

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Persons re NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, EFSB 15-3/D.P.U. 15-64/65

FROM: Stephen H. August, Hearing Officer

DATE: June 15, 2015

RE: July 15, 2015 Public Hearing, Medford, Massachusetts

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The Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) will conduct a public comment hearing on the Petitions of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or the “Company”) for approval to construct a new 7.7 mile 115 kV underground transmission line in Woburn, Winchester, Medford, Somerville, Everett, and Boston (the “New Line”). The Company’s petition also includes an alternative route, which is primarily under streets for approximately 9.2 miles in Winchester, Medford, Everett, Somerville, and Boston. Eversource also proposes to modify two existing substations (Woburn Substation and Mystic Substation) to interconnect the New Line.

**The Siting Board will conduct its public comment hearing on the Company’s proposed transmission line on Wednesday, July 15, 2015, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in Alden Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Medford City Hall, 85 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford.**

Enclosed is a copy of the legal notice announcing the public hearing. The Notice is being issued in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, to reflect the presence of Environmental Justice communities in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line. The Siting Board invites your attendance at and participation in the public hearing. Additionally, the Siting Board welcomes written comments on the proposed transmission line, which can be sent to the addresses listed at the end of this letter.

In addition to providing notice of the public comment hearing, this Memorandum is intended to provide interested persons with some background on the Siting Board process. The Siting Board is an administrative agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Siting Board has nine members. The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs serves as the Chairman of the Siting Board. The Siting Board’s membership also includes the Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources, two commissioners of the Department of Public Utilities, and three public members appointed by the Governor.

One of the principal functions of the Siting Board is to review proposals for the construction of new energy facilities such as the transmission line proposed by Eversource. Before the Siting Board can reach a decision regarding the construction of any energy facility, it must determine that the facility will provide a reliable energy supply for the Commonwealth with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost. G.L. c. 164, §§ 69H and 69J. The Siting Board's approval is required before construction permits may be issued by other state authorities.

The Siting Board's regulations require it to hold a public comment hearing in the locality of a proposed energy facility, in order to provide the public with information regarding the facility, and to afford the opportunity for public comment on it. The enclosed notice was forwarded to Eversource for: translation into Spanish and Portuguese; service on all abutters to the Project, including each abutting city or town; posting at the City Clerk's Office in Woburn, Winchester, Medford, Somerville, Everett and Boston; and publication in the Boston Globe and El Planeta. The Siting Board also has directed Eversource to make its Petitions available for public review by placing a copy of the Petitions in numerous public libraries in the relevant communities.

Following the public hearing, at which a Spanish/Portuguese translator will be present, the Siting Board will conduct a comprehensive adjudicatory proceeding before issuing a decision regarding the Company's proposed transmission line. Any person may file a petition to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant in this proceeding. To be allowed, a petition to intervene in the proceeding must satisfy the 980 C.M.R. 1.05: *i.e.*, it must show how the petitioner may be substantially and specifically affected by the proceeding.

The Siting Board is committed to a full public discussion of the proposed transmission line. Questions and written or email comments may be directed to the Board at the addresses below:

Stephen H. August, Hearing Officer  
Energy Facilities Siting Board  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110  
(617) 305-3622  
[Stephen.August@state.ma.us](mailto:Stephen.August@state.ma.us)

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING**

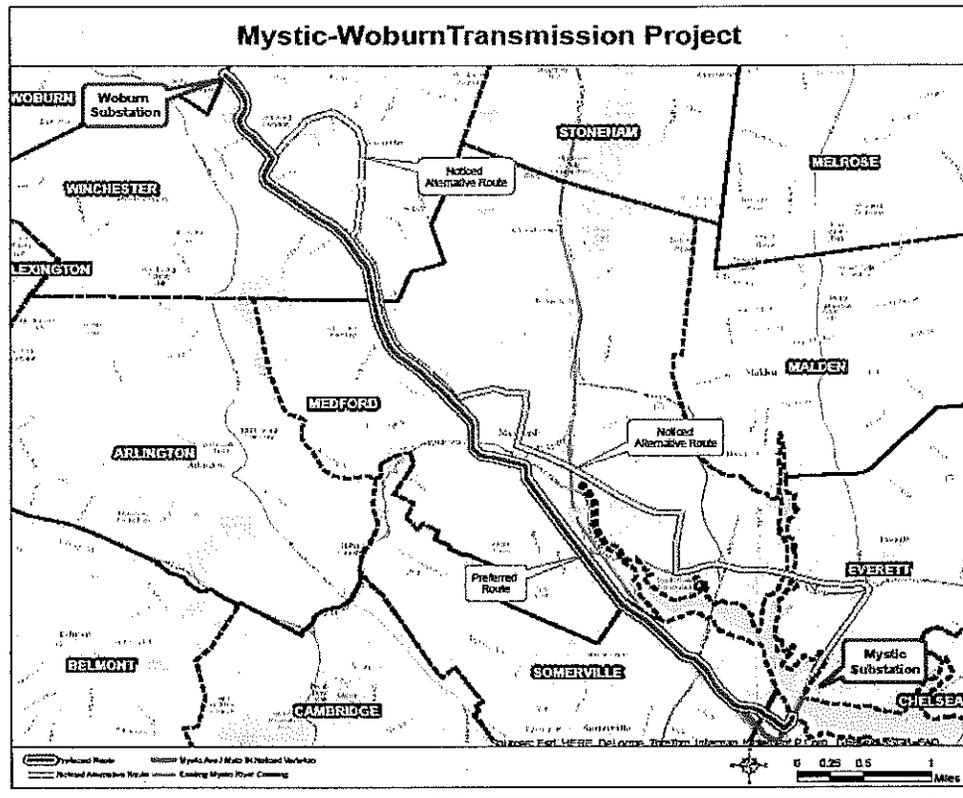
**EFSB 15-03/D.P.U. 15-64/15-65  
NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69J, G.L. c. 164, § 72, and G.L. c. 40A, § 3, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource" or the "Company") located at 1 NSTAR Way, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090, has filed with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (the "Siting Board") and the Department of Public Utilities (the "Department") three petitions in connection with the Company's proposal to construct and operate a new 7.7 mile 115-kilovolt ("kV") underground transmission line in Woburn, Winchester, Medford, Somerville, Everett and Boston (the "New Line") and to modify two existing substations (Woburn Substation and Mystic Substation) to interconnect the New Line. The New Line and proposed substation modifications are herein referred to as the "Mystic-Woburn Transmission Project" or the "Project." The New Line will operate in parallel with an existing underground 115-kV transmission line, creating a single higher-capacity transmission circuit.

