

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

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

D.P.U. 18-21

NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy

Notice is hereby given that on April 17, 2018, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “Company”) filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”): (1) a petition seeking approval to construct and use a new, approximately 3.0-mile, 115 kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line (“New Line”) on existing structures along an existing electric transmission right-of-way (“ROW”) from the Buck Pond Substation to a new, proposed switching station, the Atwater Switching Station, all in the City of Westfield, Massachusetts, and to install an approximately 0.4-mile loop line that would connect an existing 115 kV overhead transmission line with the new Atwater Switching Station (“Loop Line”) pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 72; and (2) a petition requesting individual and comprehensive exemptions from the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Westfield to modify the existing Buck Pond Substation and construct the new Atwater Switching Station, pursuant to G.L. c. 40A, § 3 (together, the “Petitions”). Collectively, the New Line, Loop Line, the proposed Atwater Switching Station, and the modifications of the Buck Pond Substation constitute the Westfield Reliability Project (“Project”).

The Department will review the Project to determine whether it is necessary, serves the public convenience and is consistent with the public interest, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 72. The Department will also determine whether the zoning exemptions requested by Eversource are required and whether the proposed use of the land is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public, pursuant to G.L. c. 40A, § 3.

The Department will conduct a public comment hearing to receive public comment on the Project at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 13, 2018, at South Middle School Auditorium, 30 West Silver Street, Westfield, MA 01085.

At the public comment hearing, Eversource will present an overview of the Project. Public officials and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the Project. The public comment hearing will be recorded by a court reporter. The public may also file written comments, which will be given equal consideration to oral comments made at the public comment hearing. To file written comments, please see the section titled “Comments, Intervention, and Participation” toward the end of this Notice.

Description of the Project

The Westfield Reliability Project is proposed to meet transmission system needs in the western Massachusetts area as identified by the Independent System Operator-New England through its regional planning process. The proposed 3.0-mile New Line would start at the new Atwater Switching Station located at 25 Oakdale Avenue in Westfield and proceed northerly following an existing ROW. The New Line would intersect Prospect Street, Montgomery Street, Furrow Street, Willis Street, the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Lockhouse Road, and Servistar Industrial Way,

terminating at Buck Pond Substation located on Westfield Gas & Electric Company property at 83 Medeiros Way in Westfield.

One portion of the 0.4-mile Loop Line would start at Atwater Switching Station and proceed westerly along an existing ROW, approximately 1,400 feet, to a location along the ROW identified as Oakdale Junction. This portion would not intersect any roads. The other portion of the Loop Line would start at Atwater Switching Station and proceed southerly along an existing ROW approximately 890 feet, crossing over Pochassic Street before reaching a location identified as Pochassic Junction.

The Project would require modifications at the Buck Pond Substation and the construction of the new Atwater Switching Station. Modifications at the Buck Pond Substation would include a new breaker, line terminal structure, and three transmission line monopoles. The Atwater Switching Station would be located on an 1.9-acre Company-owned parcel and would require construction of a three-breaker ring bus and associated gas-insulated circuit breakers, control house, two 78-foot-tall steel transmission line structures, extension of a gravel access road from Oakdale Avenue, fencing, and looping of an existing transmission line and the New Line.

Public Review of the Company's Petitions

The general location, layout, dimensions, and configuration of 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:

- Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, MA 02110
- Westfield City Clerk, City Hall – Room 210, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA 01085
- The Westfield Athenaeum, 6 Elm Street, Westfield, MA, 01085

A copy of the Company's Petitions is also available on the Department's Website, <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber>. Enter "18-21" into the search box. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, or audio format) contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@Mass.gov or (617) 305-3500.

Comments, Intervention, and Participation

Any person who desires to submit written comments on the Company's Petitions may do so by filing an original and two (2) copies of such comments no later than the close of business **(5:00 p.m.) on Monday, August 27, 2018**, with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. An electronic copy of all comments should be sent by email to the following: (1) the Department at dpu.efiling@mass.gov; (2) the Company's counsel, Catherine Keuthen, Esq., at ckeuthen@keeganwerlin.com; and (3) the Department's Presiding Officer in this proceeding, Joan Foster Evans, at joan.evans@mass.gov.

Any person interested in intervening as a party or participating as a limited participant must file a hard copy, written petition with the Hearing Officer, Joan Foster Evans, Esq., Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, MA 02110 no later than the close of business **(5:00 p.m.) on Monday, August 27, 2018**. A petition to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03(1). Receipt by the Department – not mailing or postmark –

constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely unless good cause is shown for waiver pursuant to 220 CMR 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition to intervene must demonstrate that the petitioner may be substantially and specifically affected by this proceeding.

A petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant also should be submitted to the Department by email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, with a copy sent by email to ckeuthen@keeganwerlin.com; and joan.evans@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 18-21); (2) name of the person or company 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. All written pleadings submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

Reasonable accommodations at public or evidentiary hearings 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 may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@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 may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Presiding Officer (contact information below).

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice, including information regarding intervention or participating in the adjudicatory proceeding, may contact the Hearing Officer at the physical address, telephone number, or email address set forth below:

Joan Foster Evans, Presiding Officer
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 305-3525
joan.evans@mass.gov