

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held on May 26, 2020**

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets

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

I. Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 2:06 P.M. A quorum was present.

II. **Docket No. 4606 – Block Island Utility District (BIUD)** – The PUC reviewed the record relating to the following petitions submitted by the BIUD:

The first petition submitted on January 7, 2020, BIUD requested for a continued exemption from the retail access provisions of R.I.G.L. § 39-1-27.3 of the Utility Restructuring Act (URA) through April 30, 2025. Chairperson Curran moved to approve the petition as requested and Commissioner Gold seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The second petition submitted on May 7, 2020, BIUD requested exemption from the Utility Restructuring Act of 1996 (URA) under R.I.G.L. § 39-1-27(g). Specifically, BIUD requested exemption (1) from the requirement to transfer ownership of generation facilities to an affiliated company, and (2) from the prohibition against selling electricity at retail. The exemption will facilitate the installation and operation of a rooftop solar project. The power generated (and the related renewable energy certificates) will be sold to produce revenue for BIUD and directed to making capital improvements on BIUD’s electric system. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the petition and Commissioner Gold seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

III. **Docket No. 4975 – Block Island Utility District (BIUD)** – This docket is related to BIUD’s rate application to implement new rates and schedules designed to collect total revenues of \$3,291,335. BIUD sought no revenue requirement increase. A Settlement Agreement between BIUD and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers that resolves all outstanding issues was submitted on April 10, 2020. The Settlement Agreement provided adjustments to certain expense categories but did not change the requested revenue requirement. After review of the record, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the Settlement Agreement. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

IV. **Docket No. 5013 – Block Island Utility District (BIUD)** – In this docket the PUC reviewed the record relating to BIUD’s proposed Demand Side Management (DSM) Plan with an overall budget \$120,000 to implement energy efficiency program and system reliability for its customers in the calendar year 2020. The DSM program is to be funded through the collection of the Efficiency Surcharge to be collected from all customers during the peak months of July and August and the shoulder months of May, June, September, and October. After review, the following motions were deliberated:

Chairperson Curran moved to approve the proposed Demand Side Management Plan and budget. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairperson Curran moved that the BIUD include the Renewable Energy Fund charge of 0.3 mils per kWh as separate line charge in all bills. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairperson Curran moved that in the next year’s DSM filing, BIUD shall directly address the rationale for the continuation of or any changes to the rate design of the Demand Side Management charge. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**Docket No. 4690 – Block Island Utility District (BIUD)** – The PUC reviewed the record relating to the BIUD’s proposed rate change to the Standard Offer Service and Transmission Service arising out of the twelve-month reconciliation of the Company’s tariff adjustment provisions for the Standard Offer and Transmission Rate. After review, the following motions were made:

Chairperson Curran moved to approve BIUD’s proposed rate changes as filed. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairperson Curran moved that BIUD be directed in future filings to use proposed standard offer service and transmission service rates as projected expense for the solar project. Also, that the utility district in future filings use the Block Island Transmission System Expense that is included in National Grid’s retail rate filing as a basis for the utility district’s retail charge. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The PUC noted to include the May 19, 2020 letter from Chris Warfel as public comment in Dockets 5013, 4690 & 4975.

V. The being no further business to address, Chairperson Curran adjourned the Open Meeting adjourned at 2:24 P.M. A video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>

