

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD**

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

EFSB 14-2/D.P.U. 14-73/14-74

NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy

On April 28, 2014, NSTAR Electric Company, now doing business as Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or the “Company”) located at 1 NSTAR Way, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090, filed petitions with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (the “Siting Board”) to construct and operate a new 14.7-mile 115 kilovolt (“kV”) overhead transmission line on an existing Company right-of-way (“ROW”) in the towns of Walpole, Sharon, Canton, Stoughton, Avon, Randolph, and Holbrook. The Petitions were filed pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 164, § 69J, G.L. c. 40A, § 3, and G.L. c. 164, § 72. Together with this new 115 kV line, the Company proposes to construct a new 115 kV switching station on Company property in Sharon and to upgrade existing substations in West Walpole and Holbrook (together, “the Project”).

The Company’s petitions include an alternative to the Project. The alternative, a 17.7-mile, 115 kV transmission line in Walpole, Sharon, Stoughton, Avon, and Holbrook, combines an underground in-road segment and an overhead segment within an existing Company ROW.

The Siting Board conducted two public comment hearings on July 21, 2014 and July 22, 2014 in Walpole and Stoughton to receive public comment on the Project. Petitions to intervene were submitted and approved by the Siting Board and for the following individuals and entities: the Town of Sharon, the Town of Holbrook, Elaine M. Hyland, of Holbrook, Lawrence E. Sandberg of Sharon, and MacIntosh Farm Community Association of Sharon. Two rounds of written questions had been asked by the Siting Board staff and intervenors, and the Company had filed answers pursuant to an established procedural schedule for the case. In July 2015, before evidentiary hearings commenced, the Company determined that it had not mailed a notice of these public comment hearings to some of the owners of property abutting the preferred and alternative routes for the Project. Accordingly, the Siting Board directed the Company to send this new notice to all owners of property abutting the preferred and alternative routes for the Project.

The Company’s petitions together with its responses to written questions submitted by the Siting Board staff and other intervenors in the case (from March to June 2015) and other documents already filed in this proceeding are electronically available via the Department’s “File Room,” accessible under “Dockets/Filings” then “Docket by number” then “EFSB 14-2” at <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom>. This information is also available for public inspection in hard-copy format at the following locations:

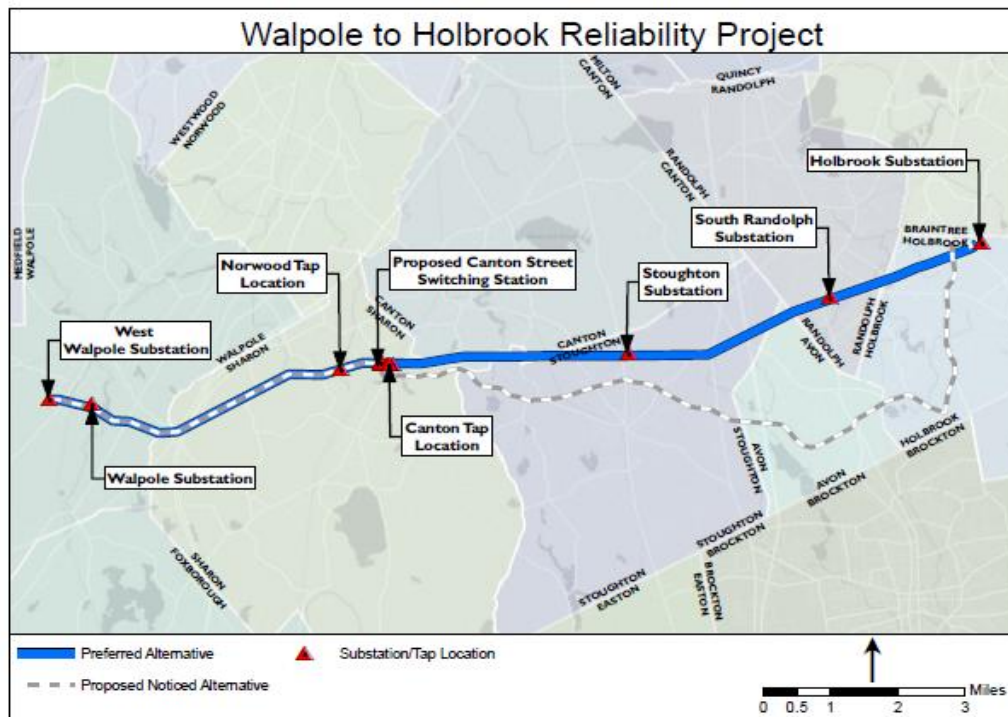
- Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, MA 02110;
- Avon Public Library, 280 W. Main Street, Avon, MA 02322;
- Canton Public Library, 786 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021;
- Holbrook Public Library, 2 Plymouth Street, Holbrook, MA 02343;
- Sharon Public Library, 11 N. Main Street, Sharon, MA 02067;
- Stoughton Public Library, 84 Park Street, Stoughton, MA 02072;

- Turner Free Library, 2 North Main Street, Randolph, MA 02368;
- Walpole Public Library, 143 School Street, Walpole, MA 02081.

