

TOWN OF WEST SENECA



SHEILA M. MEEGAN
TOWN SUPERVISOR

To: Fellow Town Board Members

From: Sheila M. Meegan, Town Supervisor

Date: May 29, 2014

Re: **National Grid Reconstruction Project**

Per the attached, kindly accept the request to allow the West Seneca Environmental Commission to act as the "in-lieu agent" for the Gardenville Station Wetland Mitigation Credits to be used on projects that will include habitat protection and enhancement within the Town. Kindly accept the "in-lieu credits" from National Grid, calculated amount will be finalized in the Wetland Impact Analysis, preliminary estimate is approximately \$70,000.00.



WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Town of West Seneca • 1250 Union Road • West Seneca, NY 14224
May 28, 2014

Supervisor Sheila Meegan
Council Member Eugene Hart
Council Member William Hanley
Town of West Seneca
1250 Union Road
West Seneca, NY 14224

RE: National Grid Reconstruction Project

Honorable Town Board Members:

As you know, National Grid is preparing to undergo a major reconstruction project at their power station on Indian Church Road in West Seneca. The construction site lies between Indian Church Road and Meyer Road (map is attached). There is a New York State Wetland (BU-13) on the site and a Wetland Mitigation Plan is required for this project. The West Seneca Environmental Commission currently provides oversight for the wetland, commonly referred to as "the Meyer Road Wetland".

The West Seneca Environmental Commission has met with National Grid representatives on two occasions this year at which time we discussed the project and the impact on the wetland. National Grid has provided us with a preliminary Wetland Impact Analysis and has calculated an estimate of mitigation credits for the project. The value of the credits will be approximately \$70,000.00 (the final number has yet to be determined).

National Grid and the West Seneca Environmental Commission are interested in entering into an agreement whereas the Town of West Seneca will accept the "payment-in-lieu" for the wetland mitigation credits. These monies must be used for environmental improvements in the Town of West Seneca and the Environmental Commission will present projects that will include habitat protection and enhancement within the Town. These funds will require a separate line item under the Environmental Commission budget and projects will have to be approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and possibly the US Army Corps of Engineers.

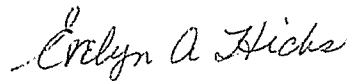
Funded projects may include additional restoration work at the oxbow wetland on Clinton Street or at other Town-owned property along the riparian corridor within the Town, the purchase of property to increase open space and green space within the Town, enhancements or improvements to creek access sites within the Town, or other agreed-upon Environmental Commission projects.

National Grid has requested formal approval from the Town of West Seneca regarding the acceptance of "in-lieu credits" in order to proceed with their application and permitting process.

On behalf of the Environmental Commission, I respectfully request that, at its next meeting, the West Seneca Town Board adopt a resolution allowing the West Seneca Environmental Commission to act as the "in-lieu agent" for the Gardenville Station Wetland Mitigation Credits to be used on Town projects as noted above.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have about the enclosed report. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evelyn A. Hicks".

Evelyn A. Hicks, Chair
West Seneca Environmental Commission

Gardenville Station Wetland Impact Analysis

1) Permanent Wetland Impact

Station Footprint	Fill in DEC/Corp regulated wetland	0.39
Tower Footprint	Fill in DEC/Corp regulated wetland (10' diameter @ 19 locations)	0.03
Total Permanent Wetland Impact		0.42

2) Buffer Area Impact (All areas are previously filled)

Station Footprint	Fill in DEC regulated 100 foot buffer area	3.87
Total Buffer Area Impact		3.87

3) Temporary Wetland Impact (Timber Matting)

New Tower Installations	Matting for access and work pads in DEC/Corp regulated wetlands	3.75
Tower Removals	Matting for access and work pads in DEC/Corp regulated wetlands	2.25
Total Temporary Impact		6.00

Gardenville Station Wetland Mitigation / Credits

1) Permanent Wetland Impact

.42 acre X \$87,000 / acre (Note 1) \$36,540

2) Buffer Area Impact

.387 acre X \$87,000 / acre (Note 2) \$33,669

Total Wetland Mitigation Credits (Note 3) \$70,209

3) Temporary Wetland Impact (Timber Matting)

6.0 acre @ \$2,000 / acre (Note 4) \$12,000

- Notes:
- 1) \$87,000 / acre figure based on average wetland mitigation credit for two current In-Lieu Fee programs
 - 2) Credit based on 1/10 th of buffer impact due to previously filled area
 - 3) \$70,209 to be delivered to the West Seneca Environmental Commission
 - 4) \$2,000 per acre to be used during restoration for wildlife habitat enhancement