

Name: The Narragansett Electric Company
CRMC File No.: 2024-12-004
Staff Report



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/6/2025
TO: Jeffrey M. Willis, Executive Director
FROM: Anthony Sawaia
SUBJECT: CRMC File No. 2024-12-004

Applicant's Name: The Narragansett Electric Company
Project: Rebuild/replace approximately 2 miles of the E183-3 and F184N-4/5 transmission lines in Warren from the MA/RI state line to the Warren Substation. As well as reconfiguring the Warren Substation taps to shift some structures out of coastal wetland to avoid crossing transmission lines. Project will result in the permanent alteration of 1,607 ft² of coastal wetland. Project requires a Special Exception to 650-RICR-20-00-1.2.2(C)(1)(c - d) and (C)(2)(a - b). In accordance with §1.3.1(L)(5), 5,460ft² of mitigation wetland will be created, exceeding the 2:1 replacement requirement.
Location: Market Street & Kickemuit Road, Warren, plat 11|21|9, lot 31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44|246,54|18
Water Type/Name: Type 1, Conservation Areas & Type 2, Low Intensity Use
Coastal Feature: Coastal Wetland

STAFF REPORT

This application was presented before the Council on September 23, 2025. Save the Bay and The Warren Land Trust had objections to the confidence in the restoration methods proposed. They want further assurances that the restoration will be completed successfully.

The Narragansett Electric Company and their Consultants VHB expressed their willingness to work with Save The Bay and The Warren Land Trust to come to an agreement about restoration of the coastal wetlands but did not have a definitive alternative if the proposed low ground pressure excavator cannot effectively restore the elevation of the compacted salt marsh.

The Council voted to continue the application to be heard at another meeting to give time for Save The Bay, The Warren Land Trust, and The Narragansett Electric Company to come to an agreed upon Plan B restoration should the low ground pressure excavator be insufficient in restoring the compacted coastal wetlands.

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On 9/24/2025, I forwarded all parties a standard stipulation which ensures a qualified environmental monitor is employed by the applicant and must submit progress reports and monitoring reports to CRMC to ensure compliance and successful restoration. From there Save The Bay and The Warren Land Trust drafted a proposal with recommended backup measures for restoration and The Narragansett Electric Company proposed theirs.

We all met and discussed these terms on 10/2/2025. After the initial meeting another draft of the Narragansett Electric Company's Plan B restoration was drafted addressing Save The Bay and The Warren Land Trusts comments at the 10/2/2025 meeting. CRMC sent out draft stipulations to all parties which would ensure compliance and coordination with CRMC throughout the phases of the project including restoration and monitoring.

Another meeting was held on 10/6/2025 to discuss the updated Plan B restoration and the draft stipulations. A final draft titled "Restoration Plan B Alternative" dated 10/6/2025 was agreed upon by all parties and was received by CRMC on Monday October 6, 2025. See final agreed upon stipulations below;

B1: A qualified Environmental Compliance Monitor (ECM), experienced in site assessments and measures necessary to protect sensitive aquatic environments or sensitive ecosystems, must be employed prior to the commencement of site alterations to monitor the project and to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit, and ensure success of the project. The CRMC must be notified in writing and approve of the consultant chosen to comply with this condition. Monthly written progress reports shall be submitted to the CRMC during all phases of the project. Once the construction, restoration, and mitigation are complete, annual written monitoring reports shall be provided for a period of three (3) years to ensure long-term success. Monitoring reports shall be due by December 31 of each year.

B2: If the proposed use of the Low Ground Pressure excavator, as outlined in the "response to public comments" dated July 9, 2025, prepared by VHB, cannot effectively elevate the compacted marsh substrate, the excavated coastal wetland soil (peat) or other suitable substrate (i.e., clean bank run sand appropriate for site conditions, approved by CRMC) shall be used to fill in the compacted depressions as the matting is removed from the marsh, as outlined in the "Restoration Plan B Alternative" dated October 6, 2025, prepared by VHB. If this restoration method is used, the applicant must acquire all relevant local, state, and federal authorizations.

B3: In areas where low ground pressure excavator rake attachment is successful in elevating compacted soil, vegetation cover will be monitored at start of next growing season. If ECM or CRMC Staff determine vegetated cover is insufficient, plantings must be installed as approved by CRMC Staff. In areas where restoration of the substrate has occurred (via peat/sand placement), plantings must be installed as approved by CRMC Staff at the start of the next available growing season. Plantings must be RI Native Species appropriate for site conditions.

B4: Where corrective actions are determined to be necessary by the ECM overseeing the restoration/monitoring or by CRMC Staff, the applicant shall work with the CRMC to assure appropriate corrective measures are undertaken in a timely manner.



Biologist