

Date September 29, 2023

To: RI Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB)

From: Stephen and Lori MacDonald

Subject: EFSB Docket 2021-04

Back in January 2019, National Grid due to a variety of circumstances was unable to provide needed natural gas services to Aquidneck Island residents. This caused thousands of residents to be without heat for several days in the dead of winter. Emergency corrective action was taken and the problem was resolved for the remainder of the 2018-19 heating season. Part of the temporary solution included placement and use of large LNG tanks with associated operating equipment at the National Grid pumping site located at Old Mill Lane Portsmouth RI.

During the past several heating seasons National Grid/ Rhode Island Energy (RIE) has requested and received emergency waivers to operate the facility during the heating season; this is could be a reasonable request if RIE made a point to be in full compliance with both Middletown and Portsmouth town noise ordinances. Unfortunately, RIE has not.

During the past several winters RIE has repeatedly violated both Middletown and Portsmouth noise ordinances for residential areas which has a daytime maximum level of 65db and a nighttime maximum level of 55db. There does not appear to be either a state or local governmental mechanism which can automatically check for RIE compliance of the noise ordinances during their operations.

Excessive noise in a residential area is just plain unneighborly, therefore I respectfully ask the RI Energy Facility Siting Board when granting RIE the one-year extension for the winter of 2023/24 request Rhode Island Energy winter operations be in full compliance with all municipal noise ordinances.

Respectfully,

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