



January 23, 2014

*Via Email (planning@worcesterma.gov)*

Zoning Board of Appeals  
City of Worcester  
City Hall Room 404  
455 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608

Re: Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid ("National Grid")  
597 Mill Street (MBL No. 40-009-0017B)  
Application for Special Permit and Variance for Personal Wireless Service  
Facility

Dear Chair Freilich and Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals:

As you know, National Grid appeared at your Board's regularly scheduled public hearing on Monday, January 13, 2014 in connection with the above-referenced Application. At the close of the hearing the Board approved a motion to continue the hearing at its next meeting on February 3, 2014 in order to allow National Grid additional time to compile information regarding the availability and feasibility of other existing sites, specifically the First Congregational Church (the "Church") and the Hillside Condominiums (the "Condo"). For the reasons below, I am writing to inform the Board that National Grid requires additional time to complete its feasibility analyses at these sites and that final feasibility determinations may not be possible until the Spring.

National Grid has been keenly aware of the City's co-location requirements and the Project team has endeavored to identify potentially feasible existing sites, including researching available databases as well as through door-to-door efforts. The Company had discounted the Church and Condo as unacceptable sites in its most recent January 8, 2014 supplemental filing because the Company had not been successful, despite multiple attempts over many months, to schedule presentations to the Church and Condo boards of directors to assess both their interest and capability for National Grid to co-locate on their respective facilities. Following the January 13th hearing, National Grid was successful in presenting to the Condo board and is proceeding diligently with further discussions and assessments at this location. National Grid was scheduled to meet with the Church board on January 21st, but this meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Over the next few weeks, National Grid anticipates that it will be able to make progress in verifying the feasibility of the Church and Condo locations with respect to the following: (1) the availability of space to accommodate a new antenna; (2) the structural integrity of the facilities; (3) whether the necessary line of sight to other network facilities exists; and (4)

whether National Grid has a reasonable expectation of being able to secure the necessary property rights from the owner(s). If any one of those criteria is not met, the site would not be feasible and National Grid would be prepared to move forward with its current application. On the other hand, if one or both of the sites satisfied these criteria, then National Grid would need to perform engineering and communications testing to assess the technical feasibility of these sites to cover the gap in the proposed network. In order to ensure accurate results, this testing must be done while there is foliage on the trees. National Grid performed such testing at other locations last Fall, but because we were unable to gain access to the Church and Condo sites we missed the testing window and must now wait until the return of foliage in the Spring. Thus, the test results likely would not be ready to present to the Board until its regularly scheduled meeting on May 5, 2014. Accordingly, if the Board is amenable to a tiered approach, National Grid recommends continuing the hearing on National Grid's application on **March 17, 2014**, with the understanding that if the Company proceeds to a testing phase then a further continuance to the **May 5, 2014** meeting may be needed.

National Grid apologizes for any inconvenience this might cause the Board and its staff and also regrets the delay in moving forward with this innovative Smart Energy Solutions pilot program in the City of Worcester. As soon as we determine whether the Church and Condo sites are feasible locations, we will advise the Board.

Thank you for your attention to this scheduling issue and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Rielly

cc: William Jones, National Grid  
Jason Small, National Grid  
Stephen Koscs, National Grid  
Michael Key, P.E., National Grid  
Kevin Shaughnessey, National Grid