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VIA HAND DELIVERY

Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

**Re: The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid
E-183 115 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project
Docket No. SB-2003-01**

Dear Chair Curran, Director Coit and Director Agrawal:

We are responding to the question posed at the hearing on Tuesday as to whether the partial underground alignment proposed by the City of Providence by memorandum on Monday, September 25, 2017 (the “Providence Proposal”) fits within the parameters of the alignments listed in Section II of the Settlement Agreement of May 25, 2004 among the Parties (the “Settlement Agreement”). National Grid believes that, while obviously the Providence Proposal is not explicitly listed in Section II of the Settlement Agreement, a reasonable argument can be made that the proposal, which would be part underground (across Fox Point and India Point) and part overhead (the Bridge Alignment South), does come within the spirit of the Settlement Agreement.

As such, National Grid is willing to undertake an evaluation of the proposal should the Siting Board deem it worthwhile. This evaluation will include:

- the development of a conceptual design and route layout for the transition stations and the underground segment;
- a Phase I (desktop) environmental review of the transition station sites and underground route; and
- the development of an estimate of the project cost.

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It is likely that, with the inclusion of the estimate, this effort could take up to six months. As we further explained during Tuesday's hearing, the evaluation will depend on the prompt identification by the City of Providence of a site at each end of the underground section for a transition station. The requirements for a transition station site include fee ownership (by National Grid) of a flat, square or slightly rectangular shaped, approximately one-half acre parcel of land with access to the local roadway network and to the overhead transmission line.

National Grid assumes that Providence anticipates the use of the Singh property and a portion of India Point Park for the transition stations. Providence should confirm or correct this assumption in its response to your questions and clarify what portion of India Point Park it proposes to use. National Grid would also appreciate advice from Providence as to the current zoning and any restrictions on the use of the proposed sites for transition stations, and an explanation of the ability of and means by which Providence proposes to acquire these sites.

Finally, although this is only a very rough preliminary estimate, National Grid believes that the retained rate case refunds due to Providence customers will not be sufficient to pay for the two transition stations and underground portion of the relocated line. Therefore Providence should be prepared either now or in the future to address the funding of the balance of the costs.

National Grid appreciates the opportunity to present its position on this matter.

Sincerely,



Peter V. Lacouture

Copy to: Patricia S. Lucarelli, Esq.
Service List (*via electronic mail*)