



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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

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Website [www.preservation.ri.gov](http://www.preservation.ri.gov)

RIHPHC No. 11212  
160531.02

31 May 2016

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

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

Dear Mr. Bianco:

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

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](mailto:glenn.modica@preservation.ri.gov) or 401-222-2671.

Very truly yours,

*for* 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,

*FOR*   
Edward F. Sanderson  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

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