

TOWN OF NORTH SMITHFIELD

OFFICE OF THE TOWN PLANNER

Robert Ericson, AICP

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2013 MAR -7 AM 9:28
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

March 1, 2013

Coordinator
Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Board Members,

The North Smithfield Planning Board has reviewed the Interstate Reliability Project Environmental Report Volume 1 and Volume II (mapping), both dated July 2012. The Planning Board has listened to testimony and requested additional information. National Grid has been responsive to our requests throughout.

The Planning Board has voted to convey the following:

- * We recommend this project for its ability to enable more efficient and dependable power plant dispatch, including integration of renewable energy sources. We hope that it will be a beginning to far more smart grid investment.
- * We commend National Grid's stated intention to follow the same public outreach and reporting strategy developed in the previous project. Margaret Neves and her team have done excellent work in North Smithfield.
- * We recommend that National Grid make every reasonable effort to minimize the visual impact of tree and shrub cutting that exposes the right-of-way to direct view by abutters. We are aware of their program for remedial landscaping.
- * We recommend that National Grid make every reasonable effort in design and construction to minimize the EMF impacts outside the right-of-way. We recommend that National Grid provide public information flyers about their efforts.

Sincerely,



Robert Ericson, AICP
Administrative Officer for the Planning Board

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