



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

Telephone 401-222-2678

TTY 401-222-3700

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www.preservation.ri.gov

1 April 2026

Via email: stephanie.delarosa@puc.ri.gov

Stephanie De La Rosa
Coordinator
Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

Re: Energy Facility Siting Board Docket No. SB-2025-01
*The Narragansett Electric Company's Application for the Woonsocket Substation –
Nasonville Substation Rebuild and Alteration Project for North Smithfield and
Burrillville, Rhode Island*

Dear Ms. De La Rosa:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) has received the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB) request to render an advisory opinion on the above-referenced project.

RIHPHC staff reviewed this project beginning in December 2024 and continuing through January 2026 under the regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Section 106 review was prompted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers permitting of the project.

RIHPHC staff assessed potential impacts of the project on both above- and below-ground cultural resources. After reviewing information provided by the Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL) on behalf of the Narragansett Electric Company (TNEC), the RIHPHC determined that the project would have no effect on above-ground historic resources (see attached letter dated April 30, 2025).

The PAL identified a number of archaeological sites in the project's area of potential effect. Of these, three were initially identified as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (see attached letter dated April 4, 2025). PAL and TNEC developed an Archaeological Site Avoidance and Protection Plan (ASAPP) to eliminate adverse effects to the three potentially eligible archaeological sites, plus two other archaeological sites of concern. The RIHPHC's State Archaeologist reviewed the plan and determined that, if implemented as described in the ASAPP, the project would have no adverse effects on archaeological sites (see attached letter dated January 15, 2026).

These comments are provided in accordance with the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Act and Rhode Island General Laws. If you have any questions, please contact me at 222-4134 or jeffrey.emidy@preservation.ri.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Emidy
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures: RIHPHC letter to PAL dated April 4, 2025
RIHPHC letter to PAL dated April 30, 2025
RIHPHC letter to PAL dated January 15, 2026



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April 4, 2025

Gregory Dubell
PAL Inc.
26 Main Street, Pawtucket RI 02860
(via email)

Re: Phase I Archaeological Survey
TNEC Woonsocket Substation-Nasonville Substation
115Kv Transmission Line Project, Burrillville and North Smithfield, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Dubell,

RIHPHC has reviewed PAL's report for the above-referenced survey. We concur with PAL's conclusion that Forest Hill Drive Find Spot, Mattity Road 1 and 2 find spots, Mattetokomitt Swamp Site, and Old Oxford Road Site are not eligible for listing in the State or National Register and that no additional archaeological investigations are warranted for these sites. We further concur that the Douglas Pike, Forest Hill Drive, and Mattity Road sites are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and D, and that TNEC should avoid impacts to these sites.

If avoidance of ground disturbance at these sites is not possible, Phase II site examination archaeological surveys would be necessary to confirm the eligibility of the sites. If disturbance can be avoided, an Archaeological Site Avoidance and Protection Plan (ASAPP) should be developed to be implemented during construction and during any future work along the ROW to protect and preserve these historic resources.

We have assigned the sites located in this survey the following RI Site Numbers—

Douglas Pike Site—RI 2909
Forest Hill Drive Site—RI 2910
Mattetokomitt Swamp Site—2911
Mattity Road Site—2912
Old Oxford Road Site—2913

Please add this information to the site forms in the report and resend the report to us.

These comments are provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Taylor, archaeologist at this office.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey D. Emidy
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: John Brown, Narragansett THPO

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April 30, 2025

Via email: gdubell@palinc.com

Gregory R. Dubell, RPA
Energy Projects Manager
The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
26 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Re: RIHPHC Project No. 18638
TNEC Nasonville Substation to Woonsocket Substation Upgrade Project
Burrillville & North Smithfield, RI

Dear Mr. Dubell:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) staff has reviewed the additional information that you provided for the above-referenced project. The Narragansett Electric Company (TNEC) proposes to upgrade the approximately 6.15 miles of transmission line between the Nasonville Substation and the Woonsocket Substation in Burrillville and North Smithfield, RI. The project will require state licenses/permits and permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL) identified the area of potential effect as the project area and a 0.25 mile radius from the transmission line right-of-way to account for indirect effects. In our letter dated February 7, 2025, we requested additional information for the Nasonville Historic District and Walling House at 27 Walling Road in Burrillville in order to concur with PAL's determination of eligibility. PAL has demonstrated that the Nasonville Historic District has lost its integrity due to multiple demolitions and alterations. For the Walling House, PAL provided additional historical information, but also informed our office of incompatible new construction adjacent to the building. Based upon the information provided, we concur that these properties are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Within the APE, PAL has identified three historic properties: the Smith-Andrews-Taft-Todd Farm, the Frederic S. Brown House at 25 Old Greenville Road and the House at 172 Greenville Road. PAL has determined that the new taller metal poles will not be visible from the Smith-Andrew-Taft-Todd Farm due to intervening vegetation and other transmission lines. For the Frederic S. Brown House and the House at 172 Greenville Road, the new poles and lines will not be visible from either property due to intervening vegetation. Therefore, PAL has opined that the project will not affect any above-ground historic resources. Based upon the information provided, the RIHPHC concurs with these findings.

To: Greg Dubell
Re: TNEC Nasonville Substation to Woonsocket Substation Upgrade Project

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April 30, 2025
RIHPHC No. 18638

These comments are provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any questions, please contact RIHPHC Project Review Coordinator Elizabeth Totten at 401-222-2671 or elizabeth.totten@preservation.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Elizabeth Totten in blue ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and includes the name "Elizabeth Totten" with "FOR" written below it.

Jeffrey Emidy
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer



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January 15, 2026

Gregory R. Dubell, RPA
Energy Projects Manager
The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
26 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Via email: gdubell@palinc.com

Re: Archaeological Site Avoidance and Protection Plan (ASAPP)
TNEC, Nasonville to Woonsocket Upgrades Project – Burrillville & North Smithfield, RI
RIHPHC #18638; USACE #NAE-2024-00937; PAL #4704

Dear Mr. Dubell:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) staff has reviewed the above-referenced ASAPP. We find that if it is implemented as described the project will have no adverse effect on the E. Kilian Headstone; the Douglas Pike (RI 2909); Forest Hill Drive (RI 2910), Mattity Road (RI 2912) Archaeological Sites, Symphony Rock Shelter (RI 2764), and the Areas of Native American Tribal Concern,

These comments are provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Act and Rhode Island General Laws. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Taylor, RIHPHC principal archaeologist, at charlotte.taylor@preservation.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Emidy
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: John Brown, Cora Pierce, and Mark Andrews (NITHPO)

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