

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD**

In re: The Narragansett Electric Company :
d/b/a National Grid – Notice of Intent to :
Construct 115 kV Loop Lines of Less than 1000 Feet : **Docket No. SB-2020-03**
(Wickford Junction Substation Loop Lines) :

ORDER

On November 25, 2020, The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid or Company) filed with the Energy Facility Siting Board (Board) a Notice of Intent (Notice) to construct 115 kV loop lines of less than 1,000 feet in accordance with 445-RICR-00-00-1.6(C) of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules). According to National Grid, the loop lines will be no more than 200 feet in length. The Board docketed the Notice on November 30, 2020, and assigned it Docket Number SB-2020-03.

The loop lines are required to connect a new substation to the L-190 transmission line and the 115 kV transmission system. The new 115 kV loop line, comprised of two supply lines each no more than 200 feet in length, will interconnect to the substation. The loop line will connect the substation to the existing L-190 transmission line. Two existing wood structures will be replaced with two steel three-pole deadend structures and a third steel three-pole deadend structure will be installed. The two replacement structures will be approximately 60 feet tall and the new structure will be approximately 55 feet tall. The substation is needed to interconnect approximately 108 megawatts of customer-owned solar photovoltaic distributed generation located remotely from the

site of the substation in areas of North Kingstown and Exeter.¹ The Company represented that it obtained local zoning relief for the substation from the Town of North Kingstown Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Review. The zoning relief required public hearing, and abutters within 200 feet of the proposed substation were mailed hearing notices. The Company also obtained a RIPDES Permit and Water Quality Certification from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

A copy of the Notice of Intent to Construct or Relocate Power Lines of Less than 1,000 feet is required by 445-RICR-00-00-1.6(C) of the Rules to be filed with the Council of the municipality affected by the construction of said lines at least sixty days before construction is to commence. National Grid filed the Notice of Intent with the Town Clerk for distribution to the Town Council. The Company received confirmation from the Town Clerk that the Notice of Intent had been distributed to each Town Council member. The Rule also allows the municipality, or any intervenor, up to thirty days after the filing to file an objection with the Board. No such objection was received by the Board.

The Board finds that the Project as set forth in the filing by National Grid is not a significant modification of a major energy facility which will result in a significant impact on the environment, or the public health, safety, and welfare and therefore does not constitute an alteration of a major energy facility as defined by the Energy Facility Siting Act, specifically R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-98-3(b) and 445-RICR-00-00-1.3(A)(4) and 445-RICR-00-00-1.4(A)(16) of the Rules. Because the Project does not constitute an alteration of a major energy facility and is expressly excluded as such pursuant to 445-RICR-00-00-1.3(A)(4) of the Rules, it does not require a formal investigation by the Board.

¹ According to the Notice, the solar generation will be interconnected to the substation through a 34.5 kV line that runs from the generation projects to the substation. 34.5 kV lines are not subject to the Board's jurisdiction.

Therefore, it is hereby:

(146) ORDERED:

The Notice of Intent to Construct 115 kV Loop Lines of Less than 1,000 feet is accepted and the project may proceed without further review by the Board.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE at Warwick, Rhode Island, on January 6, 2021, pursuant to an Open Meeting decision of January 6, 2021. Written order issued January 8, 2021.

ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD



Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairman



Janet Coit, Member



Meredith Brady, Member