

April 21, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

**RE: Docket 5245 – Block Island Utility District Annual Reconciliation of
Last Resort Service and Transmission Expense
National Grid’s Response to Data Request – PUC Set 1**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

On behalf of National Grid,¹ attached is the Company’s response to the Public Utilities Commission’s First Set of Data Requests in the above-referenced docket.²

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 401-480-1425.

Very truly yours,



Jennifer Brooks Hutchinson

Attachment

cc: Docket 5245 Service List
John Bell, Division

¹ The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid” or the “Company”).

² Per a communication from Commission counsel on October 4, 2021, the Company is submitting an electronic version of this filing followed by six (6) hard copies filed with the Clerk within 24 hours of the electronic filing.

The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a National Grid
RIPUC Docket No. 5245
In Re: Block Island Utility District
Annual Reconciliation of Last Resort Service and Transmission Expense
Responses to the Commission's First Set of Data Requests
Issued on April 6, 2022

PUC 1-1

Request:

Please provide an update on the Block Island Transmission cable re-burial project that includes the following:

- An overview / brief explanation of all steps to re-bury the cable including tasks that have been completed and tasks yet to be completed. Please be sure to include dates for each step.
- Identify the time period(s) where the cable will be taken out of service for the project including:
 - i. Anticipated start date of outage(s).
 - ii. Anticipated end date of outage(s).
 - iii. If outage start and end dates are not known with certainty, please provide start and end dates for:
 1. Best case scenario
 2. Worst case scenario
 3. Expected scenario

Response:

- a. The Company performed the engineering, design, environmental permitting, procurement, and contracting required to support the submarine cable landfall reconstruction to address the surf zone cable exposure at Crescent Beach. The final scope of work involved utilizing Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) technology to install an approximately 1,700-foot-long High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) conduit and installing approximately 50 feet of ductbank from the existing manhole to a new manhole north of the existing manhole. When the conduits were ready, electrical cables were installed and spliced to the existing facilities.

The tasks associated with this scope of work and completion dates are as follows:

- The new submarine cable was ordered in Summer 2020 and fabrication was completed in December 2020.
- The civil contractor mobilized to Block Island in mid-November 2020 and the 1,700-foot-HDPE conduit was installed from land to sea using HDD methods by January 31, 2021. The civil contractor also installed a new manhole and a 50-foot-long ductbank in the North Parking lot at Fred Benson Town Beach. This work was complete in March 2021.
- The electrical contractor mobilized at the end of March 2021 and installed the land cable and fiber in the ductbank. This work was completed in April 2021.

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- A pipe cleaning contractor was on site in the Fall of 2021 to clear the blockage in the HDPE conduit.
- There were two additional mobilizations of the electrical contractor: A) Fall of 2021 to install the submarine cable and B) Spring of 2022 to complete the splicing.

A. Fall 2021

- The electrical contractor installed a new section of submarine cable in the HDPE conduit and spliced it in the manhole to the new land cable that was previously installed. This work was completed on November 6, 2021.
- Because of unfavorable weather conditions, the remaining splicing was delayed until Spring 2022. The remaining splicing includes one land-to-land splice in the existing manhole and one splice offshore to tie the new submarine cable to the existing submarine cable.

B. Spring 2022

- The outage started April 10, 2022.
- On land, the new land cable was spliced to the existing land cable in the existing manhole on April 14, 2022.
- At sea, the existing direct buried submarine cable was exposed on April 11, 2022, so it could be cut and brought up to the barge to be spliced to the newly installed submarine cable on April 14, 2022.
- Once the offshore splice was completed on the barge, it was placed back on the seafloor on April 15, 2022. The offshore splice is located approximately 1,300 feet offshore in approximately 25 feet of water depth.
- The new facilities were placed into service on April 17, 2022.
- The cable reburial activities were completed on April 17, 2022; however, the required minimum four feet of cover was not able to be met at the offshore splice location. Therefore, permitted supplemental mechanical protection will be installed at the offshore splice and on the adjacent cable.
- The existing submarine cable that is no longer being used was removed on April 13, 2022 and April 17, 2022. A short section of this cable remains inside the original, shorter HDPE conduit under the dunes. The cable and the HDPE conduit were cut, sealed, and capped 10 feet below the surface of the coastal beach.

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The next steps are to install supplemental mechanical protection over the splice and exposed submarine cable via articulated concrete mattresses acceptable to the permit agencies. This work is scheduled to commence on April 21, 2022, for an estimated duration of the three days.

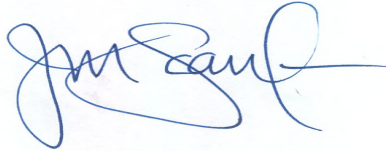
Restoration of the beach and the north parking lot at the Fred Benson Town Beach was initiated on April 18, 2022 and is expected to be completed before May 25, 2022, subject to approval/coordination with the Town.

b.i. through b.iii. The submarine cable outage started on April 10, 2022 and ended on April 17, 2022.

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the cover letter and any materials accompanying this certificate was electronically transmitted to the individuals listed below.

The paper copies of this filing are being hand delivered to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and to the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.



Joanne M. Scanlon

April 21, 2022
Date

**Docket No. 5245 – Block Island Utility District – Annual Recalculation Tariff Filing
Service List as of 4/1/2022**

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