

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD**

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

EFSB 17-02/D.P.U. 17-82/17-83
NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy

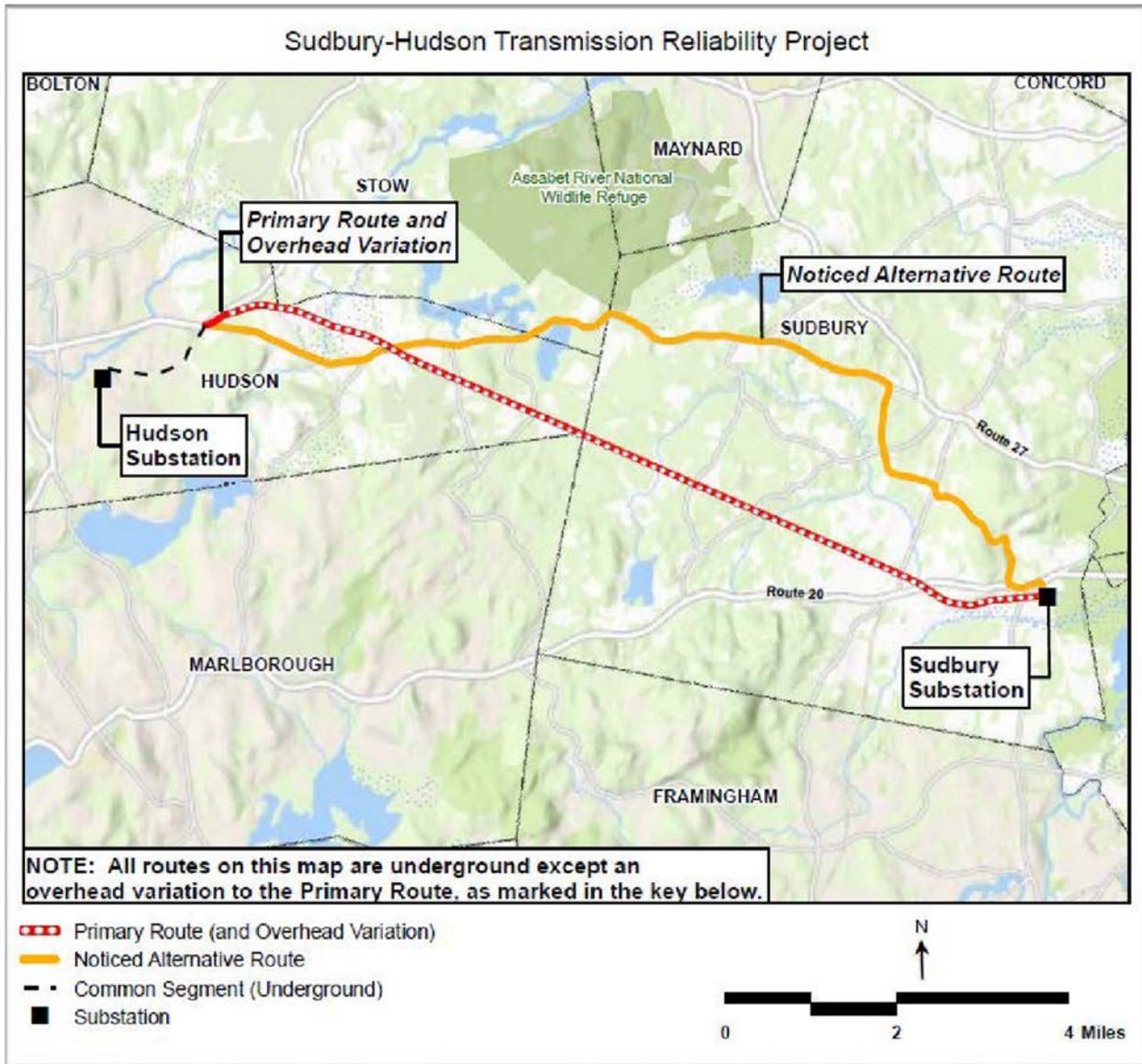
Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69J, 72, and G.L. c. 40A, § 3, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “Company”), located at 247 Station Drive, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090, has filed three related petitions with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) and the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) in connection with the Company’s proposal to construct, operate and maintain an approximately 9-mile, 115 kilovolt (“kV”) underground transmission line that would pass primarily through the Towns of Sudbury and Hudson and through short sections of the Town of Stow and the City of Marlborough (“New Line”). The New Line would interconnect two existing substations (Eversource’s Sudbury Substation on Boston Post Road (Route 20) in Sudbury and Hudson Light & Power Department’s substation at Forest Avenue in Hudson (“Hudson Substation”). The proposed New Line and related substation improvements at Sudbury Substation are herein referred to as the “Sudbury – Hudson Transmission Reliability Project,” or the “Project.” Eversource has proposed the Project in order to address electric reliability needs on the existing transmission system.

