

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

IN RE: THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY'S NOTICE OF INTENT APPLICATION FOR
THE S171N/T172N WOONSOCKET TO WEST FARNUM REBUILD – DOCKET NO. SB-2024-03

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-98-7 and § 42-98-9.1 and Rule 1.6(F) of the Energy Facility Siting Board's ("Board") Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Board will conduct a **public hearing at 6:00 pm on August 28, 2024, at the North Smithfield Town Hall, 83 Greene Street, North Smithfield, Rhode Island 02896.**

At the hearing, the Board will hear public comment on Docket No. SB-2024-03 regarding The Narragansett Electric Company's ("Company") Notice of Intent Application for the proposed rebuild of the S171N and T172N 115 kV transmission lines ("Lines"). Specifically, the Company is proposing to rebuild an approximately 1.5 mile section of the Lines between the Woonsocket Substation on Greenville Road, North Smithfield and the West Farnum Substation on Greenville Road, North Smithfield ("Project"). The Company states that the Project is needed to improve the condition and performance of the Lines and all work will occur within the existing right-of way. The S171N Line will be rebuilt using double circuit structures to support the new U181 115 kV transmission line ("U181 Line"). The Company states that the first phase of the U181 Line measures approximately 5,016 feet. The Project components include: rebuilding and reconductoring the existing Lines; replacing 19 structures for each of the Lines (14 of the new S171N structures will be double circuit structures to support the U181 Line); replacing existing overhead shield wire with new overhead Optical Ground Wire; and restoring and stabilizing the affected areas within the right-of-way. Detailed images of the proposed Project route (including adjacent properties) can be found in the "Siting Report" available on the docket page at: <https://ripuc.ri.gov/Docket-SB-2024-03>. The Company argues that any impact the proposed Project may have on the natural and/or social environment will be negligible. Therefore, the Company requests the Board determine that the Project does not constitute an alteration to a major energy facility and that it is not subject to the full EFSB permitting process.

Section 1.6(G) of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure provides that the Board shall "hold a public hearing in one or more of the cities or towns affected by an application..." After the public comment hearing, the Board shall "determine whether the project may result in a significant impact on the environment or the public health, safety and welfare and therefore shall be treated as an alteration," per Section 1.6(H). The Board will conduct a public comment hearing in North Smithfield and welcomes the participation of its residents.

All of the materials filed in this proceeding are on file and available for public review at the Board office located within the Public Utilities Commission office building at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island. The materials are also available online at: <https://ripuc.ri.gov/Docket-SB-2024-03>.

The North Smithfield Town Hall is accessible to the handicapped. Requests for interpreter services for the hearing impaired must be made to the Coordinator at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, 401-780-2108, Kristen.L.Masse@puc.ri.gov at least 72 hours in advance of the hearing.

Kristen Masse, Coordinator
Energy Facility Siting Board
July 25, 2024