

1 Q. Please state your full name and business address.

2 A. Susan Moberg, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (“VHB”), 1 Cedar Street, Suite 400,
3 Providence, Rhode Island.

4 Q. Have you previously filed testimony in this matter?

5 A. Yes, I filed prefiled testimony in this docket on March 3, 2017.

6 Q. Are you familiar with Mr. Steven Cabral’s prefiled testimony filed on behalf of the Town
7 of Middletown?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Mr. Cabral described the proposed substation site as having a significant portion of
10 “regulated wetlands and woodlands.” Please describe the regulated areas of the property
11 for the proposed new Jepson Substation.

12 A. The property is approximately 18.77 acres and is situated in glacial till hill and valley
13 landform that was part of a farm managed in row crops into the early 2000s. The eastern
14 and western uplands within the property are separated by a central wetland system.
15 Approximately 1/3 of the property consists of state and federal regulated palustrine
16 wetlands. If you include the additional state regulated wetland buffers (50-foot Perimeter
17 and 100-foot Riverbank Wetlands), that portion increases to approximately 1/2 of the
18 property. There are two historic crossings of this wetland on cart paths. Except for
19 scattered trees in the central wetland area and along the northern and southern property
20 boundaries, the entire site was clear of trees in 1997. An approximate 1.5-acre area of
21 young trees mixed with shrubs is now present in the northeast corner of the parcel. Most
22 of the site east of the wetland where the substation development is proposed lies under

1 existing distribution or transmission lines. Here the vegetation is managed to prevent
2 trees from contacting overhead conductors. These areas support shrubs, grasses and forbs
3 and are periodically mowed. Attached is a figure that shows the regulated wetlands on
4 the 18.77 acre property (Attachment SM-2).

5 Q. Please characterize the proposed construction area.

6 A. Most of the area that will be occupied by the substation is within the vegetation
7 management zone of overhead distribution and transmission lines and consists of grasses
8 and forbs or is in shrub cover.

9 Q. Are portions of the site for the new substation in state or federal regulated areas?

10 A. Yes. Approximately 7 square feet (SF) of palustrine wetland will be filled to install a
11 new wood utility pole and 8,578 SF (0.2 acres) of 50-foot Perimeter Wetland (a
12 dimensional setback from palustrine wetlands) will be permanently altered for the new
13 substation. The proposed alteration affects 2.2% of the on-site wetlands.

14 Q. Does RIDEM permit construction in a regulated wetland?

15 A. Yes, however, only for a project that has a legitimate purpose and is not random,
16 unnecessary or undesirable. Further, the applicant must demonstrate that the project has
17 been designed to meet the avoidance, minimization and mitigation criteria provided in the
18 current Regulations to the greatest extent practicable. The RIDEM also considers the
19 standards that are critical to designing a safe facility when making this determination.
20 The avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures incorporated into the project
21 design are documented in National Grid's Application to Alter a Freshwater Wetlands for
22 the Project.

1 Q. What are the permanent wetland impacts on the proposed new Jepson Substation site?

2 A. The project will avoid all but approximately 7 SF of palustrine wetland and
3 approximately 0.2 acres of Perimeter Wetland. Measures used to avoid and minimize
4 these impacts include the installation of a retaining wall which eliminates all grading into
5 palustrine wetlands.

6 Q. How will the project affect the existing young tree and shrub cover present at the site?

7 A. Approximately 1.5 acres of young trees mixed with shrubs will be cleared for the
8 construction of the new Jepson Substation of which approximately 5,782 SF (0.13 acres)
9 is located within state- and federal-regulated palustrine wetland and 7,145 SF (0.16 acres)
10 is located within state-regulated 50-foot Perimeter Wetland. Of the 1.5 acres,
11 approximately 0.3 acres of tree clearing is required for the temporary re-routing of the
12 existing 69 kV transmission line (63 Line) to provide space for substation construction.
13 This area will not be grubbed so vegetation can re-establish from the existing root and
14 seed stock once the temporary line is removed.

15 Q. What is the acreage of the area being restored on the existing parcel?

16 A. Of the 6.5 acres within the limits of disturbance, this includes the 1.4 acres behind the
17 substation that is associated with temporary impacts for distribution line and transmission
18 line work, approximately 3.2 acres will be restored. The restoration includes (i)
19 landscaping 1.8 acres around the substation and (ii) stabilizing the 1.4 acres behind the
20 substation with straw mulch and then allowing the vegetation to recover naturally.

21 Q. Does this complete your testimony?

22 A. Yes.

The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a National Grid
Aquidneck Island Reliability Project
EFSB Docket No. SB-2016-01
Witness: Susan Moberg, PWS, CFM

ATTACHMENT

SM-2 Proposed Jepson Substation Site Wetland Area Figure