nationalgrid

South Oswego to Tar Hill 115 kV Transmission Rebuild Project

Application

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BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF NEW YORK

Application of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Partial Reconstruction of Several Transmission Circuirts into two new 115 kV Transmission Lines Between the Existing South Oswego Substation and the Proposed Tar Hill Substation in the City of Oswego and the Towns of Scriba, New Haven, Mexico, Richland, Albion, Altmar, and Orwell, Oswego County	Case No.: 25-T-XXXX

APPLICATION

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid ("National Grid" or the "Applicant") submits this application ("Application"), pursuant to Article VII of the Public Service Law ("PSL") and the Public Service Commission's ("PSC" or the "Commission") regulations thereunder, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need ("Certificate") for the proposed reconstruction and combination of several circuits of the existing transmission lines between the existing South Oswego Substation in the City of Oswego to the proposed Tar Hill Substation in the Town of Albion for a distance of approximately 28.6 miles (referred to in the Application as the "South Oswego - Tar Hill 115 kV Transmission Rebuild Project" or the "Project"). The Project is located in the city of Oswego and towns of Scriba, New Haven, Mexico, Richland, Albion, Altmar, and Orwell, all within Oswego County.

As specified in Section 122 of the PSL and Section 85-2.8 of the Commission's Regulations, this Application contains the following information:

(a) Description of the Project;

(b) Project Location;

(c) Description of Reasonable Alternate Routes and Technology;

(d) Summary of Environmental Studies and Environmental Impact;

(e) Need for the Project; and

(f) Other relevant information.

A. Description of the Project

As noted above, the Project is the partial reconstruction of several circuits which, when combined, will provide two new 115kV transmission lines between the existing South Oswego Substation and proposed Tar Hill Substation, for a total of approximately 28.6 miles of transmission corridor. The Project is located in the city of Oswego and towns of Scriba, New Haven, Mexico, Richland, Albion, Altmar, and Orwell, all within Oswego County, New York.

The Project consists of a number of activities on eight (8) segments of existing 115kV lines T2220 (Fitzpatrick Tap to Lighthouse Hill No. 3), T2300 (Indeck Oswego to Lighthouse Hill No. 2), T2610 (South Oswego to Indeck Oswego No. 6) and T2630 (South Oswego to Nine Mile Point No. 1), which combined provide two circuits between the existing South Oswego Substation and proposed Tar Hill Substation. The primary structure design will include two (2) single pole tubular steel single circuit structures, side by side along the transmission corridor. Single-circuit suspension structures will be directly embedded into crushed stone or low strength concrete and single-circuit angle and dead-end structures will be supported by reinforced concrete caisson foundations. As described in Exhibit 2, National Grid owns a combination of fee and easement rights over the length of the Project. However, additional easement rights will be needed for the Project, which will include relocated lines on a new right-of-way ("ROW").

B. Project Location

As detailed in Exhibit 2 of the Application and associated figures, the Project will consist of the partial reconstruction of approximately 28.6 miles of transmission lines from the South Oswego Substation in Oswego to the proposed Tar Hill Substation in the Town of Albion. The Project is proposed to be located in the city of Oswego and towns of Scriba, New Haven, Mexico, Richland, Albion, Altmar, and Orwell, all within Oswego County. National Grid is proposing to primarily rebuild the existing transmission line within the existing ROW to the greatest extent possible. A portion of the line will require additional ROW.

C. Description of Reasonable Alternative Routes and Technology

Exhibit 3 of this Application provides a description of the Project routing and an evaluation of alternatives, including a description of the comparative merits and detriments of each location and an explanation of why the primary route is best suited for the Project. Exhibit 3 also discusses the No-action alternative, alternate technologies, alternative structure and conductor types, alternative routes or route variations, an underground alternative, and non-wires alternatives considered by the Applicant's engineers and consultants.

D. Summary of Environmental Studies and Environmental Impact

Detailed descriptions of the environmental impact assessments for the Project are set forth in the resource-specific sections of Exhibit 4 of this Application. Such assessments cover land use, visual, cultural and historic, terrestrial ecology and wildlife resources threatened and endangered species, wetlands and water resources, topography and soils, noise, and invasive species. The information used to prepare each of the resource-specific sections of Exhibit 4 includes extensive

field investigations, literature reviews, and agency consultations. As explained in Exhibit 4, the Project avoids and minimizes, to the greatest extent possible, impacts to these resources by primarily locating the Project facilities within the existing ROW.

