

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

IN RE: NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A NATIONAL GRID J16S 115kV TRANSMISSION LINE THERMAL UPGRADE PROJECT IN CUMBERLAND, RHODE ISLAND – DOCKET NO. SB-2021-02

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 42-98-7 and 42-98-9.1 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, and sections 1.6(G) and 1.8(D) of its Rules of Practice and Procedure, **the Energy Facility Siting Board (“Board”)** will conduct a public hearing on **Monday, March 29, 2021 at 6 PM** in Hearing Room A of the Public Utilities Commission office building, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island. The public comment hearing will be streamed live and archived online at <https://video.ibm.com/channel/WqQyXw296dg>.

People interested in providing public comment at the meeting may participate in a Zoom meeting through the internet or by calling in, preferably 5-10 minutes prior to the hearing. To participate, use the following Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83443454302> After opening this link, you will be given instructions to enter the meeting by internet. If you choose to participate by telephone, you may call 929-205-6099 and enter meeting number 828 5026 2038, followed by the # symbol (when prompted). If you are interested in viewing the public comment hearing but do not plan to offer public comment, please watch the live stream using the streaming link listed in the first paragraph. You will be able to observe the hearing and others’ public comment.

At this hearing, the Board will hear public comment on Docket No. SB-2021-02 regarding National Grid’s Notice of Intent Application for approval to reconductor the J16S 115 kV transmission line located in Cumberland, Rhode Island. National Grid filed its Notice of Intent Application with the Board on February 5, 2021. In its application, National Grid proposes to reconductor five spans of the existing J16S 115 kV transmission line between the Staples and Highland Park Substations, covering an approximate distance of 0.61 miles (3,242 ft). National Grid argues that any impact the reconductoring project may have on the natural and/or social environment will be negligible. Therefore, National Grid requests the Board determine that the project does not constitute an alteration to a major energy facility and that it is not subject to the full EFSB permitting process.

Section 1.6(G) of the Rules of Practice and Procedure Rule provides that the Board shall “hold a public hearing in one or more of the cities or towns affected by an application.” After the public comment hearing, the Board shall “determine whether the project may result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare and therefore shall be treated as an alteration,” per Section 1.6(H). In light of Covid 19, the Board will conduct its public comment hearing remotely, and welcomes the participation of Cumberland residents.

The Notice of Intent Application is on file and available for public review at the Board office located within the Public Utilities Commission office building at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island. It is also available online at: http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/efsb/2021_SB_02.html.

The Public Utilities Commission office building is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Coordinator at 89 Jefferson

Boulevard, Warwick, 401-780-2173, at least 72 hours in advance of the public comment hearing.

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March 4, 2021