

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD

NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS

EFSB 18-02

NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a
Eversource Energy

Notice is hereby given that on June 11, 2018, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69J, NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or the “Company”), located at 247 Station Drive, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090, filed a petition with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (the “Siting Board”) for approval to construct a natural gas pipeline replacement in the Towns of Hopkinton and Ashland, Massachusetts. Eversource is proposing the Hopkinton-Ashland Transfer Line Replacement Project (the “Project”) to replace the 3.71 miles of existing 6-inch diameter steel natural gas pipe between the Wilson Street Gate Station in Hopkinton and the Pond Street Gate Station in Ashland (“Transfer Line”) with new 12-inch diameter pipe. The Company proposes to replace pipeline in segments over five years. Eversource states that the Project is needed to alleviate an existing pressure drop that limits the flexibility and reliability of gas supply to its customers in the Greater Framingham area.

The Siting Board will conduct a public comment hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Project on Monday, September 24, 2018, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Ashland High School auditorium at 65 East Union Street, Ashland, MA 01721. At the public comment hearing, the Company will present an overview of the proposed Project. Public officials and the public will then have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the Project. The public comment hearing will be recorded by a court reporter. The Siting Board will also accept written comments on the proposed Project. *Written comments may be filed with the Siting Board as described in the section entitled Comments, Intervention and Participation of this Notice through Monday, October 15, 2018.*

Siting Board Jurisdiction

The Siting Board will review the Company’s filing to determine whether the proposed Project will provide a reliable energy supply with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69H, 69J.

Preferred Route for the Pipeline Replacement

Based on the Company’s routing and alternatives analysis, Eversource has identified a Preferred Route for the proposed gas pipeline that uses an existing pipeline easement, in which the existing 6-inch diameter Transfer Line is currently located. The Company’s Preferred Route would replace the Transfer Line within the existing easement beginning approximately 2,200 feet east of the Wilson Street Gate Station, on a property located between Wilson Street and Legacy Farms Road North in Hopkinton. The easement continues to the east across two large

undeveloped parcels of land. The easement crosses the southern edge of the pond located behind the Liberty Mutual facility on Frankland Road. Upon reaching Cross Street, the easement continues east across residential parcels with frontage on Frankland Road and across the Brook Hollow property owned by the Hopkinton Area Land Trust before crossing into Ashland. Upon entering the Town of Ashland, the easement crosses residential parcels with frontage on Hardwick Road, Pennock Road, Winesap Way, and Indian Spring Road before reaching West Union Street (Route 135). The easement continues to the east across residential parcels with frontage on West Union Street before entering Ashland State Park. The easement crosses through a section of the park, then crosses residential parcels with frontage on Metropolitan Avenue before re-entering Ashland State Park. The easement crosses Cold Spring Brook north of the Ashland Reservoir dam and spillway, exits Ashland State Park, and continues east across residential properties with frontage on Warren Road before reaching Chestnut Street. East of Chestnut Street, the easement continues across a residential property with frontage on Chestnut Street before crossing a parking lot associated with the Chestnut Place Apartment Homes complex on Joanne Drive. East of Joanne Drive, the easement passes through residential parcels with frontage on Prospect Street, Stage Coach Drive, Wayside Lane, Brimstone Way, and Carriage House Path. The easement also crosses open space property designated as Ledgemere Farms Conservation Restriction, controlled by the Great Bend Farm Trust. The Preferred Route terminates at Cedar Street. Approximately 1.14 miles of the Preferred Route is located in Hopkinton and 2.57 miles in Ashland.

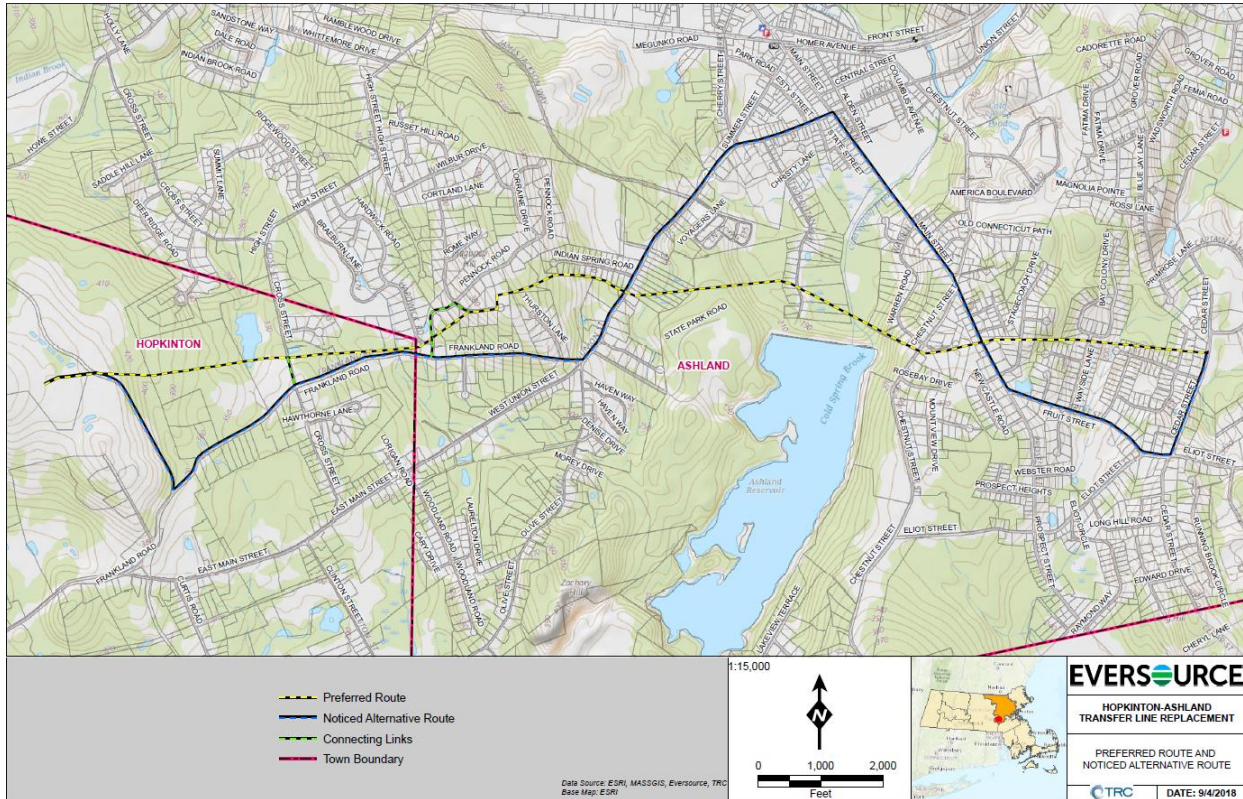
Noticed Alternative Route for the Pipeline Replacement

