

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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

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

EFSB 16-02/D.P.U. 16-77
NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy

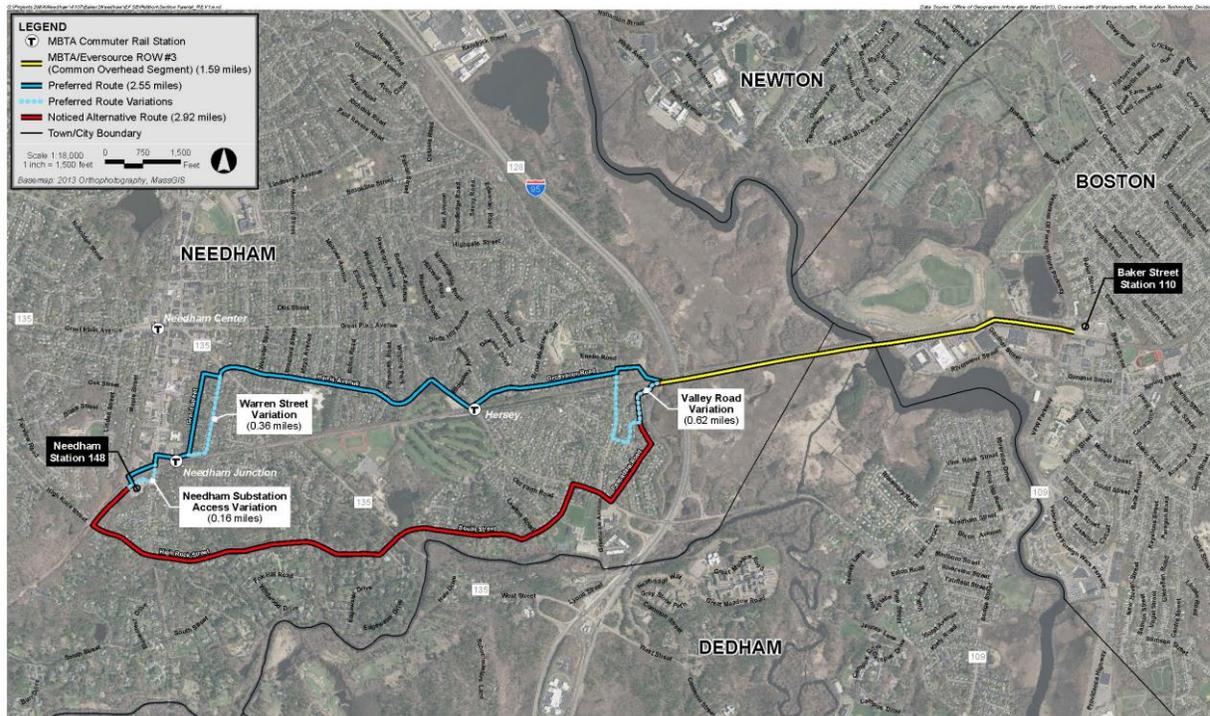
Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69J and 72, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “Company”), located at 247 Station Drive, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090, has filed two related petitions with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) and the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) in connection with the Company’s proposal to construct, operate and maintain an approximately 4.2-mile, 115 kilovolt (“kV”) combination overhead-and-underground transmission line in the West Roxbury section of the City of Boston, and the Towns of Dedham and Needham (“New Line”) and to interconnect the New Line with two existing substations (Eversource’s Baker Street Substation in West Roxbury (Station #110) and Needham Substation (Station #148)). The New Line and related connections to the two substations in West Roxbury and Needham are herein referred to as the “West Roxbury to Needham Reliability Project,” or the “Project.” The Project is proposed in order to address needs on the existing transmission system in the area at peak load levels.

The Siting Board will conduct a public comment hearing to receive public comment on the Project Tuesday, September 27, 2016, in the Powers Room at the Needham Town Hall, 1471 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02492, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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. 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” toward the end of this Notice.

