

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD

In re: The Narragansett Electric Company :  
L14 and M13 Mainline 115 kV :  
Rebuild Project : Docket No.  
Tiverton and Portsmouth, Rhode Island :

Notice of Intent Application of  
The Narragansett Electric Company

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August 26, 2024

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## INTRODUCTION

The Narragansett Electric Company (the “Company”), with a principal place of business at 280 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02907, hereby submits this Notice of Intent Application to the Energy Facility Siting Board (the “Board” or “EFSB”) for the review of a project consisting of the rebuild of existing transmission lines within the State of Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of Rhode Island General Laws §§ 42-98-1, et seq. and the Board’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, 445 RICR-00-00-1, as amended (the “EFSB Rules”).

This Application is filed by the Company pursuant to Rule 1.6(F) of the EFSB Rules which provides an abbreviated review for (i) the construction of power lines of more than 1,000 feet but less than 6,000 feet or (ii) the modification or relocation of power lines. As noted in Rule 1.3(A)(4), “‘modification’ includes reconductoring and rebuilding an existing power line.” Rule 1.6 provides for an abbreviated application, a public hearing “in one or more of the cities or towns affected by [the] application,” and a determination within sixty (60) days of the filing as to “whether the project may result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare,” thereby requiring a full EFSB review. (See EFSB Rules 1.6(F), 1.6(G), and 1.6(H)). If the Board does not find that the project may result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare, the project does not constitute an “alteration” and the project may proceed without further review. (See EFSB Rules 1.3(A)(4) and 1.6(F)).

The Company is proposing to rebuild the L14 and M13 115 kilovolt (“kV”) Transmission Lines (the “Lines”), which includes replacing all of the structures, wires, and shield wires (collectively, the “Project”). This Project focuses on improving the condition and performance

of the Lines between the Massachusetts/Rhode Island state border and the Dexter Substation. The Lines are the sole supply of electricity to Aquidneck Island and Jamestown and have been identified for refurbishment because the wood structures are exhibiting signs of deterioration, such as discoloration, bowing, rotting, and woodpecker holes seen during ground inspections, and the Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced conductors lose mechanical strength over their service life due to corrosion and annealing, leading to an increased likelihood of broken strands and eventual conductor failure.

In this Application, the Company requests the Board’s approval of the Project. The Company is filing herewith and incorporates herein a Siting Report entitled “L14 and M13 Mainline 115 kV Rebuild Project” (the “Siting Report”). This application follows the organization of Rule 1.6(F) and identifies the sections of the Siting Report where the issues identified in the EFSB Rules are discussed.

1. Identification of the owner(s) of the facility.<sup>1</sup>

a. The owner of the facility is The Narragansett Electric Company, a Rhode Island chartered public utility, with its principal place of business at:

280 Melrose Street  
Providence, RI 02907

b. The affiliates of The Narragansett Electric Company include its parent, PPL Rhode Island Holdings, LLC, PPL Energy Holdings, LLC, PPL Subsidiary Holdings, LLC, and PPL Corporation (“PPL”). The corporate relationships for the

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<sup>1</sup> EFSB Rule 1.6(F)(1) requires the applicant to provide “[i]dentification of the owner(s) of the facility[,] including identification of all affiliates of the proposed owners[,] as such term is defined in R.I. Gen.[.] Laws § 39-3-27.”

Company are shown on Exhibit 1, attached. A listing of PPL owned affiliates is available upon request.

2. Detailed description of the proposed facility.<sup>2</sup>

The Project will consist of: (1) rebuilding the existing Lines from the Fall River, Massachusetts and Tiverton, Rhode Island border south to the existing Dexter Substation located at 182 Freeborn Street in Portsmouth, a distance of approximately 7.9 miles; (2) replacing a total of 253 structures; (3) reconductoring with 1113.0 kcmil ACSS overhead conductor; (4) replacing existing overhead shield wire with new overhead 48 count fiber Optical Ground Wire; and (5) restoring and stabilizing the affected areas within the right-of-way (“ROW”).

The Project is described in more detail in Section 3.0 of the Siting Report.

3. Detailed description and analysis of the impact of the Project on the physical and social environment.<sup>3</sup>

The environmental characteristics of the Project area are described in Section 5.0 of the Siting Report and the affected social environment is discussed in Section 6.0. The impact of the Project on the natural and social environments is described in Section 7.0 of the Siting Report. A review of current health research pertaining to electric and magnetic fields is included as

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<sup>2</sup> EFSB Rule 1.6(F)(2) requires the applicant to provide a “[d]etailed description of the proposed facility, including its length, route, function and operating characteristics, and complete plans as to all structures associated with the proposed facilities.”

