

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD**

In re: The Narragansett Electric Company :
d/b/a National Grid – Notice of Intent to :
Construct 115 kV Loop Lines of Less than 1000 Feet : **Docket No. SB-2020-01**
(Iron Mill Hill Road Substation Loop Lines) :

ORDER

On August 6, 2020, The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid or Company) filed with the Energy Facility Siting Board (Board) a Notice of Intent to construct 115 kV loop lines of less than 1,000 feet in accordance with 445-RICR-00-00-1.6(C) of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules). The loop lines are approximately 300 feet in length. The Board docketed the Notice on August 6, 2020, and assigned it Docket Number SB-2020-01.

The loop lines are required to connect a new substation to the H-17 line. The substation is needed to connect a solar developer's solar facility to the electric grid. The solar facility was approved by the North Smithfield Planning Board on June 4, 2020.¹ The loop lines will be supported by two new steel pole transmission line structures approximately 55 and 75 feet tall, both of which will be in the National Grid right-of-way. The lines will be on National Grid owned property or will cross the solar facility property via an easement. The cost of the substation and structures is approximately \$20 million, of which approximately \$3 million is for the proposed loop lines. The Company represented that as part of the solar development application, all abutters within 200 feet of the project were notified of the public hearing.

A copy of the Notice of Intent to Construct or Relocate Power Lines of Less than 1,000 feet is required by 445-RICR-00-00-1.6(C) of the Rules to be filed with the Council of the

¹ The North Smithfield Planning Board found the proposed solar development to be consistent with the comprehensive community plan and zoning ordinance standards and provisions, to have no significant, negative environmental impacts, would not result in the creation of individual lots with physical constraints to development, and had adequate and permanent physical access to Iron Mine Hill Road.

municipality affected by the construction of said lines at least sixty days before construction is to commence, which National Grid did. The Rule also allows the municipality, or any intervenor, up to thirty days after the filing to file an objection with the Board. No such objection was received by the Board.

The Board finds that the Project as set forth in the filing by National Grid does not constitute an alteration of a major energy facility as defined by the Energy Facility Siting Act, specifically R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-98-3 and 445-RICR-00-00-1.3(A)(4) and 445-RICR-00-00-1.4(A)(16) of the Rules. Because the Project does not constitute an alteration of a major energy facility and is expressly excluded as such pursuant to 445-RICR-00-00-1.3(A)(4) of the Rules, it does not require a formal investigation by the Board.

Therefore, it is hereby:

(145) ORDERED:

The Notice of Intent to Construct 115 kV Loop Lines of Less than 1,000 feet is accepted and the project may proceed without further review by the Board.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE at Warwick, Rhode Island, on September 15, 2020, pursuant to an Open Meeting decision of September 15, 2020. Written order issued October 1, 2020.

ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD



Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairman



Janet Coit, Member



Meredith Brady, Member