Noise impacts associated with the Project are also summarized in Exhibit 4. Operation and maintenance of the Project are not expected to result in significant noise impacts on a permanent basis, although temporary noise impacts will result from various Project construction activities. To minimize potential construction effects to adjacent landowners, National Grid will: utilize mufflers on all equipment during construction; limit planned construction activities on the Project to the hours of 7:00am to 7:00pm Monday through Saturday; and coordinate with appropriate agencies to develop and implement traffic control measures.

In summary, Exhibit 4 demonstrates that the Project has been designed and will be constructed, maintained, and operated to avoid or minimize impacts to environmental resources in the Project vicinity.

E. Need for the Project

Exhibit E-4 of the Application, entitled Engineering Justification, explains why this Project is needed. In summary, the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act (the "Act")[1] requires the Commission and New York's utilities, including the Applicant, to plan the electric transmission upgrades necessary to meet the clean energy and climate goals established under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act ("CLCPA").[2] On September 9, 2021, the Commission determined that there were numerous Areas of Concern in critical need of Phase 2 transmission investment under the CLCPA, including the Watertown/Oswego/Porter Area of

[1] L. 2020, Ch. 58, Part JJJ.
[2] L. 2019, Ch. 106.

Concern.[3] On March 8, 2022, National Grid and other utilities proposed transmission investments within the Areas of Concern to address this critical need ("Utility Proposed Areas of Concern").[4] On February 16, 2023, the Commission approved National Grid's proposed investments, including the Project that is the subject of this Application.[5]

The South Oswego – Tar Hill 115 kV Transmission Rebuild Project circuit is an important element of the Watertown/Oswego/Porter Area of Concern identified in the Commission's Orders for CLCPA Phase 2 transmission infrastructure upgrades. This Area of Concern is a 115kV network across a large geographic area covering portions of Franklin, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Oneida, and Onondaga counties. Historically, the main purpose of the Watertown/Oswego/Porter network was to serve customer load. Recently, new generators, primarily large-scale solar and land-based wind, have proposed to connect to this network. The specific purpose of this Project is to rebuild 115kV elements to increase the amount of energy the circuits can transmit from generation to load or from generation to system on ramps that move the power out of the local area. The Project will also help keep the system within reliability criteria by allowing for the refurbishment or replacement of circuit structures which may be near the end of their life.

A more detailed description of the existing transmission system and the need for the Project is described in Exhibit E-4 and the Commission's Phase 2 AOC Order.

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[3] Case 20-E-0197, *Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Implement Transmission Planning Pursuant to the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act*, Order on Local Transmission and Distribution Planning Process and Phase 2 Project Proposals (issued September 9, 2021).

[4] Case 20-E-0197, Petition of Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid, and Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation; Identifying Area of Concern Needs and Recommended Solutions (filed March 8, 2022).

[5] Case 20-E-0197, *Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Implement Transmission Planning Pursuant to the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act*, Order Approving Phase 2 Areas of Concern Transmission Upgrades (issued February 16, 2023)("Phase 2 AOC Order").

F. Other Relevant Information

Exhibit 1 of this Application provides the name, address, and telephone number of the Applicant; the name and address of the principal officer of the Applicant; and the names and addresses of those persons upon whom documents and correspondence are to be served.

Anticipated Electromagnetic field ("EMF") impacts associated with the Project are summarized in Exhibit E-5. The complete EMF report will be submitted in a subsequent filing. The EMF Study is anticipated to be completed in later in 2025 and will be filed with the Secretary. In addition, 16 NYCRR Section 88.4(a)(4) requires Article VII applications to include a System Reliability Impact Study forwarded by the Transmission Planning Advisory Subcommittee ("TPAS") for approval by the operating committee of the New York Independent System Operator ("NYISO"), showing effects on the stability of the interconnected system. The Project is a rebuild of an existing transmission line and therefore National Grid has informed the NYISO that it does not believe a System Impact Study ("SIS") is required. More specifically, as stated in Exhibit E-4, the change in system power flows and ratings attributed to the Project will be minimal. Because of this, a SIS (i.e., voltage, thermal and stability analyses) was deemed unnecessary and was not performed. National Grid is awaiting confirmation from the NYISO that a SIS is not required. For this reason, the Applicant will request a waiver of the requirement to submit the SIS with the Application.

The Application, particularly Exhibits 5, E-1, and E-4, shows that the Commission's grant of the Certificate will not be inconsistent with, and will not interfere with, the attainment of the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits in Article 75 of the Environmental Conservation Law established by Section 2 of the CLCPA. The Project will ensure reliability and resiliency of the grid and the provision of electric service to customers in Northern New York.

G. Conclusion

National Grid respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order pursuant to Article VII of the Public Service Law granting the following:

(1) A Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to permit the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project; and

(2) Such other and further authorizations, consents, permissions, approvals, waivers, and permits as necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project described herein.

Dated: January 21, 2025