**The Siting Board will conduct a public comment hearing to receive public comment on the Project at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2015, at Alden Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Medford City Hall, 85 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford.**

At the public comment hearing, Eversource will present an overview of the proposed Project. Public officials and members of the public will then have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the proposed Project. A Spanish and Portuguese translator will be present. The public comment hearing will be recorded by a court reporter. The public may also file written comments with the Presiding Officer. To file comments, please see the Section titled "Filing Instructions" towards the end of this Notice.

Pursuant to an Order issued by the Chair of the Department on May 22, 2015, the Company's three petitions relating to the Project have been consolidated for hearing before the Siting Board, with the docket numbers EFSB 15-03/D.P.U. 15-64/15-65. Under G.L. c. 164, § 69J, the Siting Board will review the Company's filing to determine whether the proposed Project would provide a reliable energy supply with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost. Under G.L. c. 164, § 72, the Siting Board will determine whether the proposed 115-kV transmission line is necessary, serves the public convenience, and is consistent with the public interest. Under G.L. c. 40A, § 3, the Siting Board will determine whether zoning exemptions are required for the Project and whether the present or proposed use of the land or structures is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public.



**The Company's Preferred Transmission Line Route**

The Company's Preferred Route for the New Line exits the Woburn Substation at the Winchester town line. It travels primarily under streets for approximately 7.2 miles, parallel to the existing underground 211-514 Line, through Winchester, Medford, Somerville, and the Charlestown section of Boston. From Charlestown, the route proceeds for a short distance within an existing pipe under the Mystic River to an existing manhole within the Mystic Substation fence line in Everett (a total distance of approximately half a mile).

A more detailed description of the Preferred Route for the Project, by municipality, is provided below.

**Winchester:** From the Woburn Substation fence at the Woburn/Winchester town boundary, the route proceeds to the intersection of Pond Street and Woodside Avenue in Winchester. The route continues south on Woodside Avenue and continues on Wildwood Street to the intersection of Fletcher Street. Proceeding southwest on Fletcher Street and then southeast on Bacon Street, the route crosses the Aberjona River and continues through a rotary onto Main Street (Route 38) heading southeast towards Medford.

**Medford:** The route proceeds southeast on Main Street/Winthrop Street into Medford to the Main Street/High Street/Winthrop Street rotary where it heads south on Winthrop Street to a crossing of

the Mystic River next to the Winthrop Street Bridge. The route then turns toward the east on South Street. Near Medford Square, the route turns south onto Mystic Avenue (Route 38), to Somerville.

**Somerville:** In Somerville, the route continues south along Mystic Avenue to a point just north of Foss Park and the McGrath Highway (Route 28), where it crosses under the elevated portion of Interstate-93, and continues southward on the section of Mystic Avenue on the east side of I-93. The route proceeds through a Home Depot parking lot and then crosses Assembly Square Drive and the MBTA railroad to Arlington Avenue.

**Boston (Charlestown):** From a crossing under the MBTA railroad north and west of Sullivan Square, the route travels southeast on Arlington Avenue, then crosses Alford Street and Rutherford Avenue to an existing Eversource manhole within Ryan Playground. The route then crosses the Mystic River to the Mystic Substation property using an existing spare pipe.

#### **Potential Route Variation in Somerville and Boston (Charlestown)**

The Company is proposing a variation to a portion of the Preferred Route that eliminates crossing under the MBTA railroad and traversing private property (the Home Depot parking lot). This variation would continue from the easterly side of I-93 along Mystic Avenue, cross the McGrath Highway intersection (Route 28), cross the MBTA railroad at the existing Mystic Avenue Bridge into Charlestown, turn northeast along Alford Street to the intersection of Alford Street and Arlington Avenue, and diagonally cross Alford Street/Rutherford Avenue to an existing manhole on the easterly side of Ryan Playground.