The Siting Board will conduct two public comment hearings, each beginning at 7:00 p.m. to receive public comment on the Project: (1) Thursday, May 25, 2017, at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Auditorium, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, MA 01776; and (2) Thursday, June 1, 2017, at the Hudson High School Auditorium, 69 Brigham Street, Hudson, MA 01749.

At the public comment hearings, Eversource will present an overview of the proposed Project. Public officials and members of the public will then have an opportunity to provide 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, which will be given equal consideration to public comments made at the public comment hearings. To file written comments, please see the section entitled “Filing Instructions” toward the end of this Notice.

The Company’s three petitions relating to the Project have been consolidated for hearing before the Siting Board, under consolidated docket number EFSB 17-02/D.P.U. 17-82/17-83. Under G.L. c. 164, §§ 69H, 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. 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.

Figure 1: Sudbury – Hudson Transmission Reliability Project



The Company’s filing identifies and compares three different project alternatives: (1) the Company’s Primary Route; (2) a Noticed Variation to the Primary Route; and (3) a Noticed Alternative Route. The Company is specifically requesting approval to construct the Project along the Primary Route, as described below. The Company also presented a Noticed Variation which would follow the Primary Route, but consists of an overhead and underground design. The Noticed Alternative Route consists of an underground transmission line design within roadways for its entire length, as described below.

The Company’s Primary Route

The total length of the Company’s proposed route for the New Line between the Sudbury Substation and the Hudson Substation is approximately 9 miles. The design of the Project is entirely underground construction. The Primary Route originates at Sudbury Substation and travels northwest for approximately 7.6 miles along an inactive railroad right-of-way (“ROW”) owned by

the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (“MBTA”), passing through short sections of Marlborough and Stow before entering Hudson. After exiting the MBTA ROW in Hudson, the route travels underground within public roadways for 1.3 miles, terminating at the Hudson Substation. This route includes 4.29 miles in Sudbury, 0.01 mile in Marlborough, 0.07 mile in Stow, and 4.64 miles in Hudson.

A more detailed description of the proposed route for the Project is provided below.

Sudbury (4.29 miles)

The Primary Route originates at the Sudbury Substation and travels in a westerly direction for 4.29 miles along the MBTA ROW. In Sudbury, the MBTA ROW intersects Landham Road, Boston Post Road (Route 20), Union Avenue, Horse Pond Road, Peakham Road, and Dutton Road.

Marlborough (0.01 mile)

The Primary Route crosses the northeastern-most corner of Marlborough as it continues in a westerly direction for 0.01 mile along the MBTA ROW before entering Hudson.

Stow (0.07 mile)

In Stow, the Primary Route travels in a westerly direction for 0.07 mile along the MBTA ROW through a small corner of Stow near Chestnut Street and High Street before reentering Hudson.

Hudson (4.64 miles)

In Hudson, the Primary Route travels in a westerly direction for 3.27 miles along the MBTA ROW. The MBTA ROW intersects White Pond Road, Parmenter Street, Main Street, and Chestnut Street. Beyond the MBTA ROW intersection with Wilkins Street (Route 62), the route travels within public roadways in a southwesterly direction for 1.37 miles before terminating at the Hudson Substation. The route follows Wilkins Street, passing Orchard Drive and crossing Main Street onto Forest Avenue. On Forest Avenue, this route passes Woodrow Street and Marlboro Street. The Primary Route turns south onto an access road owned by Intel for 0.11 mile before terminating at the Hudson Substation.

