

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD**

<b>THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC</b>	:	
<b>COMPANY d/b/a NATIONAL GRID</b>	:	
<b>NOTICE OF INTENT APPLICATION</b>	:	<b>DOCKET NO. SB-2019-05</b>
<b>Q-143 and R-144 115 kV UNDERGROUD</b>	:	
<b>CABLE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT,</b>	:	
<b>PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND</b>	:	

**DECISION AND ORDER**

On November 1, 2019, the Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid or Company) filed a Notice of Intent Application with the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB or Board) pursuant to Rule 1.6(F) of the Board’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules).<sup>1</sup> The application proposed reconductoring approximately two miles of the existing Q-143 and R-144 115 kV underground electric transmission lines (lines) located in Providence, Rhode Island. The lines, which connect the Franklin Square Substation and the Admiral Street Cable Terminal in Providence, were installed in 1939 and 1943, respectively. Over the past few years various components of these lines have failed with increased frequency.

In Docket No. SB-2017-02, Order Nos. 133 and 134, the Board found the related cable relocation project of the Q-143 and R-144 115 kV lines between the Franklin Square Substation and Dollar Street did not constitute an alteration of a major energy facility. It, accordingly, permitted the project to proceed without further review. The current project completes the

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 1.6(F) provides for an abbreviated review of an application for the construction of power lines of more than 1,000 feet, but less than 6,000 feet, or the modification or relocation of existing power lines. After the application is filed and a public hearing held in one or more of the cities or towns affected by the project, the Board must make a determination within sixty 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.” If the Board finds no significant impact, the project does not constitute a major alteration. The applicant will, accordingly, be licensed to proceed without further review.

reconductoring of the two lines beginning at Dollar Street and travelling to the Admiral Street Cable Terminal.

In its application, National Grid explained why the project is needed and provided detailed descriptions of the proposed work. That work will include: 1) removal of existing cables and accessories and reuse of approximately 6,400 feet of existing duct bank; 2) installation, repair and replacement, and realignment of new and existing duct bank, and removal and replacement and installation of manhole pairs; 3) installation of new cables, conductors, and splicers; and 4) installation of cable riser structures, outdoor cable terminations, surge arresters, and one fiber optic cable. National Grid identified three measurable benefits of the project: improved reliability of the 115 kV transmission system serving its Providence customers; increased capacity of the underground transmission lines, providing greater transmission flexibility in the Providence area; and less required maintenance due to the installation of solid dielectric cables to replace the existing, failure-prone, fluid-filled cables.

National Grid considered four alternative ways to solve the identified problems. Of the four only the chosen alternative, which is the subject of this docket, would effectively accomplish the goals of providing improved reliability and increased capacity, with minimal social and environmental impacts, and at a reasonable cost.

National Grid described the location of the proposed project as a developed urban area, much of which is heavily congested. The specific route of the reconductoring would occur within the limits of an existing public roadway right-of-way. The Company provided that appropriate environmental controls will be installed. The Company further emphasized it will retain an environmental monitor to oversee all construction activities to ensure compliance with all permit requirements. Additionally, after the work is complete, National Grid will restore all disturbed

areas. The Company expects the project will have no long-term impacts on the natural or social environment. National Grid will coordinate with the City of Providence to manage traffic during construction. National Grid estimated the cost of the project to be approximately \$46.5 million. Construction is planned to begin in the first quarter of 2020 and be completed by the end of 2021.

At the public hearing on December 17, 2019, the Company presented three witnesses George Maximovich, the project manager for National Grid; Jamie Durand, a senior environmental manager with Power Engineers; and Eyad Al-Sibai, a lead engineer with National Grid. The witnesses supported the details in the Application and the Environmental Report and responded to inquiries from the Board.

After the Company's presentation ended, the Chairperson solicited public comment. None was offered.

Immediately upon conclusion of the public hearing, the Board conducted an Open Meeting which had been properly noticed. The Board found the relocation of the underground transmission lines to be a positive and necessary step in ensuring reliability to the area. The Board also found the project will have no significant impact to the environment or public health, safety, and welfare. The social and environmental impacts resulting from the construction will be temporary and minimal. Moreover, the Board is assured that National Grid will engage in appropriate mitigation measures to minimize any disturbances to vegetation and soil and to the social environment. By a unanimous vote, the Board found that the project will not cause a significant impact on the environment, public health, safety, or welfare and, thus, is not an alteration of a major energy facility. National Grid may proceed without further review.

Accordingly, it is hereby

( 143 ) ORDERED:

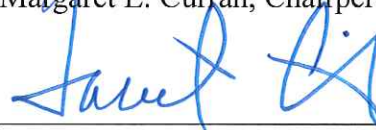
The Energy Facility Siting Board finds that the project does not constitute an alteration of a major energy facility as defined by R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-98-4(b) in that it will not result in a significant impact on the environment or public health, safety, and welfare and that National Grid may proceed without further review.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE AT PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND ON DECEMBER 17, 2019, PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED FEBRUARY 5, 2020.

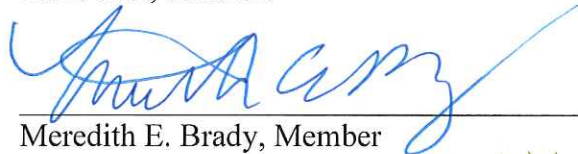
ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD



Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson



Janet Coit, Member



Meredith E. Brady, Member