#### **The Company's Alternative Transmission Line Route**

The Company also identified an Alternative Route for the New Line. The Alternative Route travels primarily under streets for approximately 9.2 miles in the municipalities of Winchester, Medford, Everett, Somerville, and Boston. A more detailed description of the Alternative Route for the Project, by municipality, is provided below.

**Winchester:** The Alternative Route follows the same path as the Company's Preferred Route from the Woburn Substation to the intersection of Fletcher Street and Palmer Street in Winchester. At Palmer Street, the Alternative Route proceeds northeast, traveling on Palmer/Lake Street to the intersection of Main Street and Skillings Road. The route continues on Skillings Road, then proceeds south on Washington/Main Street (Route 38) to the rotary intersection of Bacon Street and Grove Street. Turning east, the Alternative Route follows the same path as the Preferred Route along Main Street into Medford.

**Medford:** Once crossing the Winchester/Medford town line, the Alternative Route continues along Main Street/Winthrop Street to Lawrence Road. The route then proceeds east on Lawrence Road, then south on Governors Avenue to its intersection with High Street in Medford Square. The route then turns east through the Medford Square commercial district and onto Riverside Avenue. On Riverside Avenue, the route travels under I-93 and then on to Commerce Street, turning south to Mystic Valley Parkway. Proceeding east on Mystic Valley Parkway, the route passes through the intersection of McGrath Highway (Route 28/Fellsway) on Revere Beach Parkway (Route 16) and

crosses over the MBTA Orange Line railroad bridge near the Wellington MBTA Station, then across the Malden River Bridge at the Medford/Everett town boundary.

**Everett and Boston:** The Alternative Route proceeds east in Everett on Route 16 to the Route 16/Route 99 rotary, and crosses under another MBTA railroad on to Broadway where it proceeds southwest on Broadway to Mystic Substation.

### **Public Review of the Company's Petitions**

The general location, layout, dimensions, and configuration of the Preferred Route, Preferred Route Variation and Alternative Route for the Project are shown on maps and plans included in the Company's petitions. Copies of the Company's petitions are available for public inspection in hard-copy format at the following locations:

- Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, MA 02110;
- Woburn Public Library, 45 Pleasant Street, Woburn, MA 01801;
- Woburn City Clerk, Woburn City Hall, 10 Common Street, Woburn, MA 01801;
- Winchester Public Library, 80 Washington Street, Winchester, MA 01890;
- Winchester City Clerk, Town Hall, 71 Mt. Vernon St., Winchester, MA 01890;
- Medford Public Library, 111 High Street, Medford, MA 02155;
- Medford City Clerk, Medford City Hall, Room 103, 85 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford, MA 02155;
- Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143;
- Somerville Public Library, East Branch, 115 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145
- Somerville City Clerk, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143;
- Parlin Memorial Library, 410 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149;
- Everett City Clerk, Everett City Hall, Rm 10, 484 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149
- Boston Public Library, Charlestown Branch, 179 Main St, Charlestown, MA 02129; and
- Boston City Clerk, Boston City Hall, 1 City Hall Square, Boston MA 02201.

In addition, the Company's petitions are electronically available via the Department's website at: <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber>. Enter "EFSB15-03" into the search box.

### **Intervention and Participation**

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing public comments at the hearing may file written comments, and/or seek to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. Intervention as a party allows the person or organization to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding, including evidentiary hearings in Boston, and grants the right to appeal a final decision. A limited participant may receive many of the documents that will be submitted to the Siting Board and present written or oral argument to the Siting Board after evidentiary hearings conclude.

Any person who is interested in intervening as a party or participating as a limited participant in this proceeding must file a written petition with the Siting Board. A petition to intervene or a petition to participate as a limited participant must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 980 C.M.R. § 1.00, the Siting Board's procedural rules, which can be found on the Board's website at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/energy-facilities-siting-board/>

Once on the website, click on "Relevant Regulations."

### **Filing Instructions**

Written comments on the Company's petitions, or a petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant, must be filed in three places:

First, the comments or petition must be filed in hard copy with: the Presiding Officer, Stephen August, Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Petitions must be filed no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, July 29, 2015.

Second, the comments or petition must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to [dpu.efiling@state.ma.us](mailto:dpu.efiling@state.ma.us) and [Stephen.August@state.ma.us](mailto:Stephen.August@state.ma.us); or (2) on a PC-compatible compact disc filed with the Presiding Officer. The text of the email or the CD label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 15-03/D.P.U. 15-64/15-65); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) a brief description of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

Third, the comments or petition must be sent in hard copy and electronically to counsel for Eversource Energy, Catherine Keuthen, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 265 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110; [ckeuthen@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:ckeuthen@keeganwerlin.com).

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice, including information about intervention or participation in the proceeding may also contact the Presiding Officer at the address or telephone number below:

Stephen August, Presiding Officer  
Energy Facilities Siting Board  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110  
(617) 305-3622