



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House • 150 Benefit Street • Providence, R.I. 02903-1209

TEL (401) 222-2678

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TTY / Relay 711

Website www.preservation.ri.gov

RIHPHC No. 11212.04
161202.10

2 December 2016

Todd A. Bianco
Coordinator
Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Re: RIHPHC Advisory Opinion
Docket No. SB-2016-01
Narragansett Electric Company (d/b/a National Grid)
Aquidneck Island Reliability Project
Portsmouth and Middletown, Rhode Island

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Bianco:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) staff has reviewed the submission regarding the above-referenced project and are issuing an advisory opinion. The RIHPHC initially reviewed the project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. By letter dated 25 January 2016 (attached), the RIHPHC concluded that the undertaking would have no adverse effect on historic properties.

These comments are provided in accordance with RIGL 42-98-10 and with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Glenn R. Modica, Senior Project Review Coordinator of this office, at glenn.modica@preservation.ri.gov or 401-222-2671.

Very truly yours,


FR Edward F. Sanderson
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure



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25 January 2016

Stephen Olausen
Executive Director/Senior Architectural Historian
PAL, Inc.
26 Main Street
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860

Re: Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Survey and Effects Assessment
Newport Distribution Supply- Lines 61 & 62
69kV to 115kV Upgrade and Rebuild Project
Portsmouth, Rhode Island
PAL# 2893.02

Dear Mr. Olausen:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) staff has reviewed the additional information submitted in response to our 2 December 2015 letter. The RIHPHC has also reviewed the *Visual Impact Assessment* (December 2015) report prepared by Environmental Design & Research and the *Aquidneck Reliability Project* (December 2015) prepared by VHB.

The Narragansett Electric Company, d/b/a National Grid, is proposing to upgrade its existing 69kV electrical supply Lines 61 & 62 to 115kV between the Dexter and Jepson substations, a distance of 4.3 miles. Sixty-nine existing structures will be replaced with single-pole, single-circuit, weathering steel poles on concrete caisson foundations with davit arms facing inward to the centerline of the ROW. A total of 94 new, steel replacement structures will be installed: 38 single-pole, single circuit dead end structures and 56 single-pole, single-circuit suspension structures. The average height of the existing structures is 54.5 feet, and the average height of the new structures will be 89 feet. The tallest new structure will be 95 feet.

The transmission line passes through two historic properties: the Battle of Rhode Island Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark; and the Lawton-Almy Hall Farm/Lakeside Farm (559 Union Street). The transmission line also passes near other properties listed in or potentially eligible for the National Register.

Based upon our review of the submitted documentation, the RIHPHC has concluded that the undertaking will have no adverse on historic properties; therefore, we have no objections to the project. The RIHPHC does concur with the opinion of Environmental Design and Research that the visual impact of the new structures, on historic properties in particular and the environment in general, can be lessened by using galvanized steel poles rather than weathering steel.

To: Stephen Olausen
Re: Newport Distribution Supply, Portsmouth

25 January 2016

These comments are provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any questions, please contact Glenn Modica, Senior Project Review Coordinator of this office.

Very truly yours,


FR Edward F. Sanderson
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

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