



Statement of Division of Public Utilities and Carriers Administrator Macky McCleary in Response to National Grid's Proposal to Increase Electric Rates

November 27th, 2017

Rhode Islanders deserve more from our utility than just higher bills. We deserve more value.

We challenged National Grid to produce a plan for its business that preserves safety, reliability and increases value for all ratepayers. What we received today appears to be a proposal that continues business as usual and presumes the willingness of Rhode Islanders to bear an ever-increasing burden of higher costs. It's time to get off this train.

Over the next nine months the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers will examine every aspect of National Grid's proposed rate increase. We will consult with stakeholders and the public to hear their priorities. And we will submit a counter-proposal to the Public Utilities Commission for how our utility can provide the best service for the minimum cost to ratepayers. Our work will be guided by the principle that Rhode Islanders should pay for performance and not the status quo.

Today, our energy system, its technology, business and our expectations are changing fast. As Rhode Island navigates the transition from an old one-way energy system to a new one, based as much on information as infrastructure, we need to consider fresh solutions, new partners and bring the best know-how in the world to our doorstep. We are eager to begin the journey to Rhode Island's energy future.