

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD**

IN RE: THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC :
COMPANY d/b/a NATIONAL GRID :
E-183 115 kV TRANSMISSION : **DOCKET NO. SB-2003-01**
LINE RELOCATION PROJECT :

ORDER

Whereas, on October 9, 2003, the Narragansett Electric Company (Narragansett), now known as National Grid, filed a Notice of Intent Application with the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB) for modification of its E-183 115 kV Transmission Line (the E-183 Line), to accommodate the relocation of Route I-195, and;

Whereas, the City of Providence (Providence), the City of East Providence (East Providence), and the Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office (Attorney General), were all granted Intervenor status in this proceeding, and;

Whereas, on May 25, 2004, Narragansett and the Intervenors presented a Settlement Agreement (Settlement) to the EFSB that provided for four possible alignment alternatives for the E-183 relocation, which was planned to be conducted in two phases and;

Whereas, the four alignments were: (1) Underground Alignment; (2) Bridge Alignment North; (3) Bridge Alignment South, and (4) Tockwotten Alignment, all as described in detail in the Settlement, and;

Whereas, on October 29, 2004, the EFSB, by its Order #54, approved the Settlement, and;

Whereas, Phase I of the relocation has been completed and Phase II, for a variety of reasons, has barely commenced, and;

Whereas, on October 13, 2016, National Grid and East Providence filed a Report and Joint Motion requesting the EFSB to conduct proceedings pursuant to § II-J of the Settlement and to approve the use of the Bridge Alignment South for the E-183 project, and;

Whereas, on October 20, 2016, Providence filed an objection to the Joint Motion, and requested that an engineering review and feasibility study be conducted to review the possibility of attaching the transmission lines to the undersides of the Providence River Bridge and the Washington Bridge (referred to as the under-bridge alignment), prior to holding any hearings on the Bridge Alignment South, and;

Whereas, on November 2, 2016, the Attorney General filed a response to the Joint Motion, concurring that the Bridge Alignment South represents the most feasible, cost-effective solution that accomplishes the goals of the Settlement Agreement, and;

Whereas, on November 11, 2016, National Grid and East Providence filed a Joint Response to Providence's objection in which they asserted that a second look at the use of the Providence River Bridge and the Washington River Bridge would not change the original conclusions that the bridges are unsuitable, and that such a review would not be worth the time and expense of conducting the same, and;

Whereas, on February 6, 2017, the EFSB conducted a hearing on National Grid and East Providence's Joint Motion, and scheduled the matter for a decision at an Open Hearing, to be held on February 16, 2017, and;

Whereas, on February 16, 2017, immediately prior to the scheduled Open Meeting, National Grid filed a motion for an extension of time of 120 days to permit the parties time to engage an engineering firm to review the feasibility of the alternative under-bridge alignment, and;

Whereas, on February 16, 2017, East Providence filed an objection to National Grid's motion for extension of time and urged the EFSB to approve the use of the Bridge Alignment South, based on the developed record to date, and;

Whereas, on February 23, 2017, Providence filed a reply, supporting National Grid's motion to extend 120 days, and;

Whereas, on March 1, 2017, the Attorney General's office filed a response indicating that it had no opposition to the motion, with the understanding that cost of the review would be approximately \$50,000 and that it would not take longer than 120 days to complete, and;

Whereas, on March 6, 2017, the EFSB held a hearing on the Motion for Extension of Time, and;

Whereas, at an Open Meeting immediately following the hearing, the EFSB voted unanimously to approve the Motion for Extension of Time.

Accordingly, it is

(105) ORDERED:

1) The Motion to extend time for 120 days to engage a consultant to study the under-bridge alignment is granted, provided the cost for the consultant does not exceed \$50,000 and is paid for using accrued interest on retained project funds held by National Grid.

3) The October 13, 2016 Joint Motion is hereby deferred for decision until after the results of the study have been filed with the EFSB.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON MARCH 6, 2017 PURSUANT TO AN
OPEN MEETING. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED MARCH 28, 2017.

ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD



Margaret E. Curran

Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson

Janet Coit

Janet Coit, Member

Parag Agrawal

Parag Agrawal, Member