



George H. Dunham

Sandwich Town Manager



Mark S. Ells

Barnstable Town Manager

September 11, 2017

John Idman
Chief Regulatory Officer
Cape Cod Commission
P.O. Box 226
3225 Main Street
Barnstable, MA 02630

**Re: Hearing Notice – Development of Regional Impact Exemption
Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project, Western Segment, Phase III (Service Road, E. Sandwich and W. Barnstable)**

Dear Mr. Idman,

The Towns of Sandwich and Barnstable offer the following comments regarding the proposed Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project, Western Segment, Phase III, Service Road in East Sandwich and West Barnstable.

Phase I and II Project History – Service Road (Route 130 to Chase Road) in Sandwich

National Grid originally proposed installing the recently constructed Phase I and II gas pipeline under the Service Road pavement in Sandwich. The Town of Sandwich submitted a letter to the Cape Cod Commission (CCC), dated March 28, 2011, requesting that the gas pipeline be relocated to the north of the Service Road to minimize impacts to the Town. In response to the Town's concerns, National Grid opted to relocate the gas pipeline outside of the road pavement in the northerly layout. This change resulted in a very successful gas installation project along the Service Road, including an excellent Visual Mitigation Plan, as conditioned by the CCC in the February 28, 2013 Decision, and a final construction grade that provided the foundation for a future shared-use-path. This shared-use-path is earmarked for funding under Cape Cod's Transportation Improvement Program for 2022.

Phase III – Service Road (Chase Road to Transmission Lines) from E. Sandwich to W. Barnstable

Option 1: Town of Sandwich and Barnstable Preferred Location

Based on the success of the Phase I and II project, the Town of Sandwich and Barnstable prefer that the same approach be taken for Phase III (i.e., locate the gas pipeline in the northerly layout outside of the road pavement). This location is a logical continuation of a utility corridor in the Town layout that

results in the least impact to the Towns, and meets both the goals of National Grid and the Towns in terms of future infrastructure along this corridor.

Option 2: National Grid Preferred Location

National Grid's preferred option is to install the gas pipeline under the Service Road pavement. It is our understanding that the recently revised Phase III plans depict a change in the pipeline alignment from along the northern edge of Service Road pavement as currently permitted, to the center of the westbound travel lane.

There are many concerns the Towns have related to the under-the-pavement option, including, but not limited to difficulty of installing future Town infrastructure, safety for Town workers, premature road failures, traffic disruption, and most importantly, significant costs borne by both Towns.

National Grid has proposed a plan in an effort to offset impacts related to locating the gas pipeline under the Service Road pavement. Unfortunately, this plan is not consistent with the Towns' goals and will further increase the financial burden on the Towns. An assessment of the monetary impacts to the Towns based on the National Grid's proposal results in costs in excess of \$15,000,000, combined for both Towns. This is a burden the Towns cannot assume.

In order to make Option 2 acceptable, it is imperative that National Grid develop a plan that effectively mitigates all municipal impacts and meets the goals of both Towns.

Conclusion

The Towns of Sandwich and Barnstable prefer that the gas pipeline be located in the northerly layout outside of the road pavement. In order for the Towns to accept National Grid's preferred location under the Service Road pavement, a plan must be developed to address all Town associated impacts and costs and be consistent with the Towns short and long range goals.

The Towns hereby request the Cape Cod Commission's assistance in advancing a mutually acceptable project that meets the goals of both National Grid and the Towns of Sandwich and Barnstable.

We thank you for your consideration of our comments and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



George H. Dunham
Town Manager
Town of Sandwich



Mark S. Ellis
Town Manager
Town of Barnstable