The Noticed Variation

The Company also has identified a potential variation to the Primary Route. The Noticed Variation would follow the same route as the Primary Route, but would be a combination overhead and underground transmission line design. The overhead portion of the Noticed Variation originates at the Sudbury Substation and travels along the MBTA ROW in a westerly direction for 7.6 miles to Wilkins Street in Hudson. The Noticed Variation then transitions to an underground transmission line design and travels for 1.3 miles within the same public roadways described above for the Primary Route before terminating at the Hudson Substation. The length of the New Line using the Noticed Variation would be identical to the Primary Route.

The Noticed Alternative Route

The Company also identified a Noticed Alternative Route for the New Line. The total length of the Noticed Alternative Route is approximately 10.3 miles. The design of the Noticed Alternative Route is entirely underground within public roads in the Towns of Sudbury, Stow and Hudson. This route includes 5.46 miles in Sudbury, 0.75 miles in Stow, and 4.09 miles in Hudson.

Sudbury (5.46 miles)

The Noticed Alternative Route originates at the Sudbury Substation and travels in a westerly direction for 5.46 miles along public roadways before entering Stow. From the Sudbury Substation, this route travels north along the substation driveway and turns west onto Boston Post Road/Route 20, passes Landham Road, turns north onto Green Hill Road, then turns west onto Old Lancaster Road. At the intersection with Concord Road, the route turns north for a short distance before continuing west on Old Lancaster Road to reach Hudson Road. This route then turns west and follows Hudson Road, crossing Dutton Road, into Stow.

Stow (0.75 miles)

In Stow, Hudson Road becomes State Road and the Noticed Alternative Route continues west along State Road for 0.75 miles before entering Hudson.

Hudson (4.09 miles)

In Hudson, State Road becomes Main Street and the Noticed Alternative Route continues west along Main Street, crossing White Pond Road, Parmenter Street and Chestnut Street. At the intersection with Forest Avenue, this route turns southwest and passes Woodrow Street and Marlboro Street. The Noticed Alternative Route turns south onto an access road owned by Intel for 0.11 mile before terminating at the Hudson Substation.

Sudbury Substation Work

All improvements to the Sudbury Substation would be installed within the existing fence line of the substation. An underground duct bank would be installed to route the New Line from Sudbury Substation to the MBTA ROW, for the Primary Route and Noticed Variation, or to Route 20, for the Noticed Alternative Route.

Public Review of the Company's Petitions

The location, layout, dimensions and configuration of the Primary Route, the Noticed Variation, and Noticed Alternative Route 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
- Sudbury Public Library, Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA 01776
- Sudbury Town Clerk, Town Hall, 322 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA 01776
- Hudson Public Library 3 Washington Street, Hudson, MA 01749
- Hudson Town Clerk, 78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749
- Marlborough Public Library, 35 West Main Street, Marlborough, MA 01752

- Marlborough City Clerk City Hall, 140 Main Street, Marlborough, MA 01752
- Stow Town Clerk, Stow Town Building, 380 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775
- Stow Public Library, Randall Library, 19 Crescent Street, Stow, MA 01775

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 "EFSB17-02" (with no spaces) into the search box. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, or audio format) contact Theresa Kelly at theresa.kelly@state.ma.us or (617) 305-3642.

Written Comments

The Siting Board requests that written comments regarding the proposed Project be filed with the Siting Board by June 15, 2017. 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) Stephen.August@state.ma.us. Alternatively, written comments may be sent by U.S. mail to Stephen August, 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 comment 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, would have the opportunity to present briefs, and participate in 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, Stephen August, Esq., Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, and received **no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Thursday, June 15, 2017**. 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 Stephen.August@state.ma.us. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 17-02/D.P.U. 17-82/17-83); (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, Catherine J. Keuthen, Esq. and Cheryl A. Blaine Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 265 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110; or ckeuthen@keeganwerlin.com and cblaine@keeganwerlin.com.

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 Theresa Kelly at theresa.kelly@state.ma.us or (617) 305-3642.

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

Stephen August, Esq., Presiding Officer
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 305-3525
Stephen.August@state.ma.us