



**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH
PLANNING BOARD**

2200 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871
401-683-3717

Todd A. Bianco
Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

October 17, 2016

RE: Aquidneck Island Reliability Project

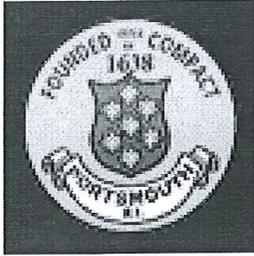
Dear Mr. Bianco

Attached is a copy of the Portsmouth Planning Board advisory opinion as to whether the facility would be a land use consistent with the Portsmouth Comprehensive Community Plan.

Best regards,


Leon C. Lesinski
Administrative Officer

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PLANNING BOARD**
2200 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871
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ADVISORY OPINION

Property Owner: Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid
Applicant: Energy Facility Siting Board, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02888
Property: see attached
Plat Map: Varies
Present zoning: C Present Use: Power Transmission & Substations

Relief/approval requested: Render an advisory opinion as to whether the construction of new transmission lines & substation would be a land use consistent with the Portsmouth Comprehensive Community Plan.

The Planning Board received comments concerning the request at a legally noticed public meeting held on September 14, 2016 for the Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid – Request for Advisory Opinion to the Zoning Board of Review for a Special Use Permit for the Aquidneck Island Reliability Project and for the Energy Facility Siting Board (Aquidneck Island Reliability Project) for advisory opinion as to whether the project would be a land use consistent with the Portsmouth Comprehensive Community Plan.

The following individuals spoke at the hearing as representatives of the applicants: Atty. Peter Lacouture, Robinson & Cole, LLP, One Financial Plaza, Providence, RI appeared representing The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (Aquidneck Island Reliability Project) with requests for two advisory opinions, relative to a RI Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB) application for License to Construct and Alter Major Energy Facilities. The first advisory opinion is for a variance for height and for a special use permit to the Portsmouth Zoning Board of Review pertaining to the utilities right of way and the driveway to the proposed Jepson substation. The second advisory opinion is for land use consistency with the Portsmouth Comprehensive Community Plan. Atty. Lacouture distributed copies of a PowerPoint presentation, "Aquidneck Island Reliability Project," Portsmouth Planning Board, September 14, 2016.

Reviewing the presentation, Endrit Fiku, P.E., Lead Project Manager, National Grid, Waltham, MA explained the components of the project and the design plans. The Aquidneck Island Reliability Project (AIRP) includes improvements to the existing transmission system in Portsmouth and Middletown including upgrading the 61/62 transmission lines in Portsmouth located within the existing right of way, constructing a new Jepson Substation in Middletown, across the street from the old substation in Portsmouth, and modifying the Dexter Substation on Freeborn Street in Portsmouth. According to the plan, the existing double, wood transmission line poles are replaced

with steel single pole structures. The existing Jepson Substation is retired and dismantled and its location continues as part of the right of way for the transmission lines. A portion of the driveway for the new substation is located in Portsmouth.

In response to Mr. Tibbitts, Mr. Fiku explained that the current transmission line poles are 45 to 60 feet tall and the new steel poles are 86 to 106 feet tall as dictated by the national electric safety code. In response to Ms. Wilson, Mr. Fiku noted that the National Grid work crews are trained to conduct the clean up and disposal any contaminants found during the dismantling of the old substation. He explained that the weathered steel poles do not require painting maintenance. He noted that the maintenance of transmissions line involves cleaning or replacing insulators.

In response to Mr. Tibbitts, Atty. Lacouture explained that the dimensional variance requested from the Zoning Board of Review is for the height of the new poles. He also explained the special use permit is for the use of the utility lines on the right of way and for the use of the portion of the substation driveway located in Portsmouth. Mr. Bissonnette called for public comment.

Paul Kess, 3241 East Main Road, Portsmouth asked that in the event of a pole collapse would any of the poles land outside the right of way. Gerald Pepi, P.E., Vanderweil Engineers, 274 Summer Street, Boston, MA, consulting engineer for National Grid confirmed that if a new pole collapsed, it would fall outside the right of way. He noted that given the construction and installation of the new poles, such an event was highly unlikely. He also noted that the existing pole would also fall outside the right of way.

Denise Wilke, 3140 East Main Road, Portsmouth expressed concern for an increase in EMF radiation and noise associated with the line upgrade. Mr. Fiku stated that the study conducted by National Grid for the line upgrade indicates that the EMF levels will drop to the edge of the right of way because the lines have higher voltage and are at a higher elevation. He noted that the humming noise associated with power lines is due to dusty insulators. He noted that the maintenance crews regularly monitor noise situations.

In response to Ms. Wilson, Mr. Pepi explained that the initial soil tests indicate that the concrete pole foundations would be in the range of 15 to 25 feet due and the poles vary from 10,000 to 20,000 pounds.

Judy Staven, 351 Longmeadow Road, Portsmouth, abutter, expressed concern for lightening strikes. Mr. Fiku noted that each of the circuits have a shielding wire that runs on top of the new poles which provides protection from lightening strikes. He explained that total voltage of 115 kV is the combined voltage of each of the lines on the pole. Ms. Staven expressed concern for the future power needs of the island. Atty. Lacouture stated that if National Grid were to increase the voltage, it would have to apply again to RIEFSB. Ms. Staven also expressed concern for property values near the power lines. Mr. Bissonnette closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Tibbitts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harding, to make a favorable advisory opinion to the Zoning Board of Review for a dimensional variance for height and for special use permits pertaining to the use of the utility right of way and the portion of the new Jepson substation driveway located in Portsmouth for Narragansett Electric

Company d/b/a National Grid, and further to make a favorable advisory opinion to the Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board that the Aquidneck Island Reliability Project, and its components and plans that pertain to Portsmouth, are consistent with the Portsmouth Comprehensive Community Plan. All in favor. So voted.

Portsmouth Planning Board

By:



Leon C. Lesinski
Administrative Officer

Date: 10/14/2016

Property Lookup

Search: Owner Search

Enter an Owner (last name)

Results										
Address	Owner	Acct#	Map	Map Cut	Block	Block Cut	Lot	Unit	Unit Cut	PID
500 JEPSON LN (Parcel.aspx?pid=5395)	NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC CO THE		60		1					5395
0 HEDLY ST (Parcel.aspx?pid=5396)	NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC CO THE		39		38	A				5396
0 WEST MAIN RD (Parcel.aspx?pid=5397)	NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC CO THE		51		47					5397
0 JEPSON LN (Parcel.aspx?pid=5398)	NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC CO THE	14-0640-00	60		22	A				5398
0 MASSASOIT AVE-REAR NEAR R (Parcel.aspx?pid=5399)	NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC CO THE	14-0640-00	9		3	B				5399
0 MASSASOIT AVE (Parcel.aspx?pid=5400)	NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC CO THE	14-0640-00	9		3	C				5400
0 MASSASOIT AVE - REAR ABUT (Parcel.aspx?pid=5401)	NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC CO THE	14-0640-00	9		3	A				5401
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0 BOYDS LN (Parcel.aspx?pid=5406)	NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC CO THE		13		3					5406
0 WEST SHORE RD (Parcel.aspx?pid=5407)	NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC CO THE		22		1					5407
64 WEST SHORE RD (Parcel.aspx?pid=5408)	NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC CO THE		26		12					5408
0 FREEBORN ST (Parcel.aspx?pid=5410)	NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC CO THE		33		48					5410
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53 NARRAGANSETT BLVD (Parcel.aspx?pid=2698)	53 NARRAGANSETT BOULEVARD LLC		5		79					2698