

Aquidneck Island – Portsmouth LNG Site

Frequently Asked Questions

October 2021

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What's happening?

In November, National Grid will begin setting up its mobile Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) site in Portsmouth to help reinforce our commitment to reliability. This mobile setup will ensure that LNG supplies are available for the coldest months of the year to those on Aquidneck Island should the demand for natural gas reach peak levels. We expect the site to be fully operational by December 2021 and de-mobilized by April 2022 (weather permitting).

Where will the site be set up?

We will be utilizing the site on Old Mill Lane in Portsmouth as we did last year.

What does the LNG setup consist of?

The setup includes the installation of erosion control barriers and special interlocked mats to minimize site disturbance.

Who will be staffed at the site to ensure proper use?

A security guard will be on site 24/7 once the equipment is on site. A qualified National Grid LNG operator will be on site 24/7 once the LNG is delivered.

Will the site be visible to the public?

The property is currently fenced in with a screen along the main road. Only the fence along the main road will remain once the Winter Operation is over.

What sort of noise or lighting impacts come with the setup?

During initial set up, there will be a slight increase in truck traffic in the area, but it would be limited to usual working hours. Once set up is complete, traffic should be limited to staff changes. If we experience a cold snap and require additional deliveries to the site, there would be truck traffic during the colder temps. Noise impacts are minimal when the site is in standby operation, especially with a recent installation of an electric service which will reduce the need to continuously run a generator on-site. All on site lighting has been positioned to minimize impact to neighbors.

How does the equipment arrive on site?

Materials needed for the set up will arrive via tractor trailer.

Where does the LNG that will be on site come from?

Everett, Massachusetts

How will the LNG enter the gas system at Old Mill Lane?

The LNG is vaporized on site, then injected into the system through a tap at the same location.

Is LNG used elsewhere in the region?

Yes. For decades, liquefied natural gas has played an important role in providing a safe, reliable source of natural gas for customers in New England, particularly in winter months when demand for natural gas is greatest. LNG is a critical part of National Grid's ability to provide safe and reliable natural gas to the homes and businesses we serve. On the coldest winter days, when demand is at its peak, LNG can provide up to 40% of the gas supply for National Grid's customers in New England.

What type of outreach has been done to make Aquidneck communities aware of this site?

Over the last several weeks, we have had briefings with Town officials, first responders, regulators and key stakeholders to ensure they have been briefed on our operations and their concerns are addressed. In October, we will be notifying neighbors in Portsmouth of the upcoming LNG operations at Old Mill Lane, including providing a direct contact at National Grid should they have any questions. A similar outreach plan has been executed in years past.

Will the same set up be used in future winters?

It is possible. This October, we informed the Energy Facility Siting Board, the surrounding communities, and key stakeholders that we now believe that the best path forward for a long-term solution to address natural gas capacity and vulnerability concerns around Aquidneck Island, is the continued use of our current seasonal, portable winter LNG operations at Old Mill Lane. That recommendation comes after more than two years of analysis, which included exploring alternate sites. The Company will pair this with a portfolio of targeted demand-side solutions that may include additional energy efficiency, demand response, and increased electrification for heating. Admittedly, we still have more work to complete before submitting our supplemental application to the Energy Facility Siting Board for the continued use of Old Mill Lane. There will be multiple opportunities for public input as the EFSB reviews that application.

Can anything else be done to address abutter concerns about the use of this facility?

The supplemental application to the Energy Facility Siting Board will include a combination of operational changes and proposed enhancements to the Old Mill Lane site designed to mitigate impacts while the facility is mobilized during the winter seasons and during temporary maintenance activities by the transmission owner. We also remain committed to exploring how demand side management programs can augment this approach, helping to decrease carbon emissions and eventually replace the need for winter mobilization of the Old Mill Lane facility.