

21. Where applicable, the applicant must provide evidence to show that the project conforms with the Rhode Island Energy Coordinating Council's policy statement entitled Rhode Island's Options for Electric Generation dated August, 1989, including any revisions or any successor to that document which may replace it as state policy.

The Energy Coordinating Council's Rhode Island's Options for Electric Generation, dated August 1989 (the "Policy Statement"), is not applicable to the Project as the Policy Statement is focused on generation and does not include any recommendations for the transmission system.

While not a direct successor to the Policy Statement, the more recent Rhode Island Energy Plan 2002 (State Guide Plan Element 781) dated August 8, 2002, includes a recommendation for transmission lines that is applicable to the Project. The following is from Section 3-03-05 Other Recommendations, under the Environmental Quality section of Part 781-03: Recommendations and Implementation Strategies:

As infrastructure expands to meet future needs, in particular power transmission lines and gas or petroleum pipelines, safety must be the paramount concern from siting to construction to operation. Breaches or ruptures, whether by natural events such as floods from severe storms or by human error and carelessness, must be avoided by design and practice.

For the reasons summarized in §§ 3, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 8.15, and 9 of the ER, the Project increases the safety and reliability of the electric transmission system in the Project area and is therefore consistent with the aforementioned provision.