PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers ® New England District 696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751

Date: April 4, 2017 In Reply Refer To: Greg Penta Phone: (978) 318-8862 E-mail: gregory.r.penta@usace.army.mil

NATIONAL GRID FUNDING AGREEMENT UNDER SECTION 214 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2000

The District Engineer announces the agreement (hereafter referred to as the "funding agreement") between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (Corps), to accept and expend funds from New England Power Company, Massachusetts Electric Company, Nantucket Electric Company, Narragansett Electric Company, Boston Gas Company, Colonial Gas Company, New England Electric Transmission Corporation, New England Hydro-Transmission Electric Company, Inc., and New England Hydro-Transmission Corporation, all d/b/a National Grid (collectively, "National Grid"), to expedite processing of their Department of the Army (DA) permit applications in New England subject to certain limitations.

Section 214 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Section 214), as amended and codified at 33 U.S.C. 2352, provides in part that: "The Secretary, after public notice, may accept and expend funds contributed by a non-Federal public entity or a public utility company or natural gas company to expedite the evaluation of a permit of that entity or company related to a project or activity for a public purpose under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army."

The District Engineer signed the funding agreement on March 29, 2017. The duration of the funding agreement is from March 29, 2017 through March 29, 2020 unless extended or terminated as provided below. This funding agreement may be extended in yearly increments by the mutual written agreement of the Corps and National Grid. However, the Corps will neither accept nor expend funds under the funding agreement after June 10, 2024, unless Federal law extends the Corps authority under Section 214 to accept and expend funds contributed by public-utility and natural gas companies to expedite the processing of permits.

For additional information please see the preliminary public notice dated December 6, 2016, or contact Mr. Greg Penta, of my staff at (978) 318-8862 or gregory.r.penta@usace.army.mil.

Jennifer L. McCarthy Chief, Regulatory Division

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or by email at <u>bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil</u>. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

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