In addition to the Preferred Route described above, the Company also identified a Noticed Alternative Route for the proposed pipeline replacement. The Noticed Alternative Route represents an in-street alignment for the proposed replacement pipeline and would start at the same location as the Preferred Route, and would follow the existing Transfer Line easement for approximately 845 feet. From that point, the Noticed Alternative Route follows existing roadways. It heads south on Legacy Farms Road North, then east on Frankland Road, crossing into Ashland. The Noticed Alternative Route continues east on Frankland Road, then northeast on West Union Street (Route 135) and Union Street. The route turns southeast on Main Street and continues on Prospect Street. It turns east on Fruit Street and continues east on Eliot Street, then north on Cedar Street to reach the eastern terminus of the Preferred Route at the Transfer Line easement at Cedar Street. The total length of the Project using the Noticed Alternative Route is approximately 4.99 miles. In the event that the Preferred Route and its Variations are rejected, the Company seeks approval to construct the Project on the Noticed Alternative Route.

Route Combinations

The Company identified two points where the Preferred Route and the Noticed Alternative Route intersect, and two short links that could be used to connect the two routes where they approach each other. One short connecting link is an approximately 450-foot section of Cross Street, in Hopkinton, between the Transfer Line easement and Frankland Road. The second short connecting link is approximately 1,300-feet long; it begins at the intersection of Frankland Road and Pennock Road, follows Pennock Road north across the Transfer Line easement, then turns east on Winesap Way where it reconnects with the Preferred Route. Each intersecting point and

link offers an opportunity for the route to switch between the Preferred Route (in the existing easement) and the Noticed Alternative Route (in streets). A final approved route could include both segments of the Preferred Route and the Noticed Alternative Route. In the Petition, three of these segments are described by the Company as “variations.”



The location, layout, dimensions and configuration of the Project are shown on maps and plans included in the Company’s Petition.

Copies of the Company’s Petition are available for public inspection at the Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, MA 02110, and at the Company’s Office at 247 Station Drive, Westwood, MA 02090. An electronic version of the Company’s Petition is available on the Siting Board’s electronic filerom, <https://www.mass.gov/dpu-file-room-administrative-services>

Select “Dockets/Filings” then “Docket by Number”, then enter “EFSB18-02” (no spaces). Copies of the Company’s petition are also available at the Hopkinton Public Library, 13 Main Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748, and the Ashland Public Library, 66 Front Street, Ashland, MA 01721.

Comments, Intervention and Participation

Any person who desires to submit written comments on the Company's Petition may do so by mail no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on October 15, 2018 with Geneen Bartley, Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, MA 02110. Alternatively, comments may also be submitted to the Siting Board in electronic format by e-mail attachment to (1) dpu.efiling@mass.gov; (2) to the Presiding Officer at donna.sharkey@mass.gov; (3) to the Company counsel at drosen@keeganwerlin.com. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 18-02); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title 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. The Siting Board encourages electronic filings and related documents to be submitted in PDF, Word, or Excel, as appropriate. All written comments will be posted on the Siting Board's electronic fileroom.

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing comments may seek either 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 interested in intervening as a party or participating as a limited participant in this proceeding must file a written petition. 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 Board's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-petition-to-intervene-in-an-efsb-or-dpu-siting-case>

A petition must be filed in hard copy with the Presiding Officer, Donna C. Sharkey, Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on October 15, 2018.

The petition must also be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 18-02); (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.

The petition must also be sent to counsel for Eversource – David S. Rosenzweig, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 99 High Street, Suite 2900, Boston, MA 02110, drosen@keeganwerlin.com.

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can. Also include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted, but accommodation may not be possible if arrangements cannot be made in time for the scheduled hearing. Contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPU/ADACoordinator@mass.gov or (617) 305-3500.

Interpretation services for those with limited English language proficiency are available upon request. Include in your request the language required, and a way to contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted, but accommodation may not be possible if arrangements cannot be made in time for the scheduled hearing. Contact the Presiding Officer (contact information below).

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

Donna C. Sharkey, Presiding Officer
Energy Facilities Siting Board
donna.sharkey@mass.gov
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 305-3625