Erin Whoriskey
Lead Environmental Scientist
NE Environmental Permitting

August 9, 2023

Eva Vaughan
Environmental Analysis
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Attn: MEPA Office
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Subject: New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid
N12/M13 Double-Circuit Tower Separation Project
EEA No. 16467
Single Environmental Impact Report (Addendum)

Dear Ms. Vaughn:

Thank you again for scheduling the August 3rd, 2023, remote meeting with representatives of New England Power and other agencies of the Commonwealth to review the Single Environmental Impact Report filed for the N12/M13 Double-Circuit Tower Separation Project, on behalf of New England Power.

During the meeting you asked if New England Power could again respond to one of the scope items identified in the Secretary's Certificate on the Expanded Environmental Notification Form, dated November 29, 2021. Provided herein is New England Power's response to your inquiry.

Question: *"The Single EIR should explain whether further elevation of the new M13 tower or additional resiliency measures were considered, and if dismissed, explain why these options were dismissed."*

Response: The aerial span of the Taunton River for the realigned M13N Line involves the installation of two approximate 300-feet high Y-frame transmission structures that will support the overhead span of the 115 kV conductors. Structure M13N-6 is to be located on the Fall River side (east side) of the Taunton River. The spotting and elevation of the Y-frame structure is based on the location, elevation and geometry of the existing approximate 300-feet high steel lattice tower and overhead conductors located within the existing NEP ROW. NEP applied a balanced approach of considering safety and reliability, engineering and construction feasibility, and environmental impacts when siting the transmission structure. The elevation of the steel Y-frame structure is established to meet the standards of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)Draft, and set at a tolerance level that is acceptable to NEP engineering design standards. Once the elevation of the steel Y-frame was determined, NEP then designed the foundation, pedestal height/reveal, and other structure features (i.e., soil amendments, reinforced bollards, rip-rap apron) to address climate change adaptability and resiliency, to the greatest extent practicable (as presented in Section 4.0 of the SEIR).

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 781.907.3598, or Erin.Whoriskey@nationalgrid.com, or Jamie Durand, 401.439.3020 or jamie.durand@powereng.com, if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Erin Whoriskey
Lead Environmental Scientist
National Grid

cc: Circulation List (attached)
D. Beron, NEP
J. Durand, POWER