

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

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

EFSB 19-06/D.P.U. 19-142/19-143  
NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69J, G.L. c. 164, § 72 and G.L. c. 40A, § 3, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”), 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 12.5-mile, overhead 115-kilovolt (“kV”) electric transmission line in the Towns of Bourne, Sandwich, and Barnstable (“New Line”). The New Line will be constructed along an existing Eversource right-of-way (“ROW”) between Eversource’s Bourne Switching Station and West Barnstable Substation. The New Line, together with the related station improvements, are referred to as the Mid Cape Reliability Project (the “Project”). The Project is needed to enhance the reliability of the regional electric transmission system on Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket.

**The Siting Board will conduct a public comment hearing to receive public comment on the Project at 7:00 p.m. on [date], at [location].**

At the public comment hearing, Eversource will present an overview of the 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 hearing will be recorded by a court reporter. The public may also file written comments with the Presiding Officer. To file comments, please see the section titled “Filing Instructions” toward the end of this Notice.

Pursuant to an Order issued by the Chair of the Department on [INSERT DATE], the Company’s three petitions relating to the Project have been consolidated for hearing before the Siting Board, with consolidated docket number EFSB 19-06/D.P.U. 19-142/19-143. Under G.L. c. 164, § 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 the requested zoning exemptions in Barnstable 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: Mid Cape Reliability Project**



### **The Company's Preferred Transmission Line Route**

The Company's Preferred Route for the New Line is approximately 12.5 miles along existing, occupied Eversource ROW 342 that runs between the Bourne Switching Station and the West Barnstable Substation through the municipalities of Bourne, Sandwich and Barnstable. Following the Eversource ROW 342, the route runs easterly from Bourne Switching Station for approximately 12.5 miles to West Barnstable Substation. The first approximately 4.8 miles of ROW 342 is located on Joint Base Cape Cod ("JBCC") property in Bourne. ROW 342 varies in width from approximately 230 feet to 265 feet from its beginning at Bourne Switching Station through the JBCC property up to Route 130 (Forestdale Road). East of Route 130 to the West Barnstable Substation, ROW 342 is 185 feet to 190 feet wide. ROW 342 contains an overhead 115-kV line on its north side, and an overhead 345-kV line roughly in the center of the ROW. The Preferred Route is the shortest, most direct route between Bourne Switching Station and West Barnstable Substation.

### **The Company's Noticed Alternative Transmission Line Route**

The Company also identified a Noticed Alternative for the New Line, which would traverse overhead on ROW 342 from Bourne Switching Station for about 6.1 miles before transitioning to an underground line design at Quaker Meetinghouse Road. From Quaker Meetinghouse Road, the New Line would continue underground for 7.9 miles to West Barnstable Substation, primarily within public roads. The 6.1-mile overhead portion of the Noticed Alternative within ROW 342 is the same

as the Preferred Route. At the transition point to the underground segment at Quaker Meetinghouse Road, the underground transmission line route heads north for approximately one mile before turning east onto Service Road, then follows Service Road for approximately 6.5 miles to Oak Street. From Oak Street, the route heads north to the West Barnstable Substation. The Noticed Alternative is approximately 14 miles long and passes through the municipalities of Bourne, Sandwich and Barnstable.

### **The Company's Noticed Variation**

The Company has also identified a Noticed Variation for the Project that would involve the construction of the New Line along the same route as the Preferred Route on ROW 342, but installing 345-kV transmission line infrastructure instead of 115-kV infrastructure. The Company is asking the Siting Board for permission to construct the Noticed Variation to enable operation of the New Line at 345 kV at a point in the future, but not to operate the New Line at 345 kV at this time. To meet the current identified need for the Project and to minimize the potential siting, cost, community and environmental impacts of building an entirely distinct 345-kV line or rebuilding the proposed 115-kV line to 345-kV standards in the future, the Company is presenting the Noticed Variation to build the Project to 345-kV standards but to operate it at 115 kV. If the Noticed Variation is approved and the need for the New Line to be operated at 345 kV materializes in the future, the Company would return to the Siting Board for permission to operate the line at 345 kV at that time. The Noticed Variation is intended to provide flexibility for the future expansion of the electric system on Cape Cod to accommodate the likely need to interconnect new renewable energy generation. For purposes of construction of the Noticed Variation, the primary difference between the Project and the Noticed Variation is in the physical size of the structures (including structure heights) and a slight increase in conductor size.

### **Related Improvements to the Bourne Switching Station and West Barnstable Substation**

The New Line will connect at both Bourne Switching Station and West Barnstable Substation. The Company is currently rebuilding the Bourne Switching Station in a design that has sufficient space to accommodate the New Line.

The West Barnstable Substation is located at 661 Oak Street in Barnstable. To accommodate the New Line, Eversource proposes to expand the existing western fence line by approximately 65 feet in order to provide space for additional equipment, such as the following: (1) two 115-kV breakers; (2) four 115-kV breaker disconnects; (3) three voltage transformers for relaying; (4) three lightning arrestors; (5) one bridge tower; (6) one line terminal disconnect; (7) one bay of 115-kV bus and bus supports; and (8) associated relaying equipment in an existing control house.

## **Public Review of the Company's Petitions**

The general location, layout, dimensions, and configuration of the Preferred Route and Noticed Alternative Route for the Project 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, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston, MA 02110
- Jonathan Bourne Library, 19 Sandwich Road, Bourne, MA 02532
- Town of Bourne, Town Clerk's Office, 24 Perry Avenue, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
- Sandwich Public Library, 142 Main Street, Sandwich, MA 02563
- Town of Sandwich, Town Clerk's Office, 145 Main Street, Sandwich, MA 02563
- Sturgis Library, 3090 Main Street, Barnstable, MA 02630
- Whelden Memorial Library, 2401 Meetinghouse Way, West Barnstable, MA 02668
- Town of Barnstable, Town Clerk's Office, 367 Main Street, Hyannis MA 02601

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>. Enter "EFSB 19-06" (with no spaces) into the search box.

## **Intervention and Participation**

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing comments at the public 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, and would have the opportunity to 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 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/>

Once on the website, click on "Relevant Regulations" and then click on the document entitled: 980 CMR 1.00.

## **Filing Instructions**

Written comments on the Company's petitions, or 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, **[INSERT PRESIDING OFFICER]**, Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **[INSERT DATE]**.

Second, the comments or 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) and **INSERT PRESIDING OFFICER'S EMAIL**; or (2) on a PC-compatible compact disc filed with the Presiding Officer. The text of the email or the CD label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 19-06/D.P.U. 19-142/19-143); (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 comments or petition must be sent in hard copy and electronically to counsel for the Company, David Rosenzweig, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 99 High Street, Suite 2900, Boston, MA 02110, [drosen@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:drosen@keeganwerlin.com).

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

**INSERT PRESIDING OFFICER**  
Energy Facilities Siting Board  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110  
(617) 305-**INSERT**