

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

**NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING
EFSB 21-04/D.P.U. 21-149 Eversource Energy and National Grid**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69J, 72, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”), located at 247 Station Drive, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090, and New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid”), located at 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, Massachusetts, 02451 (together, the “Companies”), have filed two related petitions with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) and the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) in connection with the Companies’ proposal to construct, operate and maintain an approximately 12.1-mile 115-kilovolt (“kV”) primarily overhead electric transmission line along existing rights-of-way (“ROW”) between Eversource’s Industrial Park Tap in Acushnet, Massachusetts, and National Grid’s Bell Rock Substation in Fall River, Massachusetts (the “New Line”). The New Line is an extension of Eversource’s existing Line 114 and will traverse 7.9 miles in Acushnet, New Bedford and Dartmouth, which will be owned and operated by Eversource, and 4.2 miles in Fall River, which will be owned and operated by National Grid. In conjunction with the New Line, National Grid will be installing additional equipment at the Bell Rock Substation in Fall River. Also, Eversource will be adding protection and control relay equipment within the control houses at its Tremont Substation in Wareham and its Acushnet Substation in Acushnet (the “Station Work”). The New Line, together with the Station Work, is referred to as the Acushnet-to-Fall River Reliability Project, or the “Project.”


The Siting Board will conduct a remote public comment hearing regarding the Project using Zoom videoconferencing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 25, 2022. Attendees can join by clicking (or entering) the following link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81610084315> from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only participation, attendees can dial in at **1 646 558 8656 (not toll free)** and then enter the Webinar ID: **816 1008 4315**

If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public comment hearing, please send an email to geneen.bartley@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address by **Thursday, April 21, 2022**. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message at (617) 305-3529 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address by **Thursday, April 21, 2022**. Additional commenters may be allowed during the public comment hearing, at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.

The Siting Board will accept written comments on the Project. Written comments will be most useful to the Siting Board if submitted by **Monday, May 9, 2022**.

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. A petition to intervene or participate must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format, by email or email attachment, to

dpu.efiling@mass.gov and to andre.gibeau@mass.gov no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, May 9, 2022**.

Simultaneous English-to-Spanish/Portuguese/Portuguese-Creole interpretation will be provided. All attendees should select their preferred language to hear the Interpreter translate into that language. Press the globe icon  and then choose the desired language.

Public Comment Hearing

At the public comment hearing, the Companies 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 proposed Project. The public comment hearing will be transcribed by a court reporter. A recording of the public comment hearing will be posted to the [Department's YouTube](#) channel after the hearing.

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 and to appeal a final decision. A limited participant would receive documents in the proceeding and may file a brief as well as file written comments and/or present oral comments regarding the Tentative Decision to the Siting Board.

Any person wishing to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant in this proceeding must file a written petition with the Presiding Officer ([see Filing Instructions](#) below). A petition to intervene or be a limited participant must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 980 CMR 1.00, the Siting Board's procedural rules, which can be found on the Siting Board's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/980-cmr-1-rules-for-the-conduct-of-adjudicatory-proceedings/download>. To be allowed, a petition to intervene filed pursuant to 980 CMR 1.05 must demonstrate that the petitioner may be substantially and specifically affected by this proceeding.

Filing Instructions

Written comments on the Project, or a petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant in this proceeding, must be filed in two places:

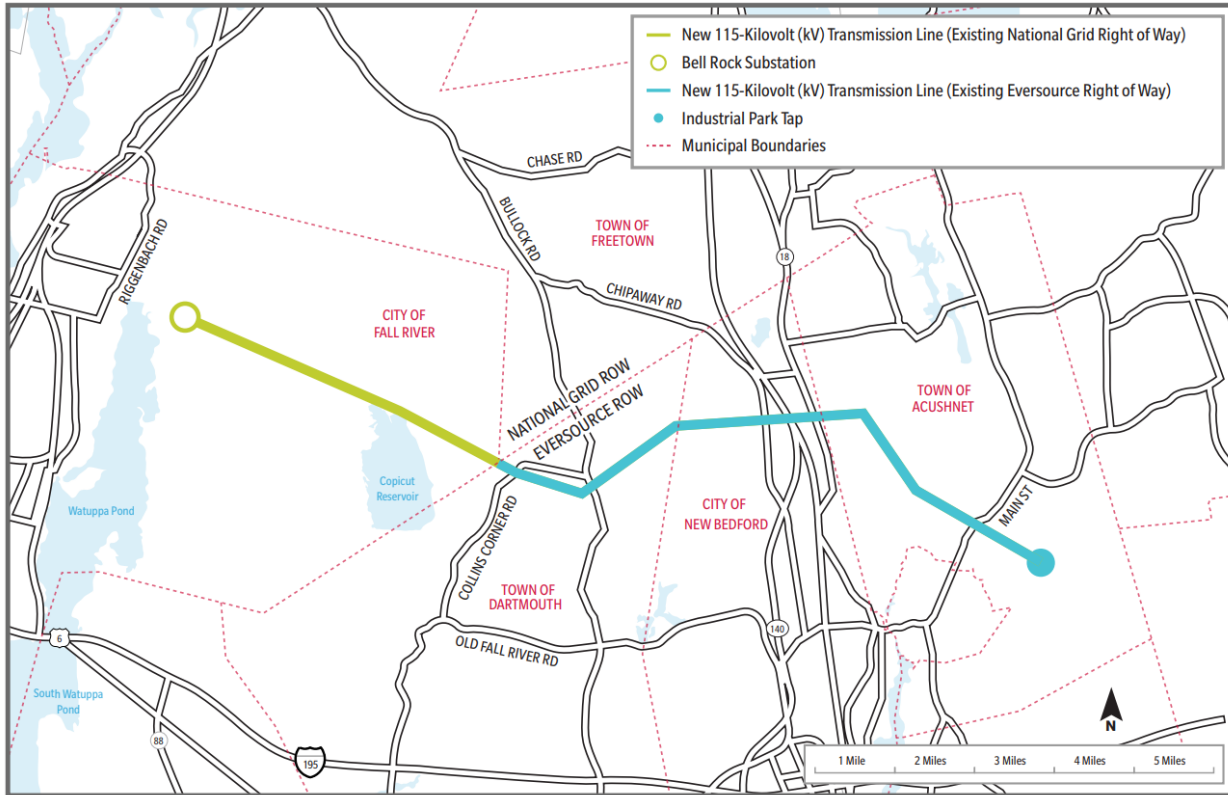
First, the petition to intervene or participate, and comments, must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format, by email or email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov; and to andre.gibeau@mass.gov no later than the close of business on **Monday, May 9, 2022**. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 21-04/D.P.U. 21-149); (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.