**The Siting Board will conduct an additional public comment hearing to receive further public comment on the Project at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, at the Stoughton High School Auditorium, 232 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA.**

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 hearings will be recorded by a court reporter.

The Company has filed three petitions relating to the Project. Pursuant to an Order issued by the Chair of the Department of Public Utilities on May 30, 2014, the Company's three petitions have been consolidated for hearing before the Siting Board, with the docket number EFSB 14-2/D.P.U. 14-73/D.P.U. 14-74. Under G.L. c. 164, § 69J, 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. Under G.L. c. 164, §72, the Siting Board will determine whether the proposed new 115 kV 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.



## **Eversource's Preferred Route**

The Company's preferred route for the Project involves the construction of approximately 14.7 miles of new 115 kV overhead transmission line within an existing Company ROW in Massachusetts. Along the preferred route, Eversource proposes to construct a new 115 kV Walpole-Holbrook transmission line beginning at Walpole Substation and passing through the towns of Walpole, Sharon, Canton, Stoughton, Avon, Randolph, and Holbrook, ending at Eversource's existing Holbrook Substation No. 478 ("Holbrook Substation"). The route also involves Project-associated work between Eversource's existing West Walpole Substation No. 447 ("West Walpole Substation") and Eversource's existing Walpole Substation No. 146 ("Walpole Substation").

The existing Eversource ROW between Walpole Substation and Holbrook Substation, where the Company will locate the new Walpole-Holbrook 115 kV line, is generally 150 feet wide. Double-circuit lattice towers ("DCTs") carrying conductors for two 115 kV circuits presently occupy the south side of the ROW; DCTs carrying conductors for a single 345 kV circuit occupy the north side. Eversource will install the proposed Walpole-Holbrook 115 kV transmission line on the vacant side of the existing DCTs on the north side of the ROW.

A more detailed description of the preferred route for the Project, by town, is provided below.

**Walpole:** The Company proposes installing its new Walpole-Holbrook 115 kV transmission line starting at Eversource's existing Walpole Substation.

In addition to the new transmission line itself, the transmission line work for the Project includes separating the existing 0.64-mile DCT configuration of two 115 kV transmission lines, Line 146-502 and Line 447-508, between the Company's existing West Walpole Substation and Walpole Substation. The Company will construct new line structures between the West Walpole and Walpole Substations to enable this circuit separation.

The approximate total length of the Walpole segment of the Company's preferred transmission line route, including the section between the West Walpole and Walpole Substations, is 1.98 miles. The Company's preferred route begins at the West Walpole Substation and proceeds in an easterly direction along an existing Eversource ROW to Eversource's existing Walpole Substation. It then continues east along the ROW into Sharon. The Project would cross Main Street (State Highway/Route 1A), South Street, Washington Street, and railroad tracks.

As part of its Project, Eversource also proposes modifications at the Company's existing West Walpole Substation, located off Main Street. These modifications include: (1) 115 kV line protection system upgrades and additions; (2) construction of a prefabricated control shelter, approximately 60 feet by 15 feet in area and approximately 14 feet high; and (3) related site work to provide a foundation system and underground raceway systems.

**Sharon:** The Company's new Walpole-Holbrook 115 kV transmission line would continue approximately 4.12 miles on Eversource's existing ROW through Sharon to Canton. The Project would cross Old Post Road, State Highway/Route 1, Interstate 95, Moose Hill Street, Norwood

Street (Route 27), Fales Road, Bullard Street, Richards Avenue, Saw Mill Pond Road, Canton Street, and railroad tracks.

The Company also proposes to build a new three-breaker, 115 kV switching station on Company-owned land at 63 Canton Street in Sharon. The property is near Eversource's existing ROW and will consist of the following elements: (1) three 115 kV gas-insulated circuit breakers; (2) a prefabricated control shelter, approximately 70 feet by 15 feet in area and approximately 14 feet high; (3) related site work to provide lighting, site access, foundations, underground raceway and grounding systems; and (4) a seven-foot high, tight mesh vinyl-coated chain link fence. The 115 kV lines entering and leaving the switching station will be underground. The Company will construct transition structures nearby on Eversource-owned property outside the proposed station fence to bring the existing and new overhead lines underground.

**Canton:** Work proposed in Canton includes approximately 1.30 miles of new 115 kV transmission line on an existing Eversource ROW. The Project would cross Nasir Ahmad Road, Washington Street, Pine Street, Engineers Way, and railroad tracks.

