



Town of Middletown

TOWN HALL 350 EAST MAIN ROAD
MIDDLETOWN, RHODE ISLAND 02842

January 23, 2017

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

Re: *EFBSB Order SB-2016-01 -The Narragansett Electric Company, d/b/a National Grid Aquidneck Island Reliability Project*

Dear Mr. Bianco:

Pursuant to the above-referenced order, the Middletown Town Council held a public hearing on August 15, 2017, on the Application of Narragansett Electric Company, d/b/a National Grid ("National Grid"), for a sound variance from the provisions of the Middletown Noise Ordinance for its Aquidneck Island Reliability Project (the "project") - Sections 130.75 – 130.91 of the Middletown Town Code, entitled "Noise."

George W. Watson, III, Esq. represented National Grid at the public hearing and presented the testimony of Daniel McIntyre, PE, who gave an overview of the project. Mr. McIntyre testified that while construction related activity was generally exempt from the provisions of the noise ordinance, provided that it occurred during the hours permitted thereunder, there would be certain times during construction of the project when those hours might need to be exceeded. He gave as examples, times when cable pulls or concrete pours were taking place. He also provided the Council with information regarding the expected duration of substation construction and proposed conditions on the requested sound variance. Several abutters and other residents appeared for the purpose of either objecting to the construction of the substation, or suggesting that the proposed overhead power lines be buried underground.

Following the close of the Public Hearing, on motion of Council President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to approve the application for sound variance with the following conditions:

1. All construction activity shall generally be performed between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. in accordance with §130.78 (H) of the Noise Ordinance.
2. In the event that any construction activity needs to be extended to take place after 9:00 p.m. or before 7:00 a.m. on any given day, National Grid shall give the Town Administrator, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, and all affected abutters advance notice of at least 72 hours, if practicable;
3. There shall be no drilling of rock after 5:00 p.m.

4. There shall be no cutting of vegetation after 5:00 p.m.
5. National Grid shall provide a construction schedule prior to starting the project.
6. The Town Council's approval of the Application for Noise Variance is not an approval of the proposed relocation of the Jepson substation.

Sincerely,



Peter Brent Regan
Middletown Town Solicitor

cc. Town Administrator
Town Clerk