



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD
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Chairperson Margaret E. Curran
Board Member Janet Coit
Board Member Parag Agrawal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Energy Facility Siting Board Approves Plan to Relocate Power Lines from India Point Part and East Providence Waterfront

Warwick, RI—October 19, 2017—At the conclusion of a motion hearing yesterday morning, the Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board approved a plan to relocate overhead transmission lines that currently have two large lattice towers standing in India Point Park and a third lattice tower on the Tockwotton waterfront in East Providence. The new “Bridge Alignment South” configuration was an alternative configuration that was agreed to by National Grid, the City of Providence, the City of East Providence, and the Attorney General as part of a settlement agreement approved by the Board and incorporated in its Order in 2004.

The Board approved the new configuration of the line after East Providence and National Grid presented the benefits it will provide over the current configuration. East Providence’s attorney also argued that delaying further to study newly-suggested alternative configurations, none of which conformed with the terms of the settlement agreement, would prevent East Providence from developing valuable real estate—an issue the city raised multiple times since the settlement agreement was approved over thirteen years ago.

The 2004 settlement agreement set the parameters for the Board’s decision. Earlier this year, with agreement of all parties – National Grid, the Attorney General, Providence and East Providence – the Board found, after reviewing a cost estimate, that the underground route identified in the settlement agreement was not feasible. This left the Board to consider the alternatives spelled out in the 2004 settlement. “Bridge Alignment South,” the preferred alternative of all the parties, was approved through the action of the Board yesterday. In addition to freeing up space in India Point Park and the Tockwotton waterfront, the alignment will have the line cross the Seekonk River just south of the Washington Bridge.

The Board also considered and denied Providence’s request to delay any decision for six or more months in order to evaluate the feasibility of a recently-suggested plan to put some portion of the



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transmission line underground. Providence's attorney acknowledged to the Board that not only were there significant challenges to the alternative route, but that, assuming the plan was even feasible, Providence would need further time after the feasibility study was completed to consider whether or not to commit additional taxpayer funds necessary for burying a portion of the line as described in the new concept.

National Grid must now finalize the approved route and apply for all necessary permits and licenses within and outside of the Board's jurisdiction. The Board ordered National Grid to co-host community events in Providence and East Providence to explain the details of the plan before proceeding with construction. A project timeline approved by the Board has National Grid completing preliminary designs in February 2018.

The Energy Facility Siting Board, established by Rhode Island General Laws 42-98-1 et seq., is a part of state government and consists of three members, the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, the Director of the Department of Environmental Management and the Associate Director of Administration for Planning. Currently Chairperson Margaret Curran, Director Janet Coit, and Associate Director Parag Agrawal serve as Board Members. The Board is the licensing and permitting authority for all licenses, which under any statute of the state or ordinance of any political subdivision of the state, would be required for siting, construction or alteration of a major energy facility in Rhode Island, except for licenses, issued by the Department of Environmental Management under the delegated authority of federal law of Chapter 2-1 of the Rhode Island General Laws, or licenses issued by the Coastal Resources Management Council under Chapter 46-23 of the Rhode Island General Laws.