

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission

11/1/2021

89 Jefferson Blvd.

Warwick, RI. 02888

By Electronic Transmission

Dear members of the Hearing Board,

I wish to add some additional points to topics discussed during today's (11.1.2021) hearing of the EFSB. As one of the residents abutting the proposed Camp Ave cable installation, there are concerns of traffic, noise, and road closures during this period of time. These were referred to during the meeting as temporary issues that may be mitigated by working with the town. However, the current ongoing construction replacing the gas main requires Camp Ave to be closed during this construction, and a detour around Windward Walk. The planned entrance of the cables to Camp Avenue from QBP will require a detour through Seabreeze Drive, as it will block the entrance to Windward Walk. Seabreeze Drive is narrower than Windward Walk, with residents using on street parking.

While the temporary issues with construction were discussed, the topic of permanent issues from this construction have not been addressed. The proposed cable run will remove the mature tree buffer zone between QDC and the residential area. This buffer zone is required in QDC's own Joint Advisory Opinion dated August 23, 2021, page 5 of the Technical Memorandum states:

“(1) Residential districts and neighborhoods that abut the QBP shall be protected from the impacts of uses within the QBP through the careful location, design and buffering of non-residential uses on QBP lands.

(2) Buffers created for the protection of residential districts and neighborhoods shall be designed to maximize visual screening and minimize impacts from noise, glare, pollution, odor and heat transfer through the use of best buffering and mitigation practices which may include berms, structural barriers and non-invasive resilient plant species.

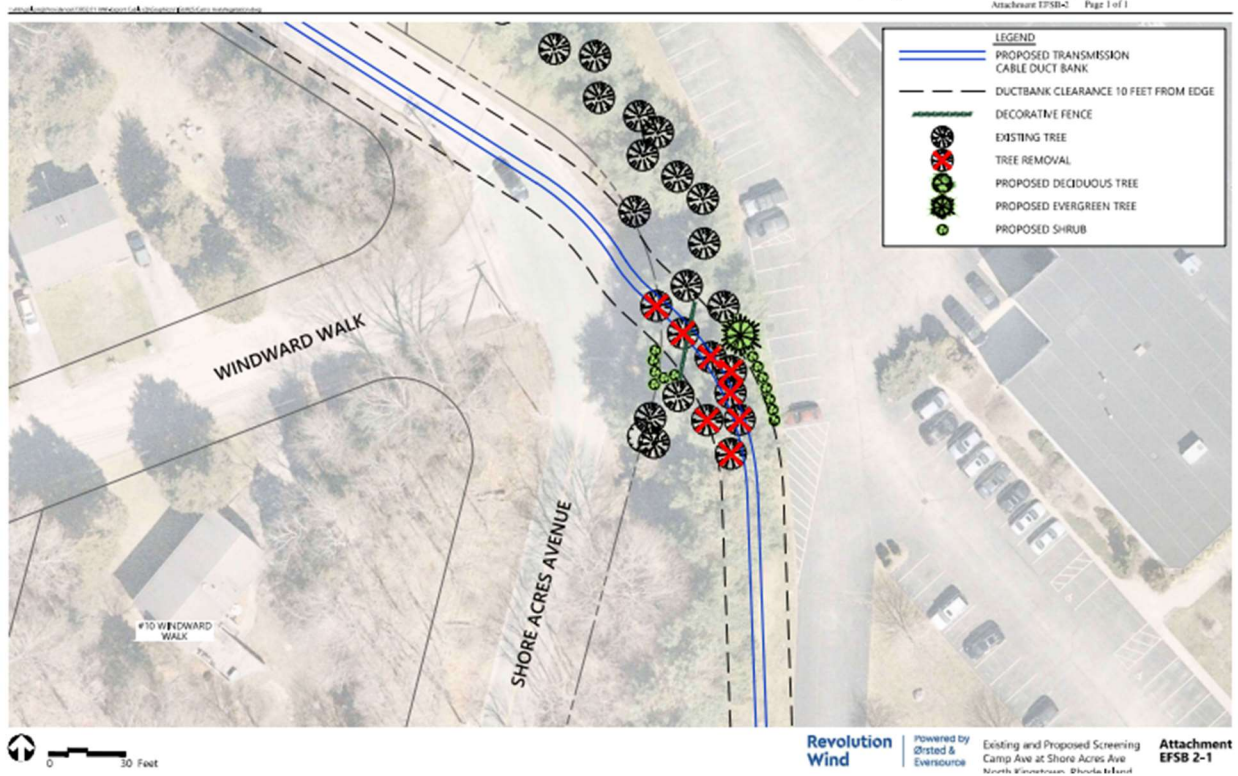
(3) Selection of allowed uses shall consider potential impacts from noise, heat, glare, air quality, traffic or other standards enumerated in the development regulations on residential areas and shall be performed in a manner that precludes the possibility of any use causing a nuisance to residential areas under regular operations.”

The current proposed plan replacing these mature trees with shrubbery and a small fence as detailed in EFSB Data Requests, set 2, dated October 5, 2021 response to 2-1(6):

“6. If the route through the residential area is used, we will lose the current buffer zone between the street and the industrial park, which was placed to reduce sight lines, noise, and light pollution. What mitigation is planned for this?

Revolution Wind has been working with the property owner at 135 Circuit Drive to specifically address the installation of the transmission line and provide a robust landscaping solution. Attachment EFSB 2-1 depicts a draft landscaping plan developed to maintain screening while safely operating the

transmission line. Eight existing trees ranging in size from 6 inches to 18 inches in diameter will be removed in the hedgerow separating 135 Circuit Drive and Shore Acres Avenue where the Onshore Transmission Cable will be constructed. This area will be restored by replanting with 13 shrubs and one tree and a decorative fence over the duct bank that will serve to replace the buffer as the new plantings mature. These plantings will reduce sight lines, noise and light pollution.”



This is the current Tree buffer:



Shrubs and a small fence will not provide the buffer needed to reduce light and noise pollution to our neighborhood. This will directly affect sightlines to the windows on the rear of my house at 10 Windward Walk.

One other issue that I have not seen details of, is the construction traffic for the Revolution Wind Substation. There is an access road on Camp Ave., will this be the access used for the construction equipment to enter the work area? This would be another intrusion of major traffic flow on this street impacting the area for a longer period of time than the quoted time for the cable duct construction.

For these reasons, together with concerns from the North Kingstown Planning Commission which were presented at today's hearing, I ask that this cable installation be moved into the industrial park on the alternate path presented by Revolution Wind.

Thank You

Donald J. Dennehy Jr.

10 Windward Walk

North Kingstown, RI.