

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on August 27, 2018

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Monday, August 28, 2018 at 2:05 P.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate and/or vote on the following dockets.

Present: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Linda George, Alan Nault, Todd Bianco and Luly Massaro.

Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 2:05 P.M. A quorum was present.

Docket No. 4822 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid – The PUC reviewed the record relating to National Grid’s May 4, 2018 filing requesting for review and approval of a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for Long-Term Contracts for Renewable Energy Projects to be used to solicit proposals from renewable energy developers in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.1-1 et seq. and PUC’s Rules and Regulations Governing Long-Term Contracting Standards for Renewable Energy. After deliberation, Commissioner Anthony made the followings motions and Chairperson Curran seconded the motions. The motions unanimously passed.

1. To approve National Grid’s proposed LTC RFP and revisions made pursuant to the Division’s comments and amended to allow for conforming and non-conforming bids and require all bidders to submit a conforming bid. **Vote 3-0.**
2. That National Grid shall file the weighting of criteria and scoring method for ranking under seal with the PUC prior to reviewing the responses to the RFP. **Vote 3-0.**
3. In its review of the discretionary procurements, the Commission will consider the long-term contract statute, the least cost procurement statute, and the policy of just and reasonable rates. The Commission will also consider Docket No. 4600 Guidance Document’s Goals for the Energy System and Cost-Benefit Framework, as well as the rate design principles to the extent applicable. Using these tools, the Company should present a quantitative and qualitative business case that describes why the proposed investments are preferred over alternatives for advancing the goals for the energy system. The business case should include at a minimum:
 - a. Explanation for the timing of the proposed procurement.
 - b. Explanation for the size of the proposed procurement.
 - c. Consideration and comparison of alternatives to meeting the Goals for the Energy System, the Governor’s clean energy goals, and clean energy jobs goals. Alternatives considered should include, but not be limited to, purchase of RECs from existing facilities, energy efficiency, Renewable Energy Growth, and net metering resources.
 - d. The business case should be as transparent, complete, documented, and explained as possible.

Vote 3-0.

4. That National Grid shall submit a compliance filing, for consideration by the PUC in a subsequent open meeting, consistent with this Open Meeting decision. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 4755 - National Grid - The Division submitted another request to extend the suspension period for an additional 30 days (beyond August 30, 2018), National Grid's Energy Efficiency Incentive proposal (the Combined Heat and Power System for the Naval Station Project). The Division has issued more discovery and requires more time to gather outstanding discovery and prepare reply comments to National Grid's proposal. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to grant the Division's request to extend the suspension period for an additional 30 days beyond August 30. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 4394 – Bucksport Generation LLC (Company) – The Company submitted a notice that the Bucksport Generation LLC - TG5 Turbine Generator has been retired, will no longer generate energy and requested that the PUC terminate certification and remove the TG5 Turbine Generator from the Rhode Island list of eligible renewable energy resources. Chairperson Curran moved to grant the request as submitted. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 4850 – Jay Cardosi – Jay Cardosi submitted an application for eligibility certification of the JJ CARDOSI, INC. generation unit, a 0.069 MW AC (0.090 MW DC) solar facility located in East Providence, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy Resource. PUC Consultant submitted a review and recommendation to approve the application. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the application. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 4569 - Athens Energy LLC (Company) – The Company submitted a request for consideration to approve its electrical wiring configuration of the Athens Energy facility. Athens Energy is a grid connected eligible biomass facility located in Maine. The Company rewired a breaker so to allow certain power plant equipment, used in their affiliated pellet plant operation, to be serviced by Athens Energy. This resulted in non-service station load provided by Athens Energy. The Company seeks that the wiring configuration finding meets the intent of the Commission's rules and that its eligibility meets the requirement as non-customer sited generation facility. After review of the request and supporting documentation from the facility's local distribution company (LCD), Chairperson Curran moved to approve the request with the finding the Athens Energy facility is not in violation based on the representation from the LDC that under the current re-wired configuration, the LDC does not believe the facility would be out of compliance, finding the facility is not serving customer sited load and the facility is not in violation with the local tariff. With the same standards, for the same purposes, the PUC would not want to make a finding that is different from the facility's local distribution company. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Curran moved to adjourn the Open Meeting at 3:48 P.M.