

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held on June 4, 2020**

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 10: A.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets

In attendance: Chairperson Margaret Curran and Todd Bianco. Remotely: Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Anthony, Margaret Hogan, Cynthia Wilson-Frias and Alan Nault, Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Anthony, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro.

- I. Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 10:10 A.M. A quorum was present.
- II. Minutes of Open Meetings: Chairperson Curran moved to approve the Minutes of Open Meeting held on March 30, 2020 and April 13, 2020. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 5029 – South County Solar 805 Main, LLC** – The PUC considered South County Solar 805 Main, LLC’s (CSC) May 4, 2020 petition for waiver of output deadline under the Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid Tariff RIPUC No. 2152-E Extension Form/Process. SCS seeks to extend the solar project’s deadline to achieve commercial operation beyond June 11, 2020 as a result of development and construction delays caused by COVID-19. The following motions were made:
  - a.) Chairperson Curran moved to grant the petition submitted by South County Solar PUC South County 805 Main LLC’s Petition for a Waiver of the Output Deadline under the Renewable Energy Growth Program for a period up to 120 days from June 11, 2020. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
  - b.) Chairperson Curran moved to approve the extension form and process explanation filed by National Grid on May 21, 2020 for projects enrolled in the 2018 Renewable Energy Growth Program Year. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IV. **Docket No. 4879 – Woonsocket Water Division** – The PUC will review the record and rule Woonsocket Water Division’s second step rate increase under a multi-year rate plan pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §39-15.1-4, submitted April 14, 2020. Woonsocket Water sought approval to implement proposed rates designed to collect additional operating revenues in the amount of \$541,362 to support total operating revenue requirements of \$9,150,369. The effective date of the proposed rates is June 15, 2020. After deliberation, the following motions were made:

- a.) Chairperson Curran moved to find that the petition filed by WWD was not a Petition for Modification under 39-15.1-4 (d). Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
  - b.) Chairperson Curran moved that the Department's requested percentage increase is not acceptable. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
  - c.) Commissioner Anthony moved to reject the Department's request for rate increase to cover the position of Plant Master Maintenance Mechanic. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
  - d.) Commissioner Anthony move to reject the Department's request for inflation labor expense above 2 percent. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
  - e.) Commissioner Anthony moved to reject the Department's request for additional revenue to cover the water sales shortfall. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
  - f.) Commissioner Anthony moved to reject the Department's request to credit the power expense. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
  - g.) Chairperson Curran moved to approve the Woonsocket Water's request for the treatment plant operating contract of \$59,992, which is an incremental increase of \$7,585 from the Settlement Agreement projections for Rate Year Two. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
  - h.) Commissioner Gold moved to deny the increase in rate case expense for Step 2 from \$16,000 to \$44,856. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
  - i.) Commissioner Gold moved to approve a total step increase of \$454,761 as recommended by the Division. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- V. There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Curran adjourned the Open Meeting adjourned at 10:59 A.M. A video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>