**Stoughton:** In conjunction with the Project, the Company would construct approximately 3.88 miles of new 115 kV transmission line through mixed land uses in Stoughton along an existing Eversource ROW. The Project would cross Greenbrook Drive, Cross Street, Pearl Street, Royal Road, Washington Street (State Highway/Route 138), North School Drive, Pine Street, Pleasant Street (Route 139), Turnpike Street, Old Page Street, Page Street, State Highway/Route 24, and Reebok Drive.

**Avon:** Work proposed in Avon includes approximately 0.35 miles of new 115 kV transmission line on an existing Eversource ROW. There are no road crossings in Avon.

**Randolph:** The Company's new Walpole-Holbrook 115 kV transmission line would continue approximately 1.49 miles on Eversource's existing ROW through Randolph to Holbrook. The Project would cross Fitch Terrace, Highland Avenue, South Main Street (State Highway/Route 28), South Street, Truelson Drive, Boothby Circle, Union Street (Route 139), Fairfield Road, Mill Street, and railroad tracks.

**Holbrook:** Work proposed in Holbrook includes approximately 1.54 miles of new 115 kV transmission line ending at Holbrook Substation and modifications to the substation. The Project would cross Centre Street, Scott Street, Westdale Road, North Franklin Street, Damon Avenue, and Pine Street.

The proposed modifications to Holbrook Substation include: (1) 115 kV line protection system additions and upgrades; (2) addition of a new circuit breaker, disconnects, and voltage sensing devices; (3) a prefabricated control shelter, approximately 60 feet by 30 feet in area and approximately 14 feet high; and (4) related site work to provide foundations and underground raceway systems. The proposed new line will enter the station underground; existing lines will remain overhead. A transition structure to bring the new overhead line underground will be constructed on Company-owned property outside the substation fence.

## **Alternative Route**

The Company has also identified an alternative route for the new 115 kV transmission line from Walpole Substation to Holbrook Substation. The alternative route combines an overhead line segment along a portion of the existing ROW with an underground segment of line within existing roadways. The alternative route, like the Company's preferred route, involves Project-associated work between Eversource's existing West Walpole and Walpole Substations. Including the West Walpole to Walpole Substation segment, the total length of the alternative route is approximately 17.7 miles.

**Walpole:** The alternative route would follow the same existing Eversource ROW as the preferred route from the West Walpole Substation to Sharon. The approximate total length of the Walpole segment of the Company's alternative transmission line route, including the section between the West Walpole and Walpole Substations, is 1.98 miles.

**Sharon:** From the border with Walpole, the alternative route continues along Eversource's ROW to the proposed 115 kV switching station on Canton Street in Sharon. At the switching station, the new line would proceed underground along the alternative route, traveling south within Canton Street for approximately 0.3 miles to North Main Street (Route 27). The transmission line would then continue east on North Main Street (for approximately 1.15 miles) into Stoughton. The total distance of the alternative route in Sharon would be 4.64 miles.

**Stoughton:** The alternative route would travel underground for its entire distance in Stoughton, approximately 4.41 miles. The route travels into Stoughton from North Main Street in Sharon, past Trowel Shop Pond, also in Sharon. In Stoughton, the alternative route continues along Sharon Street and Central Street, passing the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Route 138, the Tanglewood Area, and Turnpike Street to the Avon town boundary.

**Avon:** The alternative route travels underground through Avon for approximately 2.48 miles. From the Avon town boundary with Stoughton, the alternative route continues east across Route 24, then follows Harrison Boulevard for approximately 1.6 miles to Route 28. The route continues along Route 28 north for approximately 0.1 miles before turning east again onto Spring Street.

**Holbrook:** Work proposed in Holbrook for the alternative route includes approximately 4.19 miles of new 115 kV transmission line ending at Holbrook Substation. From Avon, the alternative route follows Spring Street underground into Holbrook, traveling east and then south on South Street for approximately 1.09 miles in Holbrook, to the intersection with South Franklin Street (Route 37). On South Franklin Street, the route heads north through Holbrook Center for approximately 2.9 miles to Johns Avenue. Turning east on Johns Avenue, the route continues approximately 0.2 miles to Pine Street where it turns south and heads approximately 0.1 miles along Pine Street to re-join the existing Eversource ROW. The route then follows the ROW east underground for approximately 0.1 miles to reach the Holbrook Substation. In addition to construction of a portion of its proposed new 115 kV transmission line in Holbrook, the Company would undertake modifications at Holbrook Substation.

## **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 desires to intervene as a party or to participate 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/>

Additional information about participation in the Siting Board process, including the criteria used to grant or deny petitions to intervene or participate, is available at the Board's website.

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 with: the Presiding Officer, Stephen August, Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, December 30, 2015**.

Second, the 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); or (2) on a PC-compatible compact disc. The text of the email or the CD label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 14-2/D.P.U. 14-73/D.P.U. 14-74); (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 Eversource Energy, Catherine Keuthen, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 265 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110.

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice, including information about intervention or participation in the Siting Board 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