RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767 TDD 401-222-4462

May 5, 2017

Narragansett Electric Company
Michael F. Ryan, Government Relations
c/o Mary Smith
280 Melrose Street
Providence, RI 02903

Insignificant Alteration – Permit

RE: Application No. 17-0065 in reference to the property and proposed project located:

Approximately 550 feet west of Greenville Road and approximately 650 feet northwest of its intersection with the access road to the West Farnum Substation along the existing S-171N/T-172N transmission line right-of-way (ROW), Assessor's Plat 12, Lots 259 and 298, North Smithfield, RI.

Dear Mr. Ryan:

Kindly be advised that the Department of Environmental Management's ("DEM") Freshwater Wetlands Program ("Program") has completed its review of your **Request for Preliminary Determination** application. This review included a site inspection of the above referenced property ("subject property") and an evaluation of the proposed underground ductbank from the West Farnum Substation to both existing Structure Nos. 16 on the S-171N and T-172N transmission lines within the existing gravel access road and across a portion of adjacent wetlands with swamp mats and associated work as illustrated and detailed on site plans submitted with your application. These site plans were received by the DEM on March 24, 2017.

Our observations of the subject property, review of the site plans and evaluation of the proposed project reveals that alterations of freshwater wetlands are proposed. However, pursuant to Rule 9.00 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Fresh Water Wetlands Act (Rules), this project may be permitted as an **insignificant alteration** to freshwater wetlands under the following terms and conditions:

Terms and Conditions for Application No: 17-0065

1. This letter is the DEM's permit for this project under the R.I. Fresh Water Wetlands Act, Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) Section 2-1-18 et seq.

2. This permit is specifically limited to the project, site alterations and limits of disturbance as detailed on the site plans submitted with your application and received by the DEM on March 24, 2017. A copy of the site plans stamped approved by the DEM is enclosed. Changes or revisions to the project that would alter freshwater wetlands are not authorized without a permit from the DEM.

3. Where the terms and conditions of the permit conflict with the approved site plans, these terms and conditions shall be deemed to supersede the site plans.

4. You must notify this Program in writing immediately prior to the commencement of site alterations and upon completion of the project.

5. A copy of the stamped approved site plans and a copy of this permit must be kept at the site at all times during site preparation, construction, and final stabilization. Copies of this permit and the stamped approved plans must be made available for review by any DEM representative upon request.

6. The effective date of this permit is the date this letter was issued. This permit expires four years from the date issued unless renewed pursuant to the Rules.

7. Any material utilized in this project must be clean and free of matter that could pollute any freshwater wetland.

8. Prior to commencement of site alterations, you shall erect or post a sign resistant to the weather and at least twelve (12) inches wide and eighteen (18) inches long, which boldly identifies the initials "DEM" and the application number of this permit. This sign must be maintained at the site in a conspicuous location until such time that the project is complete.

9. Temporary erosion and sediment controls detailed or described on the approved site plans shall be properly installed at the site prior to or commensurate with site alterations. Such controls shall be properly maintained, replaced, supplemented, or modified as necessary throughout the life of this project to minimize soil erosion and to prevent sediment from being deposited in any wetlands not subject to disturbance under this permit.

10. Upon permanent stabilization of all disturbed soils, temporary erosion and/or sediment controls consisting of straw hay bales, silt fence, swamp mats and/or controls with non-biodegradable materials must be removed.

11. You are responsible for the proper operation, maintenance and stability of any mitigative features, facilities, and systems of treatment and control that are installed or used in compliance with this permit to prevent harm to adjacent wetlands.

12. You are obligated to install, utilize and follow all best management practices detailed or described on the approved site plans in the construction of the project to minimize or prevent adverse impacts to any adjacent freshwater wetlands and the functions and values provided by such wetlands.

Please be advised that equipment must be restricted to operating within the existing gravel road to the maximum extent feasible to protect and prevent impacts to the rare plant communities present along portions of the existing gravel access road shoulders.

Please be advised that approval from the Army Corps of Engineers will be forwarded under separate cover.

You are required to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit and to carry out this project in compliance with the Rules at all times. Failure to do so may result in an enforcement action by this Department.

In permitting the proposed alterations, the DEM assumes no responsibility for damages resulting from faulty design or construction.

Kindly be advised that this permit is not equivalent to a verification of the type or extent of freshwater wetlands on site. Should you wish to have the types and extent of freshwater wetlands verified, you may submit the appropriate application in accordance with Rule 8.03.

This permit does not remove your obligation to obtain any local, state, or federal approvals or permits required by ordinance or law and does not relieve you from any duties owed to adjacent landowners with specific reference to any changes in drainage.

Please contact me (telephone: 401-222-6820 x 7408) should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Freeman

Nancy L. Freeman, Senior Environmental Scientist
Office of Water Resources
Freshwater Wetlands Program

NLF/nlf

Enclosure: Approved site plans

ec: Michael J. Elliott, Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
Adam E. Rosenblatt, Senior Wetland Scientist, VHB
xc: Tom Kravitz, Town Planner, Town of North Smithfield
Kerry Anderson, Building Official, Town of North Smithfield