<sup>3</sup> EFSB Rule 1.6(F)(3) requires the applicant to provide a “[d]etailed description and analysis of the impact of the Project on the physical and social environment. The applicant shall also provide a review of the current independent scientific research pertaining to electromagnetic fields (“EMF”) and shall provide data on the anticipated levels of EMF exposure and potential health risks associated with this exposure. To the extent the proposed project will have only negligible impact on any particular resource in the natural and social environment the applicant may so state and need not provide a detailed analysis of the baseline conditions for that resource.”

Appendix G of the Siting Report. The existing and projected levels of electric and magnetic fields at the edges of the ROWs are provided in Section 7.14 of the Siting Report.

4. All studies and forecasts that demonstrate the need for the proposed facility.<sup>4</sup>

The Project is needed to address the asset condition issues of the current lines. If the Lines are not rebuilt, the area may face future reliability issues resulting from the asset conditions of the Lines.

The need for the Project is described in Section 2 of the Siting Report.

5. The reasons why the Project does not constitute the alteration of a major energy facility.

Transmission lines of 69 kV and above are included in the definition of “major energy facility” in Rule 1.3(A)(16) of the EFSB Rules. Rule 1.3(A)(4), however, states that

[t]he construction of a new power line which is more than 1,000 but less than 6000 feet in length or the modification<sup>5</sup> or relocation of an existing power line shall not be an alteration unless the Board determines that the project may result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare. [Emphasis added.]

Thus, the Project would constitute the alteration of a major energy facility and be subject to the full EFSB permitting process only if the Board determines that it “may result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare.”

As explained in Section 3 of the Siting Report, the Project involves rebuilding the existing Lines. The impacts of the Project are discussed in Section 7.0 of the Siting Report and summarized in Sections 7.1 and 7.2. The mitigation measures are discussed in Section 8.0 of the

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<sup>4</sup> EFSB Rule 1.6(F)(4) requires the applicant to provide “[a]ll studies and forecasts which demonstrate the need for the proposed facility under the statewide master construction plan submitted annually.”

<sup>5</sup> Per EFSB Rule 1.3(A)(4), modification “includes reconductoring and rebuilding an existing power line.”

Siting Report. In summary, any impact on environmental resources and the social environment will be negligible. Consequently, because the Project does not significantly impact the environment or the public health, safety and welfare, the Board should determine that the Project does not constitute an alteration and is not subject to the full EFSB permitting process.

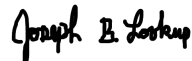
### CONCLUSION

This Application and the Siting Report, which is filed herewith and incorporated herein, and the other supporting material clearly demonstrate that the proposal to rebuild the existing Lines will not result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare.

For the reasons stated herein, The Narragansett Electric Company requests that the Board finds that the further review is not required because Project as described herein will not result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare.

Respectfully submitted,

THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY



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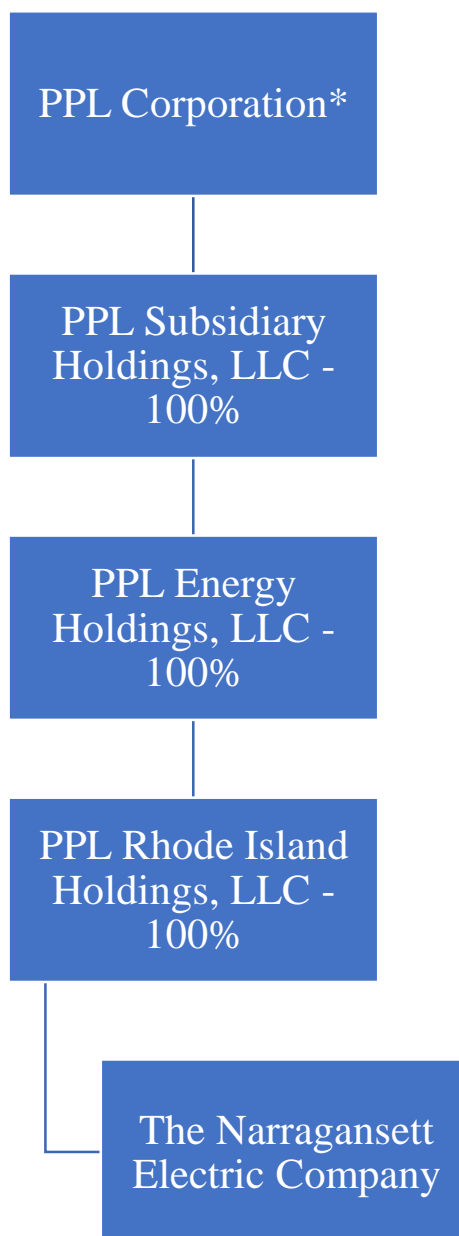
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**Organization Chart – The Narragansett Electric Company – June 2022**

\* Other subsidiaries of PPL Corporation are omitted.