

## **Public Service Commission**

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Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350 www.dps.ny.gov

June 14, 2016

Chris Kelly SVP of Electric Process and Engineering (Acting) National Grid 40 Sylvan Road Waltham MA 02451

Dear Mr. Kelly:

We have received your letter dated June 3, 2016 proposing action for addressing the backlog of applications in National Grid's interconnection queue. We appreciate the company's commitment to eliminating the backlog by July 29, 2016. Completing this work in the near term and timely communications are both essential steps to restoring developers' and customers' confidence in the company's ability to implement the Commission's distributed generation initiatives.

Going forward, we will expect the company to comply with its obligations under the approved Standard Interconnection Requirements (SIR) and to organize its resources in such a way to ensure that it meets the timelines specified in those rules. While I am aware that particular projects may raise "extraordinary difficulties," as you note, these circumstances should not involve factors within the company's control and should be rare occurrences. The company also needs to identify and communicate such situations promptly and to consult with the affected project developer on a schedule for completing the necessary work. The SIR are sufficiently flexible to allow for such scheduling, where both parties understand the need for and agree to an extension of a study deadline.

We further expect the company to fulfill the commitments recited in your letter for tracking and reporting application processing information. Transparency and communication are also important steps toward restoring confidence in the company's program. My staff will remain available to you and to the company's ombudsman to assist in resolving disputes and addressing questions. However, I must note that the obligation to

comply with the study performance deadlines in the SIR rests on the company, and the company will be held accountable in the event its efforts do not resolve our concerns.

Michael Worden

Deputy Director - Electric