
Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on July 23, 2020 @ 1:00 P.M.

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 1:00 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, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro. Remotely: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Abigail Anthony and Margaret Hogan.

- I. Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 1:05 P.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Docket No. 4978 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – This docket is related to National Grid’s Last Resort Service (LRS) proposal, submitted pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.3(c). The law requires the Company to arrange for last resort power supply for customers who are not otherwise receiving electric service from a Non-regulated Power Producer or through Standard Offer Service. The Company's procurement plan includes procurement procedures, pricing options being sought and proposed terms of service for which LRS will be acquired for all customer group. After review of the record, the following motions were made:

Commissioner Gold moved that the PUC reject National Grid’s procurement proposal that instead of submitting an annual procurement plan filing, National Grid would file a LRS procurement plan when it believes the 2021 LRS procurement plan needs to be modified or at the PUC's request. Commissioner Gold moved that National Grid shall file a LRS procurement plan every two years. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Gold moved to accept National Grid's proposal that it discontinue the two step process that requires the Company to file within 24 hours, with the PUC and Division, a summary of the indicative and final bids received, which shall include, without limitation, the name of the vendor, the amount of power bid, and the price. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Gold moved to reject National Grids' proposal to retain the name Standard Offer Service for electric service provided by the company to those customers who are not provided electric supply by a nonregulated power producer and all reference to LRS service. Commissioner Gold moved instead that the Company refer to Last Resort Service as Last Resort Service in all bills, customer communications and tariffs. However, the company could continue to refer to LRS as Energy Charge in its bills and customer communications as long as it indicates

somewhere in the bills that Energy Charge is referred as Last Resort Service. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Gold moved to approve the proposed LRS Procurement Plan, the Master Power Agreement, and the RFP documents as modified in previous motions. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- III. **Docket No. 5015 – Least Cost Procurement Standards** - This docket is related to the PUC’s review of the current Least Cost Procurement (LCP) Standards. The PUC discussed, reviewed and deliberated on the written comments received in response to PUC’s proposed draft LCP Standards issued on May 29, 2020. After the PUC reviewed the comments and reached a consensus on the proposed recommendations, PUC staff summarized the recommendations and changes to the LCP Standards and the following motions were made:

Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC adopt the following recommendations and changes:

- 1) Office of Energy Resources (OER) recommended changes to section 1.3(E)(i)(e) (2nd recommendation), section 2.3(A)(iii) (4th recommendation) and section 1.3(E)(ii) (5th recommendation);
- 2) Division of Public Utilities consultant, Mr. Booth, recommended change to section 6.3(E) (comment #13), and Division’s recommended changes to sections 1.4(A)(i) and 3.8(B)(ii)(a) and 3.8(B)(ii)(b) changing word from “will” to “may”;
- 3) National Grids’ recommended change to sections 6.2(D) and 6.3(D) changing word from “oversight” to “monitor”; and
- 4) All typos identified, including those identified in National Grid’s and Division’s comments.

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

Commissioner Gold moved to accept OER’s recommendation to edit Section 3.2.N. There was no second. There being no second to Commissioner Gold’s motion, the motion was rejected.

Chairperson Curran moved to not adopt OER’s recommendation to edit Section 3.2.N. Commissioner Anthony seconded the Chairperson’s motion. The motion passed. **Vote 2-1.**

Commissioner Anthony moved to adopt the LCP Standards with said changes. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- IV. Minutes of Open Meetings held on May 21, 2020 and June 25, 2020 – Chairperson Curran moved to approve the Minutes of Open Meetings. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- V. There being no further business to address, Chairperson Curran adjourned the Open Meeting at 3:05 P.M. A video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>