



State of Rhode Island
Division of Public
Utilities & Carriers

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Parties Submit Settlement Agreement in National Grid Rate Case

Returns 100% of the benefits of the federal corporate tax cut to ratepayers as a direct offset to rates.

Today, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, in concert with National Grid and thirteen intervenors, submitted a settlement agreement to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission to resolve National Grid's electric and gas rate case. As a part of the proposed settlement, the parties also agreed upon a suite of grid modernization programs proposed in a parallel "Power Sector Transformation" proceeding.

Based on expert testimony, evidentiary discovery and comments from Rhode Islanders in meetings held across the state, the proposed settlement marks the end of one phase of the nine-month rate case proceeding. The parties look forward to the next phase: a rigorous review by the Public Utilities Commission to ensure that the proposed settlement among parties represents just and reasonable rates and that it advances the public interest.

Highlights of the proposed settlement agreement include:

- **Reduces** the originally proposed ~\$7 typical residential electric customer monthly bill increase to ~\$4, and the typical gas customer bill annual bill increase from ~\$65 to a **decrease** of ~\$2.
- **Doubles** the current discount offered to income-eligible electric and gas customers to 25% of the total bill, with an additional tier of a 5% discount for those electric and gas customers who qualify for the income-eligible rate through one of three more income restrictive federal assistance programs. For income eligible electric customers, this translates into a ~\$15 monthly bill **decrease**. For income eligible gas customers, the annual **decrease** is \$260.

- Returns 100% of the benefits of the lower federal corporate tax rate to ratepayers as a direct offset to rates.
- Establishes a 3-year rate plan as a consistent and transparent budget for the utility.
- Invests in modernizing the electric system and preparing the grid to integrate clean energy resources at least cost.
- Initiates power sector transformation activities for electric vehicles, energy storage and efficient electric heat

The proposed settlement features unanimous agreement among all intervenors in both cases including: National Grid, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, the George Wiley Center, the Northeast Clean Energy Council, the Acadia Center, Conservation Law Foundation, ChargePoint, Direct Energy, New Energy Rhode Island, the U.S. Department of the Navy, Wal-Mart Stores, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, People's Power and Light and Amtrak.

The Public Utilities Commission will hold a Public Comment Hearing on June 7th at 2:00 pm at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick RI. The PUC will also hold evidentiary hearings on the settlement beginning June 12 and will issue a final ruling on the settlement agreement before September 1st. The settlement agreement and all testimony and evidence related to the proceedings are available for review at: <http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4770page.html>

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