Second, the petition or comments must be sent electronically to counsel for the Companies, David S. Rosenzweig, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 99 High Street, Suite 2900, Boston, MA 02110, drosen@keeganwerlin.com.

Siting Board Jurisdiction

Under G.L. c. 164, §§ 69H, 69J, the Siting Board will review the Companies’ 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.

Figure 1: The Project



A larger version of this figure is available at the following link:
<https://www.eversource.com/content/general/residential/about/transmission-distribution/projects/massachusetts-projects/acushnet-to-fall-river-reliability-project>

The Companies’ Proposed Transmission Line Route

The Companies maintain that the Project is needed to ensure the reliability of the electric transmission system in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The Companies propose to construct the New Line on a new set of 118 self-weathering or galvanized steel H-frame and monopole structures that are generally directly embedded into the ground. Structures located at angle points, dead-end structures, and certain select structure locations within the ROW will be installed on concrete caisson foundations. Construction will be adjacent to an existing 115 kV transmission line within an existing transmission ROW that varies from 150- to 210-feet in width. To accommodate the new line in Fall River, the cleared width of the

existing ROW will be expanded by approximately 62-feet on the south side of the National Grid ROW. The New Line is to be constructed predominantly overhead, except for the construction of two short sections of underground cable (a total of approximately 600 linear feet) to be installed to avoid multiple overhead line crossings at the Industrial Park Tap in Acushnet and at the High Hill Switching Station in Dartmouth. There will be no changes to the existing 115-kV transmission lines or structures located within the existing ROW. Ownership of the New Line will transition from Eversource to National Grid at the Dartmouth/Fall River municipal border.

Station Work

To accommodate installation of the New Line along the Companies' Proposed Route, Eversource and National Grid will be making upgrades at the Bell Rock, Tremont, and Acushnet Substations. These upgrades include installation of equipment at the Bell Rock Substation to complete the termination for the New Line. Work at Tremont and Acushnet Substations will consist of limited underground conduit installation and/or be contained within the existing station control buildings. No fence line expansion or removal of existing equipment is required to accommodate the New Line.

Public Review of the Companies' Petitions

The general location, layout, dimensions, and configuration of the Project are shown on maps and plans included in or as attachments to the Companies' petitions. Copies of the Companies' petitions, including all 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
- Acushnet Town Clerk; Acushnet Parting Ways Building; 130 Main Street; Acushnet, MA 02743
- Acushnet Public Library; 232 Middle Road; Acushnet, MA 02743
- New Bedford City Clerk; New Bedford City Hall; 133 William Street #118; New Bedford, MA 02740
- New Bedford Free Public Library; Main Library; 613 Pleasant Street; New Bedford, MA 02740
- Dartmouth Town Clerk; Dartmouth Town Hall; 400 Slocum Road Room 203; Dartmouth, MA 02747
- Dartmouth Public Library; Southworth Library; 732 Dartmouth Street; Dartmouth, MA 02748
- Fall River City Clerk; One Government Center, Room 227; Fall River, MA 02722
- Fall River Public Library; 104 North Main Street; Fall River, MA 02720

In addition, the Companies' petitions, including all attachments, are electronically available via the Energy Facilities Siting Board website at:

<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber/EFSB21-04>. In addition, the Siting Board has created a special information webpage for this proceeding and will update it

during the course of the proceeding <https://mass.gov/info-details/acushnet-to-fall-river-reliability-project>.

The public may access the National Grid (<https://www.southcoastreliabilityprojects.com/Acushnet-FallRiver/>) and Eversource (<https://www.eversource.com/content/nh/residential/about/transmission-distribution/projects/massachusetts-projects/acushnet-to-fall-river-reliability-project>) webpages for the Proposed Project in the links provided here.

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 Melixza.Esenyie2@mass.gov.

Accommodation Requests

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a complete description of the accommodation you will need and a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Please allow at least two weeks (14 days) advance notice. Last minute requests will be accepted, but we may be unable to fulfill the request. Please send your requests to: Melixza G. Esenyie, ADA and Diversity Manager at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs at Melixza.Esenyie2@mass.gov or call 617-626-1282 no later than April 11, 2022.

Spanish, Portuguese, and Portuguese Creole interpretation services will be provided for the public comment hearing. Additional language interpretation 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, by April 11, 2022, if possible. Contact the Presiding Officer (contact information below).

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:

Andre Gibeau, Presiding Officer
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 794-6388
andre.gibeau@mass.gov