

**State of Rhode Island**

**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held on October 14, 2021**

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 1:30 P.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets.

In attendance: Chairman Ronald Gerwatowski, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Commissioner John Revens, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Patricia Lucarelli, John Harrington, Alan Nault, Todd Bianco and Luly Massaro.

- I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Docket No. 4373 – Interstate Navigation Co.** – The docket relates to the PUC’s review of Interstate Navigation’s earnings. The PUC reviewed the Settlement Agreement regarding the disposition of Interstate Navigation’s excess earnings for FY 2020, submitted September 9, 2021. The Agreement executed by Interstate Navigation and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers requests that the (1) PUC authorize \$186,476 of the amount available to ratepayers be credited to the capital reserve account to eliminate its current negative balance and (2) the PUC authorize the remainder available, \$511,983, be credited to the fuel reserve and continue the \$1/ticket credit until the balance of the fuel reserve drops below \$50,000. After review, Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the Settlement Agreement. Chairman Gerwatowski seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 5088 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – The PUC considered National Grid’s request for approval of Certificate of Eligibility (COE) of one Commercial-Scale Solar (Solar Carport) project that has been selected in the Company’s Second 2021 Open Enrollment for participation in the Renewable Energy Growth Program. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the COE reflected in the filing. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IV. **Docket No. 4237 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – The PUC reviewed the record relating to National Grid’s 2021 Contact Voltage Annual Report submitted August 18, 2021 pursuant to statutory mandate and PUC orders issued in this docket. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the following motions:
  - a) The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid shall continue the testing schedule for completing 20% of the Designated Contact Voltage Risk Areas in FY 2022.

- b) The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid shall continue its current process for conducting mobile surveys.
- c) The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid shall monitor IEEE Standard P1695 and inform the Commission of any changes or other actions involving P1695.
- d) The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid shall perform post-mitigation testing on Company-owned assets by manually testing the areas where previous remediation work was completed after the prior year's mobile survey.
- e) The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid shall continue to compare current year survey results in the Designated Contact Voltage Risk Areas with company-owned assets against results from the same DCVRAs from prior years.
- f) The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid shall notify municipalities that own streetlights of the increasing trend in mobile events.
- g) The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid shall pursue with Osmose why its shunt reading process is not determining false event readings and provide an explanation in its 2022 Contact Voltage Annual Report.

Commissioner Anthony seconded the motions. The motions unanimously passed.  
**Vote 3-0.**

- V. **Docket No. 5189 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – In this docket, National Grid submitted its Annual Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 on October 1, 2021. The PUC discussed procedure to review the Company's provisional plan and budget for the 2022 year.

Procedurally, the PUC will only review the provisional plan for the 2022 program that was filed by the Company and to treat any filing for the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) incentive program (Rhode Island Grows project) as a separate matter that is not related to the 2022 Annual Plan or its budget. If there is not a filing for the Rhode Island Grows project, the matter will be moot. If there is a filing for the project, then the PUC can address as a separate matter. If the incentive is approved, then the PUC can determine the funding of the incentive at that time. This process will allow the energy efficiency program to proceed without any contingencies affecting the 2022 program budget and will significantly simplify our review of the 2022 Annual Plan . PUC counsel will confirm this with the parties.

- VI. **Docket No. 5084 – Pascoag Utility District** - This docket relates to the Pascoag Utility District's 2021 Demand Side Management (DSM) program approved by the PUC. Pascoag Utility submitted on September 14, 2021, request to reallocate \$14,318 in DSM funds to the Home Energy Audits and Weatherization Incentives program. The Division submitted a position memorandum. After review, the PUC agreed that the Weatherization Incentive program, which is a program that primarily serves oil and gas customers and was fully funded with REGI funds, does not benefit Pascoag's electric customers. Pascoag has not shown that these home audits and weatherization program is the best way to save money to all its electric

customers. Pascoag is proposing to take funding from a ratepayer budget funded program and transfer it to the weatherization program. Pascoag can save the funds and roll it over to next year's plan. After review, Commissioner Anthony moved to deny Pascoag Utility's request to reallocated \$14,318 to the Home Energy Audits and Weatherization Incentives program. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**VII. Docket No. 5186 - Electric Lightwave LLC d/b/a AllStream (Company)** – The Company applied for registration to conduct business as a telecommunication supplier in Rhode Island. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the registration to conduct business as a telecommunication supplier in Rhode Island. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**VIII. Renewable Energy Resource Generation Units** – The PUC will review and rule on the status of eligibility as Renewable Energy Resource facilities in the following dockets:

**Docket No. 4423 – Indeck Energy-Alexandria, LLC Generation Unit** notified that the Pemigwas-Indeck Alexandria is no longer in operation and requested to withdraw as an Eligible Renewable Energy Resource in Rhode Island. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to cancel the certification for eligibility of the Pemigwas-Indeck Alexandria generation unit without prejudice. Commissioner Antony seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**Docket No. 3897 – Springfield Power, LLC** facility has not complied with RES Rules Section 2.6(C) to submit quarterly fuel reports. Several attempts were made to notify the facility on the outstanding fuel reports due. Per the RES Rules, facilities that failed to submit quarterly reports shall be de-certified and removed from the list eligible facilities. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to decertify and remove the Springfield Power facility from the list of eligible renewable energy facilities. Commissioner Antony seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**IX.** There being no further business to discuss, the Open Meeting adjourned at 1:57 P.M.