

State of Rhode Island

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on March 19, 2021

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held on Friday, March 19, 2021 at 10:30 A.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets.

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

- I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. A quorum was present
- II. Minutes of Open Meetings held on February 11, 2021 – Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 5022 - Suspension of Service Terminations and Certain Collections Activities During the COVID-19 Emergency** – The Commission considered whether an emergency still exists and whether circumstances exist which necessitate the need to extend the utility termination moratorium as defined by the Commission’s Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of residential Electric, Gas and Water Service (810 RICR-10-00-1). Currently, the moratorium is set to expire on April 15, 2021, through June 25, 2021, the last day of school on the Statewide school calendar, for customers of The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (electric and gas). The termination moratorium also applies to the Pascoag Utility District and Block Island Utility District.

After review of comments submitted and discussion, Commissioner Anthony moved that the Commission extend the utility termination moratorium as defined by the Commission’s termination rules set to expire of April 15, 2021 through the new date of June 25, 2021, for protected status customers of The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (electric and gas). Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** National Grid shall continue with its outreach efforts to provide flexible payment plans to customers in arrears.

The Commission encouraged and expected that Pascoag Utility District and Block Island Utility District continue to work with their customers and provide flexible payment arrangements.

- IV. **Docket No. 4373 – Interstate Navigation Co. (Company)** – This docket relates to the Commission review the Company’s earnings. The Commission considered the February 18, 2021 Settlement Agreement between the Division of Public Utilities and Interstate Navigation regarding the disposition of the current overage

of funds in the Company's fuel surcharge reserve account. Chairman Gerwatowski found the agreement to be reasonable and supported approval. Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the Settlement Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gold and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- V. Providers of Telecommunications Service** – The Commission reviewed and voted on the application for registration to provide telecommunications service submitted in the following dockets:

Docket No. 5123 – Combined Public Communications, LLC (Company) – The Company applied for approval as a Class V Telecommunication Supplier (to offer Inmate Services). The applicant requested confidential treatment of the Company's financial statements, Exhibit 2. Commissioner Gold moved to grant confidential treatment requested. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The Division filed a memorandum summarizing the application, finding conformity with the filing requirements and supported the conditional approval of the registration w/ the requirement the applicant submit a copy of the contract with the State of Rhode Island or the United States of America. Commissioner Gold moved to conditionally approve the application. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 5125 – Hughes Network Systems, LLC – The Company applied for approval as a Class VI Telecommunications Supplier (to offer VoIP service). The Division filed a memorandum summarizing the application, finding conformity with the filing requirements and supported approval of the registration. Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the application. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 5132 – Advanced Corporate Networks (Company) - The Company applied for approval as a Class V Telecommunications Supplier (Wholesaler of Data Services). There was no discussion or action taken on this docket because the applicant withdrew the application.

- VI. Eligibility as a Renewable Energy Resource** – The Commission reviewed and voted on the application for eligibility as a Renewable Energy Resource submitted in the following dockets:

Docket No. 5104 – Diamond Hill Solar, LLC (Company) - The Company applied for eligibility of the 3100 Diamond Hill Road Solar generation unit, a 0.199 MW AC (0.249 MW DC) solar facility located in Cumberland, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Commissioner Anthony moved to accept PUC consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve with the requirement the applicant provide documentation verifying assignment of GIS identification number and achievement of commercial operation. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 5105 – Bluestone Development Group, LLC (Company) - The Company applied for eligibility of the One Angell Road Solar generation unit, a 0.206 MW AC (0.248 MW DC) solar facility located in Cumberland, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept PUC consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve with the requirement the applicant provide documentation verifying assignment of GIS identification number and achievement of commercial operation. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 5107 – Vikon Solar, LLC (Company) - The Company applied for eligibility of the Vikon Solar generation unit, a 0.300 MW AC (0.380 MW DC) solar facility located in Lincoln, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept PUC consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve with the requirement the applicant provide documentation verifying assignment of GIS identification number and achievement of commercial operation. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 5109 – 1519 Crandall Road, LLC (Company) - The Company applied for eligibility of the Tiverton – Crandall Road 1 generation unit, a 1.826 MW AC (2.581 MW DC) solar facility located in Tiverton, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept PUC consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve with the requirement the applicant provide documentation verifying assignment of GIS identification number. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 5115 – Rooftop 344, LLC (Company) - The Company applied for eligibility of the Rooftop 344, LLC generation unit, a 0.120 MW AC (0.1505 MW DC) solar facility located in Middletown, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept PUC consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve with the requirement the applicant provide documentation verifying assignment of GIS identification number and achievement of commercial operation. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 5110 – 1519 Crandall Road, LLC (Company) - The Company applied for eligibility of the Tiverton – Crandall Road 2 generation unit, a 1.660 MW AC (2.371 MW DC) solar facility located in Tiverton, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept PUC consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve with the requirement the applicant provide documentation verifying assignment of GIS identification number. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Docket No. 5117 – University Solar 2, LLC (Company) – The Company applied for eligibility of the University Solar 2, LLC generation unit, a 4.0 MW AC (5.305 MW DC) solar facility located in West Greenwich, Rhode Island as a New

Renewable Energy Resource. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept PUC consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve with the requirement the applicant provide documentation verifying assignment of GIS identification number and achievement of commercial operation. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VII. Docket Nos. 5113 and 5114 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid – These dockets relate to National Grid's proposed Updated Advanced Metering Functionality (AMF) Business Case in Docket 5113 and Grid Modernization Plan in Docket 5114. In light of recent news that would affect these dockets, discussion of these dockets was deferred.

VIII. Docket No. 5099 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid – This docket relates to the PUC's review of National Grid's Gas Infrastructure, Safety and Reliability Plan for FY 2022. The PUC reviewed the record and discussed outstanding issues, including a discussion relating to the Company's proposal to assess alternative solutions that address risks on Aquidneck Island. No votes were taken.

IX. There being no further business to discuss, the Open Meeting adjourned at 11:17 A.M.