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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Via Hand Delivery

June 22, 2015

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

**Re: The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid
V148N 115kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project (“Project”)**

Dear Mr. Bianco:

I am enclosing for filing on behalf of The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid six (6) copies of an update to our filing in the above matter. The update is for Section 1.1 of the Environmental Report that incorrectly referenced the Project as an “alteration.” As noted in the application and the Environmental Report, it is the applicant’s position that under the Energy Facility Siting Board’s Rules of Practice and Procedure § 1.2(d), the Project is not an alteration because it will not have a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare.

The enclosed update is a replacement page that includes a revised Section 1.1 of the Environmental Report. The replacement page should be inserted into the Environmental Report. The update includes a revision date of June 19, 2015 in the footer so that it can be distinguished from the original filing.

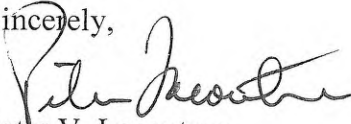
I am mailing copies of this update to the members of the EFSB, to Ms. Lucarelli, to Mr. Spirito for the Division, to Mr. Wold for the Attorney General, to the Town Clerks and Solicitors of North Smithfield and Lincoln. We are also sending it electronically to the service list for the docket.

Robinson+Cole

Todd Bianco, Siting Board Coordinator
June 22, 2015
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Please acknowledge receipt of this filing on the enclosed copy of this letter and return it with my messenger. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Peter V. Lacouture

PVL/blv

Enclosures

Copy to: Margaret Curran, Esq., Chairperson
Kevin M. Flynn
Janet Coit
Patricia S. Lucarelli, Esq.
Leo Wold, Esq.
John J. Spirito, Esq.
Debra A. Todd, North Smithfield Town Clerk
Karen D. Allen, Lincoln Town Clerk
Anthony DeSisto, Esq., Lincoln Town Solicitor
David V. Igliozi, Esq., North Smithfield Town Solicitor

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Report has been prepared in accordance with Rule 1.6(f) of the Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB) *Rules of Practice and Procedure*, to support a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the reconductoring a portion of the existing V148N 115 kilovolt (kV) overhead electrical transmission line (V148N Line), owned by The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (TNEC or the Applicant) and located in North Smithfield and Lincoln, Rhode Island (the Project).¹

This Executive Summary presents a general overview of the Project. Section 2 discusses the purpose and need for the Project. Section 3 provides a detailed Project description, including the Project's scope of work, construction practices for each phase of work, and safety and health overview. The Project's estimated cost, schedule and abutter outreach efforts are also discussed in Section 3. Section 4 reviews the alternatives to the Proposed Action. Sections 5 and 6 present the existing natural environment and social conditions, respectively, which may be affected by the Project. Section 7 presents the Project's anticipated impact, and Section 8 provides an overview of mitigation measures to be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts.

1.2 PROPOSED ACTION

The Applicant proposes to reductor the approximately 4.2-mile V148N Line in an existing right-of-way (ROW) from the Woonsocket Substation in North Smithfield to the Washington Substation in Lincoln (see Figure 1-1: Project Locus² and Figure 3-1: Existing Conditions (Sheets 1-3)). The process of reductoring involves replacing existing wires (conductors) with new larger conductors. In the case of this Project, the new conductors will increase the capacity of the transmission line. In some cases it is necessary to reinforce or replace structures as part of a reductoring project. For the Project, the existing conductors and shieldwire will be replaced and, where necessary, structures will be reinforced or replaced to support the reductoring and withstand the additional loads. There are currently 45 existing structures along the portion of the V148N Line to be reductored. Seven wood structures will be replaced by 6 steel structures. When the Project is completed there will be a total of 44 structures along the ROW.

During construction, the Project will require the use of existing and improved access roads that are both on and off the ROW. Six pull pads will be situated at route angles to anchor heavy equipment which will be needed to pull the new electrical lines (see Figure 3-3: Permitting and Access Plans, Sheets 1-18).

¹ TNEC, a subsidiary of National Grid USA, is an electricity distribution and transmission company serving approximately 465,000 customers in 38 Rhode Island communities. National Grid USA is a public utility holding company. Other subsidiaries of National Grid USA include operating companies such as New England Power Company, Massachusetts Electric Company, Nantucket Electric Company, and Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (in New York), as well as National Grid USA Service Company, Inc. (National Grid) which provides services such as engineering, facilities construction and accounting.

² Figures are included in a separate bound volume.

Project construction is scheduled to commence in September of 2015, with completion expected by mid-2016. This schedule is designed specifically to ensure that the reconductoring is completed prior to the June 2017 retirement of the Brayton Point Energy, LLC generation plant in Somerset, Massachusetts (Brayton Point), which drives the need for the Project. The estimated cost of the Project is \$1.994 million.

1.3 NEED FOR PROJECT

This Project will address transmission system reliability issues resulting from the planned retirement of Brayton Point in June 2017. Closure of Brayton Point, historically one of the largest generators of electricity in New England, has the potential to affect the system's ability to reliably meet power demand. The independent system operator of New England (ISO-NE) assessed reliability issues caused by Brayton Point's retirement, and carefully evaluated the feasibility and effectiveness of the possible solutions for resolving the issues. ISO-NE concluded that the Project is necessary in the short term to mitigate potential thermal overloads on transmission system equipment caused by N-1 single element contingencies.

1.4 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION

The Project is located within the existing V148N Line ROW, and access will be via existing or improved routes, thereby minimizing adverse environmental impacts. No long-term impacts to soil, bedrock, vegetation, surface water, groundwater, wetland resources, or air quality are anticipated. Any potential sedimentation impacts and other short-term construction impacts to wetlands and surface waters will be mitigated by the use of soil erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) and swamp mats to protect wetland soils, vegetation root stock, streams and stream bank. Swamp mats consist of timbers which are bolted together and placed over wetland areas to distribute equipment loads and minimize disturbance to the wetland and soil substrates. Minor, temporary disturbances of wildlife may result from equipment and construction crews working within the Project corridor. Any wildlife displacement will be negligible and temporary, since no permanent alteration of the existing habitat is proposed. As part of the Project, an environmental monitor will work with the construction team to ensure compliance with regulatory programs and permit conditions, and to oversee the proper installation and maintenance of the soil erosion and sediment control BMPs.

1.5 SUMMARY OF SOCIAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION

The Project involves improvements to an existing transmission line within an existing ROW and is not anticipated to result in any long-term impacts to residential, commercial or industrial land uses. Any construction noise impacts are expected to be brief and localized. The Project will result in minor changes to structure height or placement, and no significant visual impacts are anticipated. Traffic management plans will be developed in consultation with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) and employed as necessary at ROW access points off local and state roads. The Project will not adversely impact the social and economic conditions in the Project Area.

1.6 CONCLUSION

The Project is proposed to allow TNEC to continue to provide a reliable supply of electricity to customers in a cost effective manner. With the implementation of appropriate construction mitigation measures, no significant environmental or social impacts are anticipated from the Project.