

**STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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Application of Niagara Mohawk Power :
Corporation d/b/a National Grid for a :
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility :
and Public Need Pursuant to Article VII for : Case 22-T-_____
its Lockport-Batavia Line 112 Rebuild :
Project in Niagara and Genesee Counties :
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APPLICATION

The Applicant¹ submits this Application for an Article VII Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (“Certificate”) authorizing it to construct, operate, and maintain the Project.

A. Description of the Project

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid”) proposes the reconstruction and selective relocation of one 115kV transmission line, Existing Line 112, from existing Structure 1-2 to existing Structure 211, for a total of approximately 21.7 miles. The Project consists of a number of activities on six (6) segments of Line 112. The activities to be performed along each segment are detailed in Exhibit 2 of the Application.

The Project proposes to replace the existing single-circuit steel tri-leg “aeromotor” towers with new single-circuit galvanized tubular steel pole structures. Single-circuit suspension structures will be directly embedded into native soils and single-circuit dead-end structures will be set upon foundations. In certain locations, Existing Line 112 shares double-circuit towers with existing Line 111. In these locations, the existing double-circuit lattice tower structures will be replaced with galvanized tubular steel pole double-circuit structures set upon foundations.

Rebuilt Line 112 will also include new conductor, new fiber optic ground wire between structure 2 to structure 211, and new shield wire in locations where a second shield wire is necessary. The Project also includes installation of stormwater management features, establishing one or more

¹ In this document, the term “Applicant” and numerous other capitalized terms are defined in the Glossary included in this Application.

temporary laydown/staging areas and marshaling yards, and constructing or improving supporting access roads.

B. Project Location

As detailed in Exhibit 2 of the Application and the associated figures, the Project is proposed to be located in the City of Lockport and the Towns of Lockport and Royalton in Niagara County and Alabama in Genesee County (the Frontier and Genesee Regions of National Grid's Western New York Service Territory).

The Project's six segments extend from west to east approximately 21.7 miles between the Lockport Substation, which is located in the City of Lockport, to Structure 211, which is located in the Town of Alabama.

Segment 1 of the Project begins at Structure 1-2, outside of the Lockport Substation, and extends in a generally easterly direction to Structure 6 on Existing Line 112. Segment 2 begins at Structure 6 in the Town of Lockport and extends in an easterly direction over approximately 10.9 miles to Structure 119, which is located in the Town of Royalton. Segment 3 commences at Structure 119 in the Town of Royalton and extends in a generally southeast direction over a distance of approximately 2.2 miles to Structure 141, located in the Town of Alabama.

Segment 4 Existing and Segment 4 Relocated are located in the Town of Alabama. Segment 4 Existing extends generally southeasterly from Structure 141 to Structure 159-1, over a distance of approximately 1.8 miles, and crosses through the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area ("TWMA"). National Grid proposes to remove all conductor and hardware and most structures along Segment 4 Existing. Segment 4 Relocated would be centered on a new 100 foot wide easement, generally paralleling Lewiston Road (State Highway 77) to the intersection of Lewiston Road and Feeder Road, at which point Rebuilt Line 112 would turn approximately ninety degrees and proceed south to reconnect with the Existing Line 112 ROW. Segment 4 Relocated would extend approximately 2.2 miles.

Segment 5 is located within the Town of Alabama, beginning at Structure 159-1 and extending southeast approximately 1.4 miles to new Structure 173 ½. Segment 7 is located within the Town of Alabama and begins at new Structure 184 ½ on Existing Line 112 and extends southeasterly then easterly approximately 2.6 miles to Structure 211.²

C. Description of Reasonable Alternative Routes and Technology

Exhibit 3 of this Application provides a description of the various alternatives the Applicant considered to address the need for the Project. These include a no-action alternative, alternative transmission line technologies, alternative conductor and structure types, alternative route locations, alternative route configurations, an underground alternative, and non-wires alternatives.

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 covered 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 locating Project facilities primarily within and along existing utility ROW and relocating the ROW in Segment 4 Relocated to reduce impacts to wetlands and the TWMA.

Noise impacts associated with the Project also are 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 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday; and coordinate with appropriate agencies to develop and implement traffic control measures.

² Another segment of Existing Line 112, designated as Segment 6, extends approximately 1.9 miles on the site of the Western New York Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park being developed by the Genesee County Economic Development Center, from new Structure 173 ½ to new Structure 184 ½. Segment 6 is not part of the Project. It was the subject of a report to the Commission under 16 NYCCR Part 102 (Case 22-T-0502). The Applicant intends to include as-built drawings of Segment 6 in the EM&CP.

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

The Project is needed for National Grid to continue to ensure reliable service to customers in the western portion of its service territory. Line 112 is an important element of National Grid's transmission system in Western New York, where it is part of a 115kV west-to-east network from Lockport to Batavia and Rochester. The Project would include replacing one hundred seventy-eight (178) deteriorating steel tri-legged "aeromotor" structures and all existing conductor along Existing Line 112. These facilities are over one hundred ten (110) years old and have reached the end of their service lives. The Project is needed to meet the current National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC").

A more detailed description of the existing transmission system and the need for the Project is set forth in Exhibit E-4 of this Application.

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.

Electromagnetic field ("EMF") impacts associated with the Project are summarized in Exhibit E-5.

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 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.³ The Project will improve the reliability and resiliency of the western portion of National Grid's transmission system, fostering the safe and reliable distribution of renewable energy.

³ L. 2019, Ch. 106.

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: November 18, 2022