Pursuant to an Order issued by the Chairman of the Department on August 12, 2016, the Company’s two petitions relating to the Project have been consolidated for hearing before the Siting Board, with consolidated docket number EFSB 16-02/D.P.U. 16-77. Under G.L. c. 164, § 69J, the Siting Board will review the Company’s filing to determine whether the 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 Project is necessary, serves the public convenience, and is consistent with the public interest.

Figure 1: West Roxbury to Needham Reliability Project



West Roxbury to Needham Reliability Project

EVERSOURCE

Figure 1-2
Aerial Locus Map

The Company’s Preferred Transmission Line Route

The total length of the Company’s Preferred Route between the Baker Street Substation and the Needham Substation is 4.2 miles, including approximately 1.6 miles of overhead line construction parallel to the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (“MBTA”) commuter rail tracks (Needham Line) in Boston, Dedham and Needham, and 2.6 miles of underground cable construction primarily in public roads in Needham.

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

Above-ground Segment Paralleling MBTA Commuter Rail Corridor in West Roxbury, Dedham and Needham:

The overhead transmission segment of the Preferred Route would begin at the Baker Street Substation in West Roxbury, which is between Baker Street and the VFW Parkway, and immediately adjacent to the MBTA commuter railroad right-of-way. The overhead segment would consist of steel monopoles and conductor wires. The route would follow the MBTA right-of-way, extending approximately 1.6 miles in a westerly direction, first spanning the VFW Parkway, continuing alongside Millennium Park, crossing the Charles River into Cutler Park Reservation in Dedham and Needham, and then crossing over Route 128/I-95. The Preferred Route would continue to a point near the end of Valley Road in Needham, where the overhead line would transition to an underground cable.

Underground Cable Segment in the Town of Needham: From the transition point near the end of Valley Road, the Company’s Preferred Route would proceed underground across a Town of

Needham municipal parcel (often referred to as the “gravel pit”) to a point on Greendale Avenue approximately 50 feet north of the intersection of Greendale Avenue and Grosvenor Road. The Preferred Route then would continue generally westward in streets to the Needham Substation on Chestnut Street. The underground line segment would be constructed in portions of the following streets in Needham: Greendale Avenue, Grosvenor Road, Broad Meadow Road, Great Plain Avenue, Harris Avenue, Dedham Avenue (Route 135), Warren Street, School Street, Grant Street, Junction Street, and Chestnut Street. The connection into the Needham Substation would use an easement on commercial property adjacent to 433 Chestnut Street and would then cross beneath a set of unused MBTA railroad tracks and a municipal sewer line easement.

There are three areas in Needham where, because of construction feasibility concerns, the Company is also seeking approval of a route variation in the event that the Preferred Route cannot be constructed as proposed. These variations are set forth in Figure 1 and described below.

Potential Route Variation on Warren Street

The Company is proposing a potential variation to a portion of the Preferred Route in Needham that would provide an additional measure of flexibility to address potential construction, traffic, and other concerns. The Warren Street (Needham) Variation of the Preferred Route would follow the same streets as the Preferred Route for the underground cable segment, but would stay on Warren Street for approximately 0.4 miles to Junction Street near the western end of the route, rather than heading onto School Street and Grant Street. The length of the New Line incorporating this route variation would be approximately 4.1 miles.

Potential Route Variation on Valley Road

The Company is proposing a second potential variation to the underground segment of the Preferred Route in Needham to avoid crossing the municipal gravel pit parcel off Greendale Avenue in the event that Needham does not grant permission for the crossing. This variation would bring the cable south onto Valley Road in Needham. The underground segment would cross a different parcel of municipal land within the existing Eversource right-of-way to reach Valley Road, which it would follow to Norwich Road. The route would then head west on Norwich Road and Intervale Road before turning north onto Greendale Avenue and across the Greendale Avenue bridge over the MBTA railroad tracks, to Grosvenor Road where it would join the Preferred Route. The length of the New Line incorporating this underground route variation would be approximately 4.6 miles.

