

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on January 22, 2021

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) was held on January 22, 2021 at 12:30 P.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets

In attendance: Todd Bianco, John Harrington, Emma Rodvien and Luly Massaro.
Remotely: Chairman Ronald Gerwatowski, Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Patricia Lucarelli, Alan Nault and Rudolph Falcone.

- I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 12:35 P.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Telecommunications Service Providers** – The following companies ceased operations and requested cancellation of their registration as a provider of telecommunications service in Rhode Island:
Docket No. 3098 – A.R.C. Networks, Inc. d/b/a InfoHighway Communications
Docket No. 3434 – Broadview NP Acquisition Corp. d/b/a Broadview Net Plus
Docket No. 3688 – Eureka Telecom, Inc. d/b/a Eureka Networks
Docket No. 4225 – Windstream NuVox, LLC
Docket No. 4386 – Lingo Communications of the northeast, LLC
Docket No. 2262(W14) – LRC Telecommunications, LLC
Docket No. 2262(G1) – Business Telecom, LLC d/b/a EarthLink Business IX
Docket No. 2262(W19) – ATX Licensing, Inc.
Docket No. 2262(M15) – BridgeCom International, Inc.
After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the requests of each of the of the aforementioned telecommunication carriers to cancel their authority to provide services. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 5093 – Simwood, Inc. (Company)** – The Company applied for registration to provide telecommunications service in Rhode Island and requested for protective treatment of confidential information included with the registration as Exhibit B, financial statements. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the registration and request for confidential treatment of Exhibit B. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IV. **Docket No. 5091 - GD Glocester White Oak I, LLC (Company)** - The Company applied for eligibility of the GD Glocester White Oak I, LLC generation unit, a 1.8 MW AC solar facility located in Glocester, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept the recommendation of PUC Consultant to grant conditional approval to the applicant.

Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

V. Docket No. 5092 – Putnam Pike Solar, LLC - The Company applied for eligibility of the Putnam Pike Solar, LLC generation unit, a .2498 MW DC (.200 MW AC) solar facility located in Chepachet, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept the recommendation of PUC Consultant to grant conditional approval to the applicant. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VI. Docket No. 4373 – Interstate Navigation Co. – In this docket the PUC reviews Interstate Navigation’s earnings. The Company submitted its annual FY 2019 earnings report as required by the Settlement Agreement approved by the PUC (Order 23850) in this docket and request to transfer the FY 2019 excess earnings of \$802,647 to the capital reserve. After review of the record, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to find Interstate Navigation’s earnings report in compliance with prior Commission Orders and moved to approve the transfer requested to the capital reserve. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VII. Docket No. 4983 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid – In this docket the Commission considered National Grid’s request for approval of the Certificates of Eligibility (COE) for commercial scale, large scale and community remote distributed generation commercial projects that have been selected in the Company’s Third 2020 Open Enrollment for participation in the Renewable Energy Growth Program. Chairman Gerwatowski noted the Commission received data response that confirmed none of these projects violated anti-segmentation rules. Chairman Gerwatowski moved approve the COEs as filed in the Company’s third enrollment filing. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VIII. Docket No. 5099 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid – This docket relates to National Grid’s proposed FY 2022 Gas Infrastructure, System and Reliability (ISR) Plan. The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) filed a motion to intervene. The Division and National Grid objected to the CLF’s motion. Finding that this docket is not the proper forum to address CLF’s issues raised and in anticipation that National Grid will be filing a rate case in which at that time, the PUC can address the issue of depreciation, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to deny CLF’s intervention request. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

IX. Approval of Minutes of Open Meetings – The PUC approved the following:

Minutes of Open Meeting held October 23, 2020 - Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve. Commissioner Gold seconded and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Minutes of Open Meeting held October 28, 2020 - Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve. Commissioner Anthony seconded and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Minutes of Open Meeting held November 4, 2020 - Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve. Commissioner Gold seconded and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Minutes of Open Meeting held November 17, 2020 - Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve. Commissioner Anthony seconded and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Minutes of Open Meeting held December 22, 2020 - Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve. Commissioner Anthony seconded and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Minutes of Open Meeting held December 28, 2020 - Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve. Commissioner Gold seconded and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Minutes of Open Meeting held December 30, 2020 - Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve. Commissioner Gold seconded and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- X. **Docket No. 5076 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – This docket relates to the PUC’s review of National Grid’s Company’s 2021-2023 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Plan (Three-Year Plan) and 2021 Annual Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Program Plan (Annual Plan), referred to collectively as the Combined Plan. The Combined Plan is a settlement between National Grid, the Office of Energy Resources (OER), the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, (Division), the Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council (EERMC), Acadia Center, and the Green Energy Consumers Alliance (collectively, the Settlement Parties).

The purpose of discussion at this Open Meeting was for the PUC to give the parties an opportunity to understand the modifications to the original Performance Incentive Mechanism (PIM) that was filed. Todd Bianco gave a presentation to illustrate the mechanics and actual impact of the PIM and how it incentivizes with the modification on the table. The PUC discussed potential process to offer the parties an opportunity to inquire on the mechanics of PIMs during a staff level technical conference to be scheduled. No votes were taken.

- XI. There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Gerwatowski adjourned the Open Meeting at 2:00 P.M. A video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>