



July 28, 2026

Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairman, Public Utilities Commission
Terry Gray, Director, Department of Environmental Management
Meredith Brady, Associate Director, Division of Statewide Planning
Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

Re: Docket-SB-2025-01 – The Narragansett Electric Company (TNEC) License Application for the Woonsocket Substation to Nasonville Substation 115kV Transmission Line

Dear Honorable Members of the Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board:

On behalf of the constituents, we collectively represent at the General Assembly, we respectfully urge the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB) to strongly consider the Narragansett Electric Company's application to enhance grid reliability in Burrillville and surrounding communities, as proposed in Docket SB-2025-01.

The Nasonville Substation serves approximately 10,000 local energy customers in Burrillville and North Smithfield, including all homes and businesses served by the Clear River Electric and Water District (CREW). Among these customers is a state hospital (Eleanor Slater), major energy facilities (including a large power plant and gas compression station), and significant manufacturing facilities employing hundreds of Rhode Islanders.

Today, that vital substation is powered by a single, aging 115 kV transmission line. Moreover, it is our understanding that, if this single high-voltage line has an outage, all local customers served by the Substation – including all those receiving service via CREW – are at risk of an outage.

If approved, TNEC's application would, in part, lead to the rebuilding of the existing transmission line (portions of which are more than four decades old) while adding a new, secondary transmission line that will strengthen energy resiliency and enhance electric reliability for all CREW and Rhode Island Energy customers in Burrillville. All this work would take place in existing rights of way with costs shared statewide. We note that, in just the last month, the community of Jamestown was subject to similar energy reliability risks when a submerged electrical cable failed. In that instance, however, island residents and businesses had the benefit

of a secondary line to help maintain service while Rhode Island Energy implemented repairs and other contingencies to guard against harmful and costly power outages. Sitting here today, Crew (literal island in electrical terms) the rest of Burrillville and parts of North Smithfield do not have this same vital redundancy.

As residents and as elected leaders, we appreciate the critical importance of balancing energy affordability, safety, and reliability. And, as members of rural communities, we have experienced our fair share of power outages – most notably, the August 2022 Nasonville Substation fire. Those experiences inform the value we place on having a dependable, reliable, robust and resilient grid to power our communities, sustain local businesses and employers, and create the conditions for future economic growth.

Thank you for your consideration and the important role you play in reviewing critical energy infrastructure proposals throughout Rhode Island.

Regards,

Representative David J. Place

Representative Brian C. Newberry

Representative Jon Brien

Senator Melissa Murray

Senator Jessica de la Cruz