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May 1, 2013

Lisa M. Zafonte, Esq.  
National Grid  
175 E. Old Country Road  
Hicksville, New York 11801  
Lisa.zafontemaffei@national.grid.com

Re: Case 13-T-0108 - In the Matter of the Part 102 Report of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid for the Development of the Eastover Road 230/115kV Station and Transmission Line Loops in the Towns of Schaghticoke and Brunswick, Rensselaer County.

Dear Ms. Zafonte:

Upon a preliminary review of the report submitted by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) and docketed in Case 13-T-0108 on March 15, 2013, the report, as submitted, is not filed or otherwise in compliance with 16 NYCRR Part 102. The deficiency identified must be remedied or otherwise cured before the report will be deemed to comply with our regulations. The Commission will not commence its review of the report until the deficiency has been remedied and shall have 60 days to review the report once the deficiency has been cured.

Part 102 of the Department's regulations establishes filing requirements for reports to install non-Article VII electric transmission facilities. While review of NMPC's report is on-going, the following deficiency was identified:

Part 102.3(b)(11) requires a report on Agricultural Districts. Please provide a report on the affected Agricultural District areas, including:

1. A map of the Rensselaer County Agricultural District (Ag District) within which the proposed project is located, indicating the location of all proposed facility components including: transmission and substation facilities, associated graded and cleared areas, and permanent storm water management facilities and access roads;

2. Identification of the Ag District number and date of latest certification of the district enrollment mapping;
3. An analysis of the acreage of all Ag District lands that will be affected by the proposed project, indicating areas of temporary impact and permanent loss of both agricultural and farm woodland areas that are enrolled in the Ag District Program, pursuant to Article 25-AA of the Agriculture and Markets Law;
4. A description of permanent right-of-way width and vegetation clearance requirements for transmission facilities and the substation facility;
5. A description of how NMPC plans to minimize impacts on agricultural district lands to the maximum extent available, including natural and ecological resources which provide open space and aesthetic values. As part of this report, please address the following points:
  - a. Construction of the 115 kV lines, entitled “Eastover – N. Troy #306” and “Battenkill – Eastover #10,” will require additional clearing and grading for the wire pulling setup areas to the west of the limits of the substation (Grading Plan Drawing Number D-39642-E). In addition to typical clearing and grading in this area, the wire pulling sites will also require clearing of forest cover at steep slopes and wetland edges. Alternative arrangements should be considered in this area. An underground installation of the “Eastover – N. Troy #306” and the “Battenkill – Eastover #10” lines would eliminate the proposed overhead portion from the substation to structures #363 R and #363 L to approximately structure #362. The pulling sites in this area would no longer be necessary, resulting in the elimination of the above noted environmental impacts. In reference to this area, please provide the following:
    - i. A description of the types of structures that would be needed to make a termination from underground to overhead for the 115 kV lines. Include an engineering drawing to scale showing these components.
    - ii. The layout and area that would be necessary for underground installation.
    - iii. A drawing showing how the two circuits would be placed in the trench, including details of the required trench dimensions.
  - b. Also, provide an analysis of overhead alternatives to the layout provided that would avoid the wetland and forest clearing impacts related to the wire pulling sites west of the substation site.

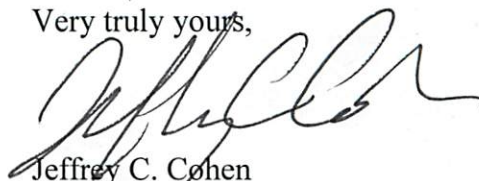
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Additionally, though not required for completeness, Staff requests the following information to facilitate its review:

- a. The assessment of substation noise (in the Expanded Environmental Assessment Form at Attachment F) does not address potential pure tones associated with high voltage transformer operation. Please provide manufacturer information regarding pure tones associated with the transformer make and model proposed for installation at the Eastover Road site. Based on manufacturer data, please provide an analysis of potential pure tone generation at nearby receptors, discounting for any mitigation by seasonal insect noise.
- b. Describe any permanent lighting needs at the proposed Eastover Road substation, including a description of measures to avoid off-site lighting impacts, such as the use of task-lighting, the use of full-cutoff fixtures, or other measures, as appropriate, to address worker safety requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact John Quackenbush, Utility Engineer, Renewable Energy and Environmental Compliance, in the Office of Energy Efficiency and the Environment, at (518) 473-6806 or Heather Behnke, Assistant Counsel, Office of General Counsel, at (518) 473-2057.

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey C. Cohen  
Acting Secretary

cc: Nick Spagnoletti, Project Manager  
[Nicholas.spagnoletti@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Nicholas.spagnoletti@nationalgrid.com)

Michael Sherman, Principal Environmental Scientist  
[Michael.sherman@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Michael.sherman@nationalgrid.com)

Tracy Miller, Senior Environmental Scientist  
[Tracy.miller@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Tracy.miller@nationalgrid.com)

David C. Brennan, Schaghticoke Town Attorney  
(via fax: 518-753-6918)