \$441,123 to continue the fifth year of the Load Curtailment Pilot in Tiverton. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the 2016 System Reliability Procurement Report. Commissioner Roberti seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4483 – Wind Energy Development, LLC & ACP Land, LLC – Review and discussion of this docket was postponed until next month. This docket relates to National Grid's amended Distributed Generation (DG) Interconnection Tariff (R.I.P.U.C. No. 2078). The amended DG interconnection tariff was submitted in compliance with the PUC's November 12, 2014 interim order.

Renewable Energy Resources Eligibility Applications Dockets - The following applications have been on hold for over a year pending responses to information requests from the PUC and its consultant. The applicants have been contacted by email and by phone and they have not responded. Therefore, the PUC may reject each of the following applications for lack of compliance with the RES application process. However, such a determination does not address the merits of the application nor does it preclude the applicant from submitting a new Renewable Energy Resource application. These applications may be considered for rejection without prejudice.

- 3885 – Mount Copper Wind Power Energy, Inc. - Application for certification of the Mount Copper Generation Unit, filed on October 12, 2007.
- 3886 - Mount Miller Wind Energy Ltd. - Application for certification of the Mount Miller Generation Unit, filed on October 12, 2007.
- 4507 - Epico USA, Inc. - Application for certification of the Kezar Middle Falls Generation Unit, filed on June 5, 2014.

After review, Commissioner Roberti moved to dismiss the applications without prejudice. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.