
Re: 307 Washington Street

From Danielle Brody <dwbrody@gmail.com>
Date Tue 1/27/2026 2:56 PM
To ZBA <ZBA@town.arlington.ma.us>

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Good afternoon Arlington Zoning Board,

In addition to my comments below I would like to add that we now have over 300 residents (names and emails can be provided) that agree that the request for this particular plan does not fit the criteria of essential. There are other options that would be sufficient for the needs of National Grid that do not include this extent of expansion or aesthetics.

Thank you,
Danielle Dean

On Jan 14, 2026, at 12:10 PM, Danielle Brody <dwbrody@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the Arlington Zoning Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to observe and participate in last night's meeting regarding the proposal for 307 Washington Street. I appreciate the time and consideration given to this matter and would like to respectfully outline several key issues that, in my view, remain unresolved and warrant further discussion before any approval is considered.

First, while it is understood that the gas company has identified a need to upgrade certain equipment, this fact alone does not establish that the proposal meets the standard of an essential service requiring a new permit for a net new facility of this size on a new site. There is an existing, already cleared parcel of land that could be expanded to meet the upgrade needs.

Choosing to construct a new facility on a different site is a business preference rather than an essential need of the town or the service itself. National Grid can upgrade the existing site that has already had special permitting and continue to operate as they have for over 75 years.

Second, it was stated that the company will not be out of compliance for more than ten years. Given this substantial timeframe, there appears to be ample opportunity for the Zoning Board, the gas company, and neighboring residents to continue a collaborative discussion to determine the most appropriate way to meet both the town's needs and the company's operational goals, without rushing to approve the most disruptive option.

Third, the proposed site location is the most disruptive to the site. A different approach / location on the 307 parcel could significantly minimize disruption making use of existing clearing on the 305 parcel and limiting noise closer to a busier street with neighborhood activity that might muffle or shield the facility.

Fourth, concerns regarding noise remain unresolved. This is a quiet residential neighborhood, and the introduction of ongoing industrial noise would be inconsistent with the character of the area and detrimental to residents' quality of life.

Finally, the aesthetics of the proposed structure are highly incongruent with a residential setting. A fourteen-foot-high building, combined with chain-link fencing and barbed wire, would be visually unappealing and environmentally disruptive in this neighborhood context. This plan also leaves buildings constructed originally for the same purpose almost abandoned and likely unkept.

To be clear, I am not disputing that gas service continues to play a role in our society and community at this time. However, that reality alone does not justify the specific proposal before the Board, nor does it establish that the permitting of a net new facility at this location is an essential need. I respectfully ask that the Board require additional discussion and meaningful modifications to the plan to explore how National Grid can complete necessary upgrades in a way that better serves the town, the neighborhood, and the environment. There is no essential need for an industrial facility to be built squarely in the center of a wooded parcel when a busier road with an existing clearing offers an option.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Danielle Dean

55 Greeley Circle