Potential Route Variation at Needham Substation

The Company is proposing a third potential variation to interconnect with the Needham Substation if the Company cannot acquire the necessary easement across commercial property at 433 Chestnut Street. This variation would involve extending the line approximately 250 to 300 feet farther south down Chestnut Street where the line would then head west, crossing a portion of a small wetland and intermittent stream located on the Needham Substation property before reaching the Needham Substation. The total length of the New Line incorporating this underground route variation would be approximately 4.2 miles.

The Company's Noticed Alternative Transmission Line Route

The Company also has identified an Alternative Route for the New Line. The total length of the Noticed Alternative Route is 4.5 miles, including the same 1.6 miles of overhead line construction proposed for the Company's Preferred Route and approximately 2.9 miles of underground cable construction primarily in public roads in Needham.

The underground transmission line portion of the Noticed Alternative Route (also located entirely within Needham) would begin at the same point as the Company's Preferred Route. The Noticed Alternative Route would head south from the Valley Road transition point across a parcel of municipal park land to the end of Valley Road. The underground line segment would be constructed on portions of the following streets in Needham: Peacedale Road, Great Plain Avenue, South Street, and High Rock Street. From High Rock Street, the Noticed Alternative Route would turn east on an existing Eversource right-of-way to connect into the Needham Substation.

Substation Work

There would be no significant substation work for the Project at either the Baker Street Substation or the Needham Substation. At the Baker Street Substation, the New Line would be connected where the existing line connects after removal of that existing line.

At the Needham Substation, the proposed new line segment would be brought onto the Needham Substation property underground where it would become overhead via an adjacent three-pole structure located outside the substation fence at the western end of the substation. The existing three-pole structure would be modified or replaced and control circuits inside the substation would be modified. No fence line expansion would be required at either substation.

Public Review of the Company's Petitions

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

- Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02110
- Boston Public Library, West Roxbury Branch, 1961 Centre Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132
- Boston City Clerk, Boston City Hall, One City Hall Square, Room 601, Boston, MA 02201
- Dedham Town Clerk, Town Administration Building, 26 Bryant Street, Dedham, MA 02026
- Dedham Public Library, 43 Church Street, Dedham, MA 02026
- Needham Town Clerk, Town Hall, 1471 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02492
- Needham Free Public Library, 1139 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02494

In addition, the Company's petitions including all attachments are electronically available via the Department of Public Utilities' website at:

<http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber>. Enter "EFSB16-02" (with no spaces) into the search box.

Written Comments

Written comments regarding the proposed Project may be filed with the Siting Board until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2016. Any person wishing to submit written comments regarding the Project should send them by email or email attachment to:

(1) dpu.efiling@state.ma.us and (2) kathryn.sedor@state.ma.us. Alternatively, written comments may be sent by U.S. mail to M. Kathryn Sedor, Esq., Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

Intervention and Participation

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing comments at the public hearing or submitting written comments may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. Intervention as a party allows the person or group to participate fully in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding, including the right to participate in evidentiary hearings in Boston, and to appeal a final decision. A limited participant would receive documents in the proceeding, and would have the opportunity to present written or oral argument to the Siting Board after evidentiary hearings conclude.

Any person interested in intervening as a party or participating as a limited participant in this proceeding must file a written petition with the Presiding Officer. Petitions must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 980 C.M.R. § 1.05, the Siting Board's procedural rules, which can be found on the Siting Board's website at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/energy-facilities-siting-board/>

A petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant must be filed in three places.

First, the petition must be filed in hard copy by U.S. mail with the Presiding Officer, M. Kathryn Sedor, Esq., Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110 **no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Tuesday, October 11, 2016.**

Second, the petition must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format, by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@state.ma.us; and to kathryn.sedor@state.ma.us. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 15-06/D.P.U. 15-180); (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 petition must be sent to counsel for the Company, David S. Rosenzweig, Esq. and Erika J. Hafner, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 265 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110; or drosen@keeganwerlin.com and ehafner@keeganwerlin.com .

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice, including information regarding intervention or participation in the adjudicatory proceeding, may contact the Presiding Officer at:

M. Kathryn Sedor, Esq., Presiding Officer
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 305-3500
kathryn.sedor@state.ma.us