

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD

In re: The Narragansett Electric Company :
d/b/a National Grid :
(Providence River 115 kV Cable Relocation : Docket No. SB-
Project, Providence, Rhode Island) :

Notice of Intent Application of
The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a National Grid

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	1
1. Identification of the owner(s) of the facility	2
2. Detailed description of the proposed facility	2
3. Detailed description and analysis of the impact of the Project on the physical and social environment	3
4. All studies and forecasts which demonstrate the need for the proposed facility	3
5. The reasons that the Project does not constitute the alteration of a major energy facility	4
CONCLUSION	4

INTRODUCTION

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (“TNEC” or “Applicant”), with a principal place of business at 280 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02907, hereby submits this Notice of Intent Application to the Energy Facility Siting Board (the “Board” or “EFSB”) for approval of the relocation of existing transmission lines within the State of Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of Rhode Island General Laws §§ 42-98-1, et seq. and the Board’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended (the “EFSB Rules”).

This Application is filed by TNEC pursuant to § 1.6(f) of the EFSB Rules which provides an abbreviated review for (i) the construction of power lines of more than 1,000 feet but less than 6,000 feet or (ii) the modification or relocation of power lines. Rule 1.6(f) provides for an abbreviated application, a public hearing “in one or more of the cities or towns affected by [the] application,” and a determination within sixty (60) days of the filing as to whether the project “may result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare,” thereby requiring a full EFSB review. (See EFSB Rules 1.6(f), (g), and (h)). If the Board does not determine that the project may result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare, the project does not constitute an “alteration” and the project may proceed without further review. (See EFSB Rules 1.2(d) and 1.6(f)).

TNEC is proposing to relocate the portion of the existing Q-143 and R-144 115 kV Transmission Lines (the “Q-143 and R-144 Lines”) between the Franklin Square Substation and the vicinity of manhole no. 31 on Dollar Street in Providence (the “Project”). The new route is approximately 1,930 feet long. In this Application, TNEC requests the Board’s approval of the Project.

TNEC is filing herewith and incorporates herein an Environmental Report on the Project entitled “Providence River 115 kV Cable Relocation Project; Providence, Rhode Island (December, 2017)” (the “ER”). This application follows the organization of § 1.6(f) of the EFSB Rules and identifies the sections of the ER where the issues identified in the EFSB Rules are discussed.

1. Identification of the owner(s) of the facility.¹

a. The owner of the facility is The Narragansett Electric Company, a Rhode Island chartered public utility, with its principal place of business at:

280 Melrose Street
Providence, RI 02907

b. The affiliates of The Narragansett Electric Company include its parent, National Grid USA and the National Grid (US) Holdings Ltd companies. The corporate relationships among the National Grid (US) Holdings Ltd companies are shown on Exhibit 1, attached. A listing of non-US affiliates is available upon request.

2. Detailed description of the proposed facility.²

The Q-143 and R-144 Lines extend a distance of approximately 2.3 miles in an underground configuration from the Franklin Square Substation in Providence to the Admiral Street Cable Terminal in Providence. TNEC proposes to relocate the portion of the Q-143 and R-144 Lines between Franklin Square Substation and Dollar Street in Providence. This portion includes the Providence River crossing. The new 1,930 foot long route is shown on Figure 1 of the ER. The relocated lines will be installed in a new duct bank installed underground and under

¹ EFSB Rule 1.6(f)(1) requires the Applicant to provide identification of the owner(s) of the facility, including identification of all affiliates of the proposed owners, as such term is defined in R.I.G.L. §39-3-27.

² EFSB Rule 1.6(f)(2) requires the Applicant to provide a detailed description of the proposed facility, including its length, route, function and operating characteristics, and complete plans as to all structures associated with the proposed facilities.

the northern sidewalk of the Point Street Bridge. The Project also includes the installation of two new manholes on the east side of the Point Street Bridge, modifications to the existing manholes on Dollar Street, and a new termination structure at the Franklin Square Substation. The Project is described in more detail in Section 3.0 of the ER.

3. Detailed description and analysis of the impact of the Project on the physical and social environment.³

The physical environment in the Project area is described in Section 5.0 of the ER and the affected social environment is discussed in Section 6.0 of the ER. The impact of the Project on the natural and social environments is described in Section 7.0 of the ER. A review of current independent scientific research pertaining to electric and magnetic fields is contained in the report in Appendix A of the ER. The studies relied upon for analyses of the impact of EMF on human health are listed in Section 10 (References) of Appendix A of the ER. The existing and projected levels of magnetic fields are provided in §§6.6 and 7.12 of the ER.

4. All studies and forecasts which demonstrate the need for the proposed facility.⁴

The need for the Project is described in Section 2 of the ER. The Project was included in TNEC's 2018 master construction plan which was filed with the EFSB on November 29, 2017.

³ EFSB Rule 1.6(f)(3) requires the Applicant to provide a “[d]etailed description and analysis of the impact of the Project on the physical and social environment. The Applicant shall also provide a review of the current independent scientific research pertaining to electromagnetic fields (EMF) and shall provide data on the anticipated levels of EMF exposure and potential health risks associated with this exposure. To the extent the proposed Project will have only negligible impact on any particular resource in the natural and social environment (e.g., geology, air quality or population) the, Applicant may so state and need not provide a detailed analysis of the baseline conditions for that resource.”

⁴ EFSB Rule 1.6(f)(4) requires the Applicant to provide all studies and forecasts which demonstrate the need for the proposed facility under the statewide master construction plan submitted annually.

5. The reasons that the Project does not constitute the alteration of a major energy facility.

Transmission lines of 69 kV and above are included in the definition of “major energy facilities” in Rule 1.2(p) of the EFSB Rules. However, Rule 1.2(d) states that

the modification⁵ or relocation of an existing power line shall not be an alteration unless the Board determines that the project may result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare. [Emphasis supplied.]

Thus the Project would constitute the alteration of a major energy facility and be subject to the full EFSB permitting process only if the Board determines that it “may result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare.”

As explained in Section 3 of the ER, the Project is the relocation of the existing Q-143 and R-144 Lines in a new duct bank installed underground and on the underside of the northern sidewalk of the Point Street Bridge. The above ground structure work is limited to a new termination structure within the existing Franklin Square Substation.

The impacts of the Project are discussed in Section 7.0 of the ER and summarized in Section 7.1 as minor. Consequently, because the Project does not significantly impact the environment or the public health, safety and welfare, the Board should determine that the Project does not constitute an alteration and is not subject to the full EFSB permitting process.

CONCLUSION

This Application, the ER which is filed herewith and incorporated herein, and the other supporting material clearly demonstrate that relocating the existing Q-143 and R-144 115 kV Transmission Lines will not result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare.

⁵ Per EFSB Rule 1.2(d), modification “includes reconductoring and rebuilding an existing power line.”

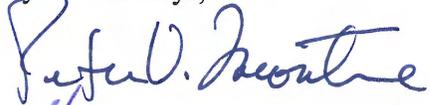
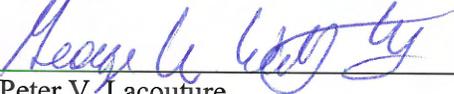
For the reasons stated herein, The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid requests that the Energy Facility Siting Board approve the Project as described herein pursuant to EFSB Rule 1.6(f).

Respectfully submitted,

THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY
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