

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD

In re: The Narragansett Electric Company :
d/b/a National Grid :
(G-185S 115kV Transmission Line : Docket No. SB-2014-
Reconductoring Project) :

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

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January 23, 2014

INTRODUCTION

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid” 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 reconductoring of an existing transmission line 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 National Grid with the Board 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 or welfare,” thereby requiring a full EFSB review. (See EFSB Rules 1.6(f), (g), and (h)). If the Board determines that the project will not 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 1.6(f) and 1.2(d)).

National Grid is proposing to reductor¹ the existing G-185S 115 kV Transmission Line (the “G-185S Line”) between the Kent County Substation in Warwick and the Old Baptist

¹ “Reconductoring” is the replacement of the conductors (wires) of an existing transmission line with new, larger conductors which are capable of carrying more power. In many cases it also involves the replacement or reinforcement of existing pole or tower structures.

Road Tap Point in East Greenwich. This portion of the G-185S Line is approximately 5.3 miles long and is located in Warwick, East Greenwich and North Kingstown.

In this Application, National Grid requests the Board's approval of the reconductoring the G-185S Line (the "Project").

National Grid is filing herewith and incorporates herein an Environmental Report on the Project entitled "G-185S 115kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project; Warwick, East Greenwich, and North Kingstown Rhode Island (January, 2014)" (the "ER"). This application follows the organization of § 1.6(f) of the EFSB Rules.

1. Identification of the owner(s) of the facility.²

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

280 Melrose Street
Providence, RI 02907

b. The U.S. affiliates of The Narragansett Electric Company include its parent, National Grid USA and various other U.S. companies. The corporate relationships among The Narragansett Electric Company, National Grid USA, and its various U.S. affiliates are shown on Exhibit 1, attached. A listing of the non-U.S. affiliates of The Narragansett Electric Company is available upon request.

² 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. Detailed description of the proposed facility.³

National Grid proposes to reconductor a portion of the existing G-185S Line. The G-185S Line extends south a distance of approximately 15.5 miles from the Kent County Substation in Warwick to the West Kingston Substation in South Kingstown. The Project concerns the northern 5.3 mile portion of the line between the Kent County Substation and the Old Baptist Road Tap Point which contains approximately 2 miles of single-circuit structures and 3.3 miles of double-circuit steel pole davit arm structures. The double-circuit steel pole davit arm structures support both the G-185S Line and the adjacent L-190 Transmission Line. The route of the line is shown on Figures 1-1 and 3-1 of the ER. In addition to replacing the existing conductors with new, larger conductors, all 14 of the existing single-circuit wood structures will be replaced with steel structures in approximately the same alignment and 5 of the existing double-circuit structures will be replaced in approximately the same alignment. The structure replacements are necessary for strength and ground clearance for the new larger conductor. 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.⁴

The environmental characteristics of the Project area are 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

³ 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.

⁴ Rule 1.6(f)(3) requires the Applicant to provide a detailed 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.

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 analysis 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 electric and magnetic fields at the edges of the ROW are provided in §§6.6 and 7.14 of the ER.

4. All studies and forecasts which demonstrate the need for the proposed facility.⁵

The need for the Project is described in Section 2.0 of the ER. National Grid filed its 2014 master construction plan which included the Project with the EFSB on November 26, 2013.

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 modification⁶ 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 the relocation “will result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare.”

As explained in the ER, the Project involves the reconductoring of the existing G-185S Line and replacing 19 of the 62 existing structures within the right-of-way. (See Section 3.0 of the ER.)

The impacts of the Project are discussed in Section 7.0 of the ER and summarized in Section 7.1 as follows: “[i]mpacts to environmental resources and the social environment will be

⁵ 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.

⁶ Rule 1.2(d) defines modification as “including reconductoring and rebuilding an existing power line.”

negligible . . .” Consequently, because the Project does not significantly impact the environment or public health, safety or welfare, the Board should determine that the Project does not constitute an alteration and is not subject to the full EFSB permitting process.

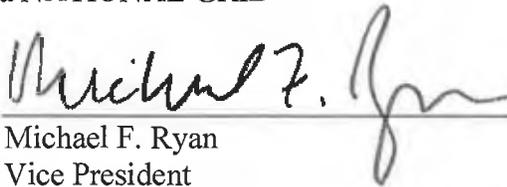
CONCLUSION

This Application, the ER which is filed herewith and incorporated herein, and the other supporting material clearly demonstrate that the reconductoring of the existing G-185S 115 kV Transmission Line will not result in significant impact on the environment or on the public health, safety or welfare.

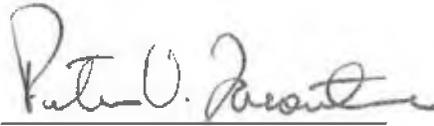
For the reasons stated herein, The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid requests that the Energy Facility Siting Board approve the Project as described herein pursuant to Rule 1.6(f).

Respectfully submitted,

THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY
d/b/a NATIONAL GRID

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