

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

IN RE: THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY :
d/b/a NATIONAL GRID AND CLEAR RIVER :
ENERGY LLC's JOINT APPLICATION TO : **SB-2017-01**
CONSTRUCT THE BURRILLVILLE :
INTERCONNECTION PROJECT IN :
BURRILLVILLE, RHODE ISLAND :

ORDER

On February 22, 2017, The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid¹ (Narragansett) and Clear River Energy LLC² (Narragansett and Clear River Energy LLC are hereinafter collectively referred to as the Applicant), filed with the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB or Board) a joint application to construct and alter major energy facilities.³ The application proposes to construct a new 6.8 mile long transmission line through the Town of Burrillville (Town) to connect the proposed Clear River Energy Center (CREC) with Narragansett's electric power system and to rebuild and realign portions of existing lines. The application was docketed on March 22, 2017.

With the application, the Applicant filed a Motion for an Expedited Hearing pursuant to Rule 1.9(h) of the EFSB Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules).⁴ In its motion, the Applicant asserts that an expedited hearing is appropriate because the right-of-way within which the lines will travel was previously reviewed by the Board as part of the licensing of the Interstate Reliability Project.⁵

¹ The Narragansett Electric Company is a Rhode Island chartered public utility with its principal place of business in Providence, Rhode Island. Its parent company is National Grid USA.

² Clear River Energy LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business in Chicago, Illinois. Its parent company is Invenergy Thermal Global LLC.

³ The application and all documents filed are available at the PUC offices, located at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island, or at <http://www.ripuc.org/efsb/index.html>, organized by docket number.

⁴ Rule 1.9(h) provides that an applicant may request an expedited preliminary hearing.

⁵ SB-2012-01, Order No. 68.

Additionally, 0.8 miles of the new right-of-way is on property owned by Algonquin Gas Transmission Company and has no direct abutters.

Subsequently and pursuant to Rule 1.10(a)(1)⁶ of the EFSB Rules, the Town filed a Notice of Intervention. Shortly after filing the Notice of Intervention, the Town filed an objection to the Applicant's Motion for Expedited Hearing asserting that because the proposed project is dependent on approval of the proposed CREC, need for the project cannot be established unless and until the Board grants a license to construct the proposed CREC. The Town also asserts that expediting this matter could result in a final decision being issued well prior to any decision on the CREC. Additionally, the Town argues that expediting the matter "would require the parties and advisory agencies to divert attention and resources from the primary CREC Docket to the secondary Interconnection Docket."⁷ The parties agreed that because this motion was procedural, it could be decided by the Chairperson alone and without oral argument.

While the Board is mindful of Applicant's desire to coordinate construction of the proposed CREC with the interconnection line, the Applicant has presented no compelling reason to warrant expediting this matter. Although the Applicant avers that a large portion of the line has been previously reviewed by the Board, the Board does not know whether or what circumstances may have changed since its approval of the Interstate Reliability Project. Neither can the Board intuit what advisory opinions addressing the proposed project may reveal. The Board finds no reason to advance any final decision on the proposed interconnection to before a final decision is made on

⁶ Rule 1.10(a)(1) provides that "[p]articipation in a proceeding as an intervenor may be initiated as follows: 1. By the filing of a notice of intervention by CRMC, DEM, *the city or town in which the proposed facility is to be located* or designated agencies." (emphasis added).

⁷ Town of Burrillville Objection to the Motion of Narragansett Electric and Clear River Energy for an Expedited Hearing at 2 (Apr. 27, 2017).

the proposed CREC. That would be the effect of granting the instant motion. The Applicant's Motion for an Expedited Hearing is denied.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(111) ORDERED

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Clear River Energy LLC's Motion for Expedited Hearing is denied.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND THIS 4th DAY OF MAY, 2017.



ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD


Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson