

State of Rhode Island

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on November 29, 2021

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) was held Monday, November 29, 2021 at 11:30 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, Commissioner John Revens, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, John Harrington, Alan Nault, Todd Bianco and Luly Massaro.

- I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 11:30 A.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Docket No. 5192 – Block Island Utility District (BIUD)** - In this docket, BIUD submitted a tariff filing to amend the utility’s Terms and Conditions for Net Metering effective December 1, 2021. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to suspend the effective date of the tariff to conduct discovery and hearing on the proposal. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 4290 – RI Department of Human Services (DHS)** - In accordance with statute, DHS submitted the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Plan Rates for calendar year 2022 applicable to any person taking service from an electric and gas distribution company. DHS requested that the Commission set the LIHEAP charge at \$0.81 per month for each electric or gas distribution customer, or, in the alternative, set the charge at an equivalent monthly amount so as not to exceed the statutory annual funding cap of \$7,500,000. The Division file a memorandum summarizing its review of DHS request and the data responses submitted by DHS and the distribution company, National Grid. National Grid responded that a factor of \$0.79 would provide revenues as close as possible to the \$7.5 million maximum without exceeding the annual cap. The Division recommended approval of a LIHEAP charge of \$0.79 applicable to each electric and gas distribution customer, for effect on January 1, 2022. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the Division’s proposal of \$0.79 monthly charge. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IV. **Docket No. 4978 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – This docket relates to National Grid’s Last Resort Service (LRS) rates submitted pursuant to the LRS Procurement Plan approved by the PUC in this docket on July 23, 2020. On October 19, 2021, National Grid submitted proposed Last Resort Service Rates for the Industrial Group for the period January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022. The filing included a motion for protective treatment of confidential procurement records. The Division submitted a memorandum summarizing its review and finding that National Grid’s proposed Last Resort rates are correctly

calculated and comply with the Last Resort Procurement Plan approved by the Commission on July 23, 2020. After discussion, the following motions were made:

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to grant the Company's motion for protective treatment of the confidential information. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve National Grid's proposed LRS rates for the Industrial Group for the period January 2022 through March 2022. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- V. **Docket Nos. 5165 and 5180 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – In these dockets, National Grid submitted a compliance filing for rates that took effect November 1, 2021. The compliance filing reflects the Commission's Open Meeting decisions on October 26, 2021 and November 1, 2021 regarding the Company's Distribution Adjustment Charge and Gas Cost Recovery Charge. The compliance tariff reflects revision to the Company's tariff to eliminate references to the Advanced Gas Technology (AGT) Program, AGT Funds and AGT Factor in the Distribution Adjustment Clause Provision. Also include clean-up changes to the tariff to remove outdated provisions in the tariff and add provisions that were missing. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the compliance filing made on November 1, 2021. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- VI. **Docket No. 5185 – Quinebaug Solar, LLC (Company)** - The Company applied for eligibility of the Quinebaug Solar generation unit, a 49.36 (63.4435 MW DC) solar facility located in Canterbury, Connecticut as a New Renewable Energy Resource. PUC consultant submitted a recommendation to conditionally approve the application. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept the PUC consultant recommendation to conditionally approve Quinebaug Solar's application. Commissioner Revens seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- VII. **Docket No. 4770A – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** - The Commission considered National Grid's Request to Continue the DCFC Rebate Pilot Beyond Rate Year 3. The Commission reviewed and summarized the record that developed since July 1, 2021, including National Grid's November 3, 2021 filing and accompanying testimony relating to the DCFC Rebate Pilot. After discussion, Chairman Gerwatowski moved that the Commission not extend the DCFC pilot and close sub-docket 4770A without prejudice. As the question of extending the expiration of the DCFC tariff is no longer properly before the Commission. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- VIII. There being no further business to discuss, the Open Meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.