

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Environmental**  
**Affairs ■ MEPA Office**

**ENF Environmental**  
**Notification Form**

*For Office Use Only*  
*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

EOEA No.: 13772  
 MEPA Analyst: Aisling Eglinton  
 Phone: 617-626-1024

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

<b>Project Name:</b> UXBRIDGE TO NORTHBRIDGE 115 kV TRANSMISSION TAP LINE PROJECT		
<b>Street:</b> Off Castle Hill Road (Northbridge) overland across Sutton Road (Uxbridge) and Rawson Road (Uxbridge) to intersection of existing transmission corridor approx. 1,000 ft. west of Rawson Road		
<b>Municipality:</b> Northbridge/Uxbridge	<b>Watershed:</b> Blackstone River (Mumford River)	
<b>Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates:</b> Substation: 19 279113E, 4664949N Tap Point: 19 277813E, 4663481N	<b>Latitude:</b> Substation: 42 06' 19" N and 71 40' 17" W	<b>Longitude:</b> Tap Point: 42 05' 31" and 71 41' 12" W
<b>Estimated commencement date:</b> Winter 06-07	<b>Estimated completion date:</b> July 2007	
<b>Approximate cost:</b> \$2.13 million	<b>Status of project design:</b> 90 % complete	
<b>Proponent:</b> New England Power Company (d/b/a National Grid) (Attn: Mr. F. Paul Richards)		
<b>Street:</b> 55 Bearfoot Road		
<b>Municipality:</b> Northborough	<b>State:</b> MA	<b>Zip Code:</b> 01532
<b>Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained:</b> Marc Bergeron		
<b>Firm/Agency:</b> BSC Group, Inc.	<b>Street:</b> 33 Waldo Street	
<b>Municipality:</b> Worcester	<b>State:</b> MA	<b>Zip Code:</b> 01608
<b>Phone:</b> 617-896-4505	<b>Fax:</b> 508-792-4509	<b>E-mail:</b> mbergeron@bscgroup.com

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?  
 Yes  No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. \_\_\_\_\_)  No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. 2303)  No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))  Yes  No
  - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 11.09)  Yes  No
  - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No
  - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): Not Applicable

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?  
 Yes (Specify: )  No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Orders of Conditions from Northbridge and Uxbridge Conservation Commissions; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Programmatic General Permit (Category 2); NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharge from Construction Activities

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- |                                 |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air          | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC   | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations  | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources       |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
<b>LAND</b>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DTE Section 72 Approval</li> </ul>
Total site acreage	31.5 acres			
New acres of land altered		6.3 acres		
Acres of impervious area	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		41,672 sq. ft.		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0 square feet		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		N/A		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	80			
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A	

**CONSERVATION LAND:** Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

**RARE SPECIES:** Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

**HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:** Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:** Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.)

#### Project Overview and Site Description

New England Power Company (d/b/a National Grid) is proposing to install a second 115 kV transmission tap line within its existing right-of-way (ROW) from the Whitins Pond Substation, off Castle Hill Road in Northbridge to a tap point with an existing 115 kV transmission mainline, south of Rawson Road in Uxbridge. The Project's total length is approximately 7,000 linear feet (1.3 miles).

The new transmission tap line will be constructed approximately 40-feet northwest of and parallel to the existing transmission tap line that presently occupies the right-of-way. The new single pole transmission tap line structures will range in height from 65 to 80 feet above grade. Nominally, the Project will result in an additional 40-feet of clearing within the 200-foot wide ROW corridor, thus increasing the average cleared width in the 200-foot wide easement from 115-feet to approximately 155-feet.

National Grid is proposing to commence and complete clearing activities on the ROW for the proposed transmission tap line structures during the winter 2006-2007 and to begin installing the transmission tap line structures approximately in February-March 2007. Construction of the new transmission tap line is anticipated to take 4 months to complete. It is National Grid's goal to have the new 115 kV transmission tap line in service by Summer 2007.

#### Alternatives Analysis

**"No-Build Alternative:** This alternative would eliminate construction of the Project and eliminate all environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. However, under this scenario, the current reliability issues for service to Douglas, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton and Uxbridge will not be resolved and would prevent National Grid from

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fulfilling its statutory obligation to customers in this service territory. For these reasons, the “No-Build” alternative was not considered as an acceptable action to the proposed project and was rejected by National Grid.

*Alternative Routes:* The intervening area between the substation and the main transmission line corridor was investigated to see if there were any alternate routes where the proposed transmission tap line might be sited. National Grid concluded that, apart from the existing ROW between the main transmission line corridor and the existing Whitins Pond Substation, no other existing transmission corridors exist in the area that would provide a reasonable alternative route and would resolve electrical system needs. The creation of an alternate route along a new ROW corridor could potentially displace existing land uses such as residential and agricultural uses, could lead to increased wetlands impacts and tree-clearing impacts, and could significantly increase the cost and schedule to achieve the project goal.

*Other Alternatives:* In addition to the “No-Build” alternative and alternate routes, National Grid considered other alternatives to the proposed project. These alternatives included an underground alternative, alternative locations within the right-of-way, and alternative overhead support structures. These alternatives are described more fully in Section 5.4 of the enclosed supporting narrative.

### **Mitigation Measures**

National Grid has established procedures that are to be followed by all National Grid employees and its contractors for accessing sites and performing construction activities on transmission ROWs. These procedures ensure that National Grid’s projects are completed in accordance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations as well as with National Grid policies and compliance objectives. Mitigation measures to be implemented for the Project include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Use of existing access roadways along right-of-way for Project, wherever possible
2. Avoid and minimize access and structures in wetland resources
3. Install proper erosion controls and use timber mats for equipment access through wetland resources
4. Restore and stabilize disturbed areas following Project construction