



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS

Administration
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January 25, 2022

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman – House Committee on
Corporations
State House
Providence, R.I. 02903

Re: **H 6631 – Duties of Utilities and Carriers**

Dear Chairman Solomon:

The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) supports the intent of the bill to ensure robust inspection and reporting requirements for National Grid, though we should note that the proposed measure's requirements are already incorporated in existing statutory provisions, procedures, and regulation.

A centerpiece of these requirements is the statutorily mandated (§ 39-1-27.7.1(d)) Infrastructure, Safety and Reliability (ISR) Plan. The plan proposed for the upcoming program fiscal year (beginning on April 1, 2022) includes over \$100 million of capital investments in the electric distribution system and nearly \$13 million in vegetation management spending to improve system reliability, along with operational and inspection costs. The ISR is filed annually, reviewed by the Division, and then presented to the Public Utilities Commission for approval in proceedings that include public comment. The ISR plan includes regional reviews called Area Studies, a component that assesses the condition of electric infrastructure under current and future demand scenarios. The annual plan includes response to emerging reliability issues.

The Division also investigates service quality concerns and complaints, whether from individual consumers, or related to specific neighborhoods. These investigations include infrastructure and maintenance issues, the results of which are communicated to the complainant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda George".

Linda George, Esq.
Administrator, RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers

Cc. Representative Kathleen Fogarty
House Committee on Corporations