

## SUMMARY OF THE TENTATIVE DECISION

The Tentative Decision (“TD”) recommends that the Siting Board approve with conditions the Project Change submitted by Eversource that would relocate by approximately 190 feet, a previously approved, proposed new electrical substation in East Boston – from the east side of a City of Boston Parcel (at 338 East Eagle Street) to the northwest corner of the City Parcel, adjacent to Condor Street (at 0 Condor Street). In making this recommendation, the TD finds that, like the Board’s earlier approval of the substation as part of the Mystic-East Eagle-Chelsea Reliability Project (on December 1, 2017), the Company’s Project Change would, on balance, contribute to a reliable energy supply for the Commonwealth with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost. The TD also recommends, as the Board did previously, granting exemptions from City of Boston zoning ordinances as necessary to construct and operate the substation. The TD will be considered by the Siting Board at a public meeting to be held on March 11, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., at the East Boston High School auditorium. The Siting Board will vote on whether to approve, approve with conditions, or reject the Project Change.

In reviewing the proposed Project Change, the TD evaluates a range of environmental considerations including land use, safety, visual impacts, hazardous waste/remediation, noise, traffic, water/wetlands/sea level rise, and magnetic fields, in addition to policies of the Commonwealth, such as Environmental Justice, Language Access, and resource use and development policies. The TD concludes that the Project Change is consistent with these state policies, and that, on balance, the environmental impacts of relocating the substation have been minimized. The TD finds that, due to re-engineering of the substation design and remediation of historical contamination on the new site, the cost of the substation at the new location would increase by an estimated \$6.2 million from the Board’s 2017 approval. The TD finds that \$4.7 million of the additional costs result from MassDEP-required remediation, including the removal and proper off-site disposal of 12,300 tons of contaminated soil (containing lead, cadmium, and arsenic, as well as petroleum hydrocarbons and other pollutants).

The Siting Board considered an intervenor motion to reopen and reconsider the Siting Board’s 2017 decision that the substation is needed to ensure reliable service in the Chelsea/East Boston area. The TD reaffirms an earlier ruling from the Presiding Officer that the intervenors did not provide a sufficient basis for the Siting Board to reopen the record of the 2017 Final Decision in the original proceeding with respect to the need for the substation, and that the substation continues to be needed to ensure reliability in the Chelsea/East Boston area. The 2017 Final Decision found that the need for the substation is immediate, and that the Chelsea/East Boston area is at risk of outages in the event of certain system contingencies, particularly given load additions in the Chelsea/East Boston area. The TD recommends that, based on the substation at the new site providing a reliable supply of energy, with a minimum impact on the environment, at the lowest possible cost, the Board approve the Project Change, with appropriate conditions.

Participants in this proceeding and the public will have the opportunity to submit written comments on the TD to the Siting Board